

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES Senate Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 35

Tuesday, December 6, 2022

NINETEENTH CONGRESS FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Prepared by the LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL SERVICE Senate of the Philippines

SESSION NO. 35 Tuesday, December 6, 2022

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:26 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Miguel "Migz" F. Zubiri, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go led the prayer, to wit:

Almighty God, however we conceive of You, we beseech You to guide us always as we, the representatives of Your people, do our duties as legislators.

Sana ay patuloy mo kaming gabayan sa aming paggawa ng mga batas, sa aming hangaring makapagbigay ng mas komportableng buhay para sa mga Pilipino.

We thank You for the gift of borrowed life, the wisdom, and perseverance to do Your will.

Mentor us so that we may serve as good examples for others. Strengthen us so that we may give voice and bring light for the hopeless and the helpless.

Sustain us so we may continue to journey as one people and overcome whatever may challenge the unity and faith of our fellow Filipinos.

At sana sa kabila ng mga hamon sa buhay ay manatiling matatag at tapat kami sa aming pananalig sa Iyo upang mas lalo naming mapagsilbihan ang aming mga kababayan para sa Iyong kaluwalhatian.

Naniniwala kami na ang serbisyo po sa tao ay serbisyo sa Diyos.

Daghang salamat, O Ginoo, kani ang among pag-ampo kanimo.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

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

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

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

Senator Cayetano (A) was absent.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- · Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes;
- · Doug Quesada of Omni Energy;
- Dmitry Streshinsky of Arsenal Firearms Limited;
- · Ambassador Demetrio Tuazon, Martin Tuazon, and Caloy Tuazon of Armscor Group;
- · Chi Malaqui of the Waterflow Foundation; and
- · Dr. Jerry Perez de Tagle of the Quantum Global Health Group.

Senate President Zubiri welcomed the guests to the Senate.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI

Senate President Zubiri stated that Attorney General Sean Reyes, a Filipino-American who traces his roots to President Magsaysay of Zambales, is one of the highest elected Filipino-Americans in the United States where there is one attorney general per state.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 4:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:45 p.m., the session was resumed.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

Senator Villanueva also acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests:

- Veterans Pedro Flores Zafra, Roberto Fernandez, Reynaldo de Jesus, Jose L. Querubin, and Nesiforo Canor;
- Mayor Zacarina Lazaro and SB member Erica Lazaro of San Pascual, Masbate;
- Table tennis prodigy Aljay Villena, who will represent the country in the U.S. Open Table Tennis Championships on December 16 to 21, 2022, and team manager Anna Gigantoni; and
- Fifth District of Cavite Rep. Roy Loyola, Mayor Dahlia Loyola of Carmona, Cavite, and Vice Mayor Cesar Ines Jr.

Senate President Zubiri welcomed the guests to the Senate.

DEFERMENT OF THE APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body deferred the consideration and approval of the Journal of Session No. 34 (December 5, 2022) to a later hour.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1557, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TELECOMMUTING ACT AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR TELECOMMUTING EMPLOYEES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE TELECOMMUTING ACT" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1558, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ESTABLISHMENTS TO PROVIDE PRIORITY SEATING FOR THE ELDERLY, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS THEREOF FURTHER AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT"

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 1559, entitled

AN ACT EDUCATING THE PUBLIC, SENIOR CITIZENS, THEIR FAMILIES AND



THEIR CAREGIVERS ON IDENTIFYING AND PREVENTING FRAUDULENT ACTIVITIES TARGETING SENIOR CITIZENS

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 1560, entitled

AN ACT REDEFINING THE CRIME OF GAME-FIXING AND PRESCRIBING STIFFER PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Sports; and Games and Amusement

Senate Bill No. 1561, entitled

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF BEACHES AND COASTAL RECREATION WATER

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1562, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

Senate Bill No. 1563, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A 30-YEAR NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Public Works; Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1564, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SCOPE AND PROCEDURE FOR PHILIPPINE SHIP REGISTRY, RECOGNITION AND ENFORCEMENT OF MARITIME CLAIMS, AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY, AS WELL AS PROVIDING ESSENTIAL.

INCENTIVES, TO PROMOTE A COMPREHENSIVE AND ORDERLY PHILIPPINE SHIP REGISTRY SYSTEM FOR THE REGULATION OF VESSELS CARRYING THE FLAG STATE

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Public Services; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1565, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MANDATORY BASIC MILITARY AND POLICE TRAINING PROGRAM TO ALL STUDENTS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGHER AND TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

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

RESOLUTIONS

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE CONGRESS-BANGSAMORO PARLIAMENT FORUM, AS PROVIDED UNDER ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11054, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BANGSAMORO ORGANIC LAW"

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 330, entitled

RESOLUTION CONFERRING, BY UNANIMOUS VOTE OF THE PLENARY, THE PHILIPPINE SENATE MEDAL OF EXCELLENCE TO GRANDMASTER EUGENIO "EUGENE" TORRE FOR BEING THE FIRST EVER ASIAN AND FILIPINO TO BE INDUCTED INTO THE WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 331, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE STUDENTS OF BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY FOR BEING DECLARED CHAMPIONS OF THE 2022 ENGINEERING INNOVATION CHALLENGE HELD IN SINGAPORE

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules



Proposed Senate Resolution No. 332, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE STUDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL – CENTRAL MINDANAO CAMPUS FOR GARNERING 10 AWARDS FROM THREE DIFFERENT INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICS AND PHYSICS CONTEST

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 333, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING IFUGAO BOXER KJ NATUPLAG FOR WINNING THE WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION (WBO) ORIENTAL FEATHERWEIGHT BELT

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 334, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE MALABON CONCERT SINGERS FOR WINNING AT THE KEN STEVEN INTERNATIONAL CHORAL FESTIVAL

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 335, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE WINNERS OF THE 29TH ANNUAL GALING POOK AWARDS

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 337, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE 2022 *GALING POOK* AWARDEES HONORED BY GALING POOK FOUNDATION, CO-PRESENTED BY SM PRIME HOLDINGS INC. AND DILG-LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY, AND SPONSORED BY CEBU PACIFIC AND AIRSPEED, ON 22 NOVEMBER 2022 AT THE MALACAÑANG PALACE, MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committee on Rules

REQUEST OF SENATOR TOLENTINO

Senator Tolentino requested that Senate Bill No. 1565 on the mandatory basic military and police training program, which had been referred to the Committee on Higher, Technical and

Vocational Education, be likewise referred to Senator Dela Rosa's subcommittee. However, the Chair stated that the proper procedure is to refer the bill to the mother committee, which would then refer it to its subcommittee.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1566, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING A BASIC FIRST AID TRAINING FOR PERSONNEL OF TOURISM ENTERPRISES, TOURISM-ORIENTED NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS, AND INDIVIDUAL PROVIDERS OF TOURISM-RELATED SERVICES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Tourism

Senate Bill No. 1567, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE BASILICA OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY OF MANAOAG IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANAOAG, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AS A PILGRIMAGE SITE AND TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Tourism; Public Works; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1568, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING AUTOMATIC PROMOTION OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES UPON RETIREMENT FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1569, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE CHEALTH SYSTEM IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES WITH THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Science and Technology; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1570, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE YOUTH SUICIDE EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1571, entitled

AN ACT MODERNIZING THE REGULATION OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4226, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "HOSPITAL LICENSURE ACT"

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1572, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE SECRETARIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AND DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, TO APPEAR SEMI-ANNUALLY BEFORE CONGRESS TO REPORT ON THE STATUS AND DIRECTIONS OF THE FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES OF THE STATE

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1573, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE SENIOR CITIZENS' ACT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1574, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING E-GOVERNANCE IN THE GOVERNMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

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

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Senate Bill No. 1575, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE ILOCOS NORTE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; Local Government; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1576, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE APARRI PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF APARRI, PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN INTO A LEVEL II GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE APARRI MEDICAL CENTER, PLACING IT UNDER THE DIRECT SUPERVISION AND CONTROL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY TO 100 BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1577, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1578, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND ALL BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE CONDUCT OF A QUARTERLY NATIONWIDE SIMULTANEOUS EARTH-QUAKE AND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILL AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and Local Government

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 338, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CON-



DOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH AND HONORING THE LIFE OF LEGENDARY SINGER AND FILIPINA ICON SYLVIA LA TORRE

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 339, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF SYLVIA REYES LA TORRE-DE TAGLE

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 340, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO LOOK INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9242, OR "AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE USE OF THE PHILIPPINE TROPICAL FABRICS FOR UNIFORMS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," IN THE PERFORMANCE OF THE OVERSIGHT FUNCTION OF CONGRESS

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 341, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING FILIPINO DIRECTOR JUN ROBLES LANA FOR WINNING THE BEST FILM AWARD FROM THE CRITICS' PICKS COMPETITION OF THE 26^{TH} TALLINN BLACK NIGHTS FILM FESTIVAL HELD FROM NOVEMBER 11 TO 27, 2022

Introduced by Senator Estrada

To the Committee on Rules

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 4:56 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:58 p.m., the session was resumed with Senator Ejercito presiding.



SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE CONGRESS-BANGSAMORO PARLIAMENT FORUM, AS PROVIDED UNDER ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11054, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BANGSAMORO ORGANIC LAW."

taking into consideration Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2.

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

The Chair recognized Senate President Zubiri for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI

In sponsoring Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, Senate President Zubiri delivered the following speech:

Last November, we had a meeting between the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Bangsamoro Parliament to identify the most urgent legislative concerns of the Parliament, through the Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum (PCBPF), an intergovernmental body that will help us work together to achieve and maintain genuine peace and progress for the Bangsamoro Region. That meeting was the first step toward the establishment of the forum, and it has now brought us to this Concurrent Resolution No. 5, which I am honored to sponsor today.

As the author and sponsor of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, and as a Mindanaoan myself, I am very proud of the achievements of the interim Bangsamoro Government, which has made great progress toward lasting peace for our brothers in the Bangsamoro Region.

In the face of challenges, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, and natural disasters, such as severe tropical storm *Paeng*, the Bangsamoro Region has proven that it can stand strong on its feet and it is fully capable of exercising its autonomy.

But there remains a lot of work to be done for the BARMM, which is still in its transition stage. Most urgently, there is a need to pass the priority legislations of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority, particularly the remaining codes, such as the Electoral Code and Local Governance Code, to name a few. These codes will form the foundation of the Bangsamoro Government, and it is absolutely vital that these are passed soon as we cannot afford to extend the Bangsamoro Transition Authority anymore.

The establishment of the Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum will allow us to strengthen our coordination with the Bangsamoro Parliament, in the aim of discussing and taking swift action on pertinent legislative concerns for the region.

The Bangsamoro Organic Law is not a quick-fix solution to the decades of conflict that we are seeking to undo in the Bangsamoro Region. While it gives us a necessary framework, we still have to continuously do the work of upholding peace and making way for progress. And as you note, in the recent month, there were skirmishes—misencounters I would like to call it—between our military and the Bangsamoro, particularly the MILF. So, it is really a work in progress. It is in this sense that we need to urgently establish the PCBPF, which we will need if we hope to fully and properly implement the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

To this end, I am glad to sponsor this concurrent resolution, and I enjoin my colleagues to join me in doing so, so we can help and develop an effective and productive partnership between the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the Bangsamoro Parliament towards a better Bangsamoro Region.



COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA

In cosponsoring Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, Senator Legarda delivered the following speech:

It is an honor to be part of the Senate contingent to the Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum. Nais ko rin magbigay-pugay sa lahat ng nagtaguyod upang mapatupad ang mandato ng Bangsamoro Organic Law at tuluyang nagpulong ang Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum.

The establishment of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao was a culmination of several years of peace talks between the Philippine government and several autonomous groups which rejected the validity of the ARMM and called for the creation of a region with more powers devolved from the national government.

The unresolved conflict is seen as one of the causes that hindered efforts to alleviate poverty in the country. The lack of access to economic opportunities, basic services, and social inequity has incited violence, generated disregard for law and order, and influenced indifference to established institutions. I have been consistent in pouring in efforts aimed at transforming conflicts and their root causes through legislation and appropriation.

Hence, the enactment of the Bangsamoro Organic Law is the most notable approach taken by your government to resolve the conflict.

Ang pagpasa at pagbuo ng BARMM ang nakikitang susi upang punan ang maraming puwang sa pag-unlad at pag-angat ng lipunan at dignidad mula sa ilang dekadang pag-aaway at paghihirap.

The promises of BARMM are within the strength and will of the established regional government and its people. It is for them to establish a legacy and own the stories to share to the world and build on the foundations of moral governance that the Bangsamoro people aspire for future generations.

As we navigate the ongoing government transition, we acknowledge the need to improve programs through sufficient coordination and cooperation of legislative initiatives suited to the context of the region. We remain committed to the efforts to provide unity of action in the pursuit of our common goals.

What our country may gain in improving the condition of the BARMM region is an achievement of our country and the Filipino people, as raising the stake of each member in our country for peace will bring prosperity to all. After all, peace is a precursor to sustainable growth and development.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR PADILLA

In cosponsoring Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, Senator Padilla delivered the following speech:

As-Salaam-Alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuhu.

Buong kagalakan at taas-noo po akong tumitindig sa bulwagang ito bilang kapwa-sponsor ng Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 sa pangunguna po ng ating minamahal at iginagalang na ama ng Bangsamoro, ang atin pong Pangulo ng Mataas na Kapulungan — Senate President Juan Miguel Zubiri. Mabuhay po, mahal na Pangulo.

Ang inyo pong lingkod ay nauna na ring naghayag ng ating suporta sa pagpapatawag ng pagbuo ng Congress-Parliamentary Bangsamoro Forum sa pamamagitan ng paghain ng Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 o "Concurrent Resolution Urging the Senate and the House of Representatives to Constitute the Congress Complement for the Creation of the Congress-Parliamentary Bangsamoro Forum as provided for in Republic Act 11054 otherwise known as the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region" noong ika-13 ng Hulyo 2022.



Layunin po ng panukalang ito na hikayatin ang dalawang kapulungan ng Kongreso upang magtalaga ng miyembro sa Congress-Parliamentary Bangsamoro Forum alinsunod sa Seksyon 3, Artikulo VI ng Batas Republika Blg. 11054 upang magkaroon ng mabisang pagtutulungan sa pagitan ng Kongreso at ng BARMM.

Nagpapasalamat din tayo sa ating kagalang-galang na Sen. Risa Hontiveros na nagpahayag po ng kanyang intensyon na maging coauthor ng nasabing concurrent resolution.

Ikinagagalak ko po na tayo ay narito sa puntong ito na isang patunay na anuman ang ating pagkakaiba sa pananampalataya, hiwa-hiwalay man ang mga pulo sa bansa, gaano man kalayo ang Kamaynilaan sa Katimugan— pinagbibigkis tayo ng iisang hangarin: ang tuluyang buhayin ang ating ipinunlang pangarap na mapalago ang Bangsamoro.

Ang Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum (PCBPF) po ay lunsaran ng mas matibay na pagkakapit-bisig ng pambansang pamahalaan, Kongreso at Bangsamoro Parliament. Kaya naman po ako ay nagpapasalamat na maanyayahan bilang isa sa mga delegado ng Senado sa ginawang pagpupulong noong ika-15 ng Nobyembre 2022.

Higit apat na taon na rin matapos maipasa ang Bangsamoro Organic Law noong ika-26 ng Hulyo taong 2018 at kasunod nito ang ratipikasyon ng batas noong ika-19 ng Enero 2019. Simula noon, marami na rin tayong napagtagumpayan. Naisakatuparan na natin ang pagpapasa ng tatlong mahalagang kodigo: administratibo (Oktubre 2020), serbisyong sibil (Pebrero 2021) at edukasyon (Mayo 2021).

Malaki ang pagpapasalamat po natin sa ating dating Presidente na si Rodrigo Roa Duterte na nagsulong po ng BOL. Tunay na malaki po ang naging sakripisyo niya para sa kapayapaan at kapakanan ng mamamayan sa Bangsamoro.

Mahaba-haba pa po ang ating bubunuin para sa ating pangarap na Bangsamoro. Insha Allah, mabibigyan natin ng linaw at direksyon ang ating mga usapin katulong ng ating mga mahal na miyembro ng Kongreso.

Asahan po ninyo na nakasuporta ako sa ating mga kapatid na Bangsamoro at sa ating mga kapwa Pilipino. Sa araw pong ito, tayo ay maglilimbag sa kasaysayan ng tunay na kahulugan ng kapayapaan at pagkakaisa sa bansa para sa ating lupang pangako.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR DELA ROSA

In cosponsoring Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, Senator Dela Rosa delivered the following speech:

It is my honor to add voice to the resounding call to create the Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum, as mandated under Article VI, Section 3, of Republic Act No. 11054, otherwise known as the "Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao."

The Bangsamoro people, the Muslim Filipinos, and the indigenous cultural communities in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao play a significant role in the development of the whole country.

The progress of the Filipino nation cannot achieve its full realization without the bridge of cooperation between the national government and the Bangsamoro government.

Legislative initiatives and policies of Congress should take into utmost consideration the welfare and interests of our brothers and sisters in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. Peace and order, economic development, education, social welfare and health are some of the important issues that the national government should focus on in addressing the needs of our countrymen and women in the BARMM.

Four years after the enactment of this important piece of legislation, RA 11054, we, in Congress should now endeavor to establish the mandated Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum. This will serve as the avenue of consultation, understanding, and partnership between the national and Bangsamoro governments, in crafting legislative measures that would effectively respond to the needs of the said region.



Let us leave an impressive mark in the history of the BARMM. Let the sentiments and opinions of our brethren count.

Today, more than ever, the Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum will unite our hearts and minds for the well-being of the people of BARMM. This forum shall be the vehicle towards a unified plan for progress for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and the whole nation as well.

Ang tagumpay ng BARMM ay tagumpay ng Mindanao, tagumpay ng Pilipinas, at tagumpay nating lahat.

COSPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR TOLENTINO

Being part of the panel that met with the BTA representatives, Senator Tolentino associated himself with the speeches of Senators Padilla and Dela Rosa and Senate President Pro Tempore Legarda for the passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5. Senator Tolentino recalled that he shepherded the amendment of Republic Act No. 11054 for more than three months during the previous Congress, in order to extend the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) for another three years. He believed that there must be a real, permanent, sustainable, and continuing group that would monitor the progress of the Bangsamoro government, especially in enacting the necessary codes. He then thanked Senate President Zubiri who pushed him to sponsor the measure against all odds; otherwise, there would have been no meaningful extension for the BTA.

COSPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

In associating himself with the statements of Senate President Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Senate President Pro Tempore Loren Legarda, and Senators Padilla, Dela Rosa, and Tolentino, Senator Villanueva articulated his wholehearted support for the creation of the Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum for purposes of cooperation and coordination of legislative initiatives. He believed that the policies of the national government and the Bangsamoro government would be harmonized through the Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum.

Thereupon, he thanked Senate President Zubiri not only for passing the Bangsamoro Organic Law, but for ensuring its implementation.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF GO

Upon request of Senator Go, his cosponsorship speech on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 was deemed read and inserted into the *Journal* and *Record of the Senate*, to wit:

I would like to associate myself with the Senate Concurrent Resolution establishing the Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum.

Through this initiative, I believe that we could strengthen our support to the Bangsamoro, and take a step closer to attaining long lasting peace in Mindanao. Dahil din po dito ay matutulungan natin ang ating mga kababayan to address their concerns lalo na po at nanduon pa din ang birth pains sa pagkakatatag nito.

To ensure the long-term development of the region, let us continue to work hand in hand with the Bangsamoro government. Sa pamamagitan po nitong inisyatibong ito ay maipagpapatuloy po natin ang pangakong binitawan ni dating Pangulong Duterte at ng inyong lingkod na mabigyan ng maginhawa at komportableng buhay ang bawat Pilipino.

Patuloy po akong magseserbisyo sa mga kapatid natin sa Mindanao upang tuluyang makamit ang inaasam na kapayapaan at kaunlaran hindi lamang para sa mga kababayan natin sa Mindanao, kundi para sa buong Pilipinas.



COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR REVILLA

Senator Villanueva manifested that Senator Revilla would submit his cosponsorship speech on Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5 for insertion into the *Journal* and *Record of the Senate*.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 5:19 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:36 p.m., the session was resumed.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Senator Cayetano (P) noted that there was no copy of the resolution available online. She remarked that Members aiming to achieve a paperless environment in their offices would have difficulty doing their duties if documents are unavailable online. She reminded the Secretariat to upload a copy of the resolution in the website.

Senator Ejercito stated that according to the information provided by the Senate Secretary, legislative documents are uploaded online only if they are being read in plenary at First Reading. However, Senate President Zubiri stated that the resolution had been read earlier that day. Senator Cayetano (P) inquired if they were uploaded while speeches were being delivered on the foor. Senate President Zubiri replied in the affirmative.

In that regard, Senator Cayetano (P) surmised that her concern was one of those rare instances in which a bill was sponsored the moment it was read on First Reading. She then expressed gratitude for the clarification.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Senator Cayetano (P) informed the Body that half of the world's population consists of women; surmising that the proportion of women may be slightly higher in some countries. However, she believed that an imbalance between the male and female components of the population would be problematic for the purpose of marriage and procreation. While the population might be equally divided between the sexes, she lamented that women still faced discrimination in all aspects of life, from the workplace to their personal lives. She said that in many countries, women shoulder the burden of home and family care fell upon women even if they were also the family's breadwinners.

She then mentioned that in the Philippines, women were more likely to encounter challenges in gaining access to healthcare due to their situation, they give birth and have health issues that are unique to women, which could only be experienced by them. In light of this, she opined that discrimination only happen to women.

With the exception of access to education, since female members of the population have easy access up to the tertiary level, she maintained that women continue to experience both physical and emotional violence in their own homes.

She believed that having a gender-sensitive parliament, in which men and women collaborate to develop legislation to address the aforementioned challenges, as well as having more women representatives in parliament, were two ways to address the problems that Filipino women face.

She noted that seven out of the 24 incumbent senators are women. Despite the fact that the number represented less than 30% of the Body, she regarded it historic nonetheless. She also indicated 25% to 30% of the House of Representatives would typically consist of women. She then argued against the prevalent idea of gender equality, stating that while others believed a 50-50 composition would make an institution gender-balanced, a 40-60 composition was acceptable. She believed that a membership that consisted of 40% men or 40% women may indicate that there were sufficient female representatives in parliament.

At this juncture, she informed her colleagues that the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) publishes an annual global report on women representatives. She said that according to the IPU, nations with well-defined gender quotas elect significantly more women to parliaments than countries with none. She stated that some countries have already enacted "gender quota legislation." She elaborated on the concept by stating that the phrase ensured a particular number of women within an organization. In addition, she stated that according to the United Nations' Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women), women leaders are in the position to address discriminatory practices that impact womankind.

REMARKS OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI

Senate President Zubiri recalled that when the Bangsamoro Organic Law was still being crafted under the leadership of former Senate President Pimentel, great care was taken to ensure that women and youth, as well as non-Moro indigenous peoples of the region, were adequately represented in the measure. He also stated that he solicited the assistance of Senator Hontiveros and female lawmakers of the Seventeenth Congress in drafting specific sections of the measure because he valued the participation of women.

He said that he valued the participation of women because, in his opinion, they are the most hardworking and dedicated set of legislators, as exemplified by the women legislators in the Senate and House of Representatives, whose passion is demonstrated by the causes they fight for. In addition, he stated that he is surrounded by alpha female senators who are determined to push for change.

He said that, along with the women legislators who were part of the Bangsamoro Organic Law, he made sure to include a provision on Reserved Seats and Sectoral Representatives in the Organic Law as found on subsection c, Section 7 of Article VII, which stipulates that women, in addition to the youth, traditional leaders, and the Ulama, shall have one sectoral seat each, in addition to two reserved seats for non-Moro indigenous people.

Adverting to Article IX (Basic Rights) of the Organic Law, Senate President Zubiri stated that they included two sections on it that gives importance to women, as follows:

Section 11. Participation of Women in the Bangsamoro Government. — Aside from the reserved seat for women in the Parliament, there shall be at least one woman to be appointed to the Bangsamoro Cabinet. The Parliament shall enact a law that gives recognition to the important role of women in nation-building and regional development, ensuring the representation of women in other decision-making and policy-determining bodies of the Bangsamoro Government.

The Parliament shall create by law a Commission on Women and shall define its powers, functions, and composition.

Section 12. Protection of Women. — The Bangsamoro Government shall uphold and protect the fundamental rights of women, including the right to engage in lawful employment, and to be protected from exploitation, abuse, or discrimination, as embodied in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women.



Senate President Zubiri believed that Senator Hontiveros, along with the women legislators, was instrumental in ensuring that the provision was included in the laws during the Seventeenth Congress.

He also mentioned Section 9 (Regional Parties) of Article VII, which states:

Section 9. Regional Parties. – A free and open regional party system shall be allowed to evolve according to the free choice of the people. Towards this end, only regional political parties duly accredited by the Bangsamoro Electoral Office, as approved by the Commission on Elections shall participate in the parliamentary elections in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. The Bangsamoro Government shall ensure the inclusion of women's agenda and the involvement of women and the youth in the electoral nominating process of the political parties.

He stated that the aforementioned provisions ensured that the rights and privileges of women are fully represented in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region and Bangsamoro Organic Law, something he was very proud of given that women have no participation in many areas in the BARMM and even in a male-dominated society. However, he noted that several women had assumed leadership positions in the BARMM, including Governor Mariam Mangudadatu of Maguindanao del Sur and her female vice governor, as well as former Governor Bae Soraya Alonto Adiong of Lanao del Sur. He believed Bangsamoro to also be a matriarchal society due to such political leadership.

He stated that his fearless prediction was that the BARMM would have no shortage of women parliamentarians.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Expressing appreciation for Senate President Zubiri's candid response, Senator Cayetano (P) said that she was elated to learn that the senator himself had ensured the participation of women in the Bangsamoro Parliament through provisions in the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

She recalled that when she was a member of the Gender Partnership Group in the IPU, she had the opportunity to interview delegates from invited countries that did not have women representatives. She stated that she candidly discussed, in a non-confrontational manner, why they do not have women representatives and how the IPU could assist them in that regard. She lamented, however, that their standard response was that the women are only part of their consultative or advisory group.

In this regard, she pointed out that even if the women are only members of advisory councils, it is still a step in the right direction, despite the fact that it is insufficient because they will be denied the final vote; and even if there is only one woman representative of a group, she will fight for it as much as the rest of the group.

She stated that hearing about the women political leaders in Bangsamoro gave her optimism for matriarchal societies. However, she recalled that, strangely, Tonga does not have a woman representative, despite the fact that their women provide advice and recommendations to their king; however, they are never chosen to lead, indicating a lack of equal representation. In this regard, she expressed ongoing concern over the low representation of women in the country's parliament.

Regarding the Bangsamoro Organic Law, she lauded Congress for passing it, although she desired more women representation at the time because there were not enough. Still, she believed that progress would be made when they acknowledged the need for more women parliamentarians. She stated that she would be pleased if it can be accomplished by amending the resolution to



consider a quota system for women or by simply empowering women to make the final decisions, which would be a step in the right direction. She said that until that occurs, she will not sit idle but will instead take action.

She also questioned why it is a crime for a married woman to have sexual relations with a man who is not her husband, but it is not a crime for a man to do the same, unless other circumstances, such as scandalous circumstances, are attached. She stated that the sad reality is that some laws created by men are favorable to them but unfavorable to women, such as the 14-year old marrying age for women against the 16-year old marrying age for men, due to the misconception that women at such age are mature enough to be in a committed relationship while the man is free to continue to be a teenager and enjoy life. She asked whether the maturity age for males had been changed to 18 years old.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

At this juncture, Senator Hontiveros informed the Body that they had passed the law strengthening protection against statutory rape by increasing the age of consent for sexual activity from 12 to 16, and a law prohibiting child marriage throughout the Philippines. She stated that it also applies to those who adhere to the traditional practice of child marriage, but that the penalties are suspended to allow for the implementation of an education program; after one year, the penalties for violating the law would take effect.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

(Continuation)

Expressing gratitude to Senator Hontiveros for her manifestation, Senator Cayetano (P) noted that they are finally addressing the issues of gender equality, but the fact remains that women representatives have contributed fully to the development of the country in a sustainable way. In this regard, she stated that even the United Nations had stated that only when gender equality is achieved and women have full representation could the sustainable development goals be achieved.

In summary, she emphasized her interest in acknowledging the work that had transpired because of the Bangsamoro Organic Law and the collective efforts that everybody is doing. She also expressed optimism that there would also be an acceptance that more could be done, not just with one extraordinary governor or one member of Parliament, but with more women participating in lawmaking even in Bangsamoro.

Concurring with Senator Cayetano (P), Senate President Zubiri shared that the Bangsamoro Transition Authority (BTA) has 16 women out of 80 Members of Parliament, or nearly 20% of the membership. He stated that their Majority Leader is a woman and that three of the four Deputy Majority Leaders are also women; therefore, women are excellent, even if they were just appointed. He believed that when they are elected, more seats would be given to women legislators.

Senator Cayetano (P) emphasized that if the mindset of those who will be part of the decision-making process when electoral activity occurs is similar to that of Senate President Zubiri, there will definitely be more seats for women legislators. Despite the fact that only 20% of appointed BARMM legislators are women, it is still a step in the right direction. She hoped that women would be given opportunities for leadership roles so that they could serve as role models not only for young Bangsamoro children, for young women, but also for young boys.

She hoped that Senate President Zubiri and those involved in the Bangsamoro would push for such an agenda, particularly on the concept of women quotas, which she had envisioned and which is practice in other countries. She stated that she would continue to support the women legislators so that there would be a significant number of them in the BARMM, and if time comes when she has to intervene, at least the Senate had begun to discuss it.

Senate President Zubiri expressed confidence that if all the leaders in the Bangsamoro are women, there will be complete peace.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR TULFO

Senator Tulfo expressed his support for the establishment of the Philippine Congress-Bangsamoro Parliament Forum which, he said, will surely give breath to the letter and purpose of the Bangsamoro Organic Law and provide a more unified and stronger venue for both national and Bangsamoro governments to realize their goals for the betterment and holistic development of the Bangsamoro people. He believed that the forum was not only a historic feat, but this will certainly give a truer sense of direction in attaining a strong and meaningful cooperation between the two governments which should have one voice and common aspirations, for they belong to one race—the Filipino race.

Senator Tulfo then commended the efforts of the Senate under the leadership of Senate President, Sen. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PADILLA

Senator Padilla expressed his gratitude to Senator Cayetano (P) for highlighting the strengths and virtues of the Bangsamoro women who were blazing a trail in leadership even outside of the BARMM. He cited Isabela City Mayor Sitti Djalia Turabin-Hataman as an example and other countless Bangsamoro women who excelled in their fields of expertise.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri stated that the women-members of the BTA were excellent representatives of the Bangsamoro people and that their passion in creating genuine and lasting peace in the region was laudible. He noted the suggestion of Senator Cayetano (P) to invite them to the Senate to meet with the women senators. He said that the women-members of the BTA were exceptional professionals with deep knowledge of their region and people. He expressed hope that the dialogue would foster mutual support in pushing for the women's agenda in the Bangsamoro.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

Senator Hontiveros welcomed the initiative to convene a dialogue among women legislators of the Senate and the BTA, which will definitely help in empowering women-leaders of the country. She also suggested inviting the women-ministers of the BTA, including Minister for Social Welfare and Development, Atty. Raissa Herradura Jajurie, who assisted and helped in the passage of the Bangsamoro Organic Law.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

There being no interpellation, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations and proceeded to the period of amendments.

ZUBIRI AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senate President Zubiri, there being no objection, the following amendments were approved by the Body, one after the other:



- 1. Delete the third "Whereas" clause and replace with the following, subject to syle:
 - WHEREAS, ARTICLE XVI, SECTION 3 OF THE SAME LAW PROVIDES THAT THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE POWERS IN THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION SHALL BE VESTED IN THE BANGSAMORO TRANSITION AUTHORITY.
- 2. On the fourth "Whereas" clause, delete the phrase "otherwise known as the Organic Law for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao."
- On page 2, on the resolutory clause, replace the phrase "Bangsamoro Organic Law" with ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO.
- 4. On the same page and resolutory clause, delete the phrase "represented by a five-member panel from the Senate of the Philippines and House of Representatives as designated by the Senate President and Speaker of the House, respectively."
- 5. Add another clause to read:
 - RESOLVED, FURTHER, THAT THE PHILIPPINE CONGRESS SHALL BE REPRESENTED BY A FIVE-MEMBER PANEL EACH FROM THE HOUSE OF THE REPRESENTATIVES AND THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES AS DESIGNATED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND THE SENATE PRESIDENT, RESPECTIVELY.
- 6. Reword the title of the resolution to read:

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE CONGRESS-BANGSAMORO PARLIAMENT FORUM, AS PROVIDED UNDER ARTICLE VI, SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11054, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ORGANIC LAW FOR THE BANGSAMORO AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO".

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

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

COAUTHORS

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, all senators were made coauthors of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5.

ADOPTION OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 5

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 5, taking into consideration Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2, was adopted by the Body.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 12 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 3968 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of House Bill No. 3968 (Committee Report No. 12), entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARMONA IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF CARMONA.

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

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



SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

It was 6:16 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:17 p.m., the session was resumed with the Senate President Juan Miguel "Migz" F. Zubiri presiding.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Villanueva acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the councillors and barangay chairmen of the Municipality of Carmona.

Senate President Zubiri welcomed the guests to the Senate.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR TOLENTINO

At the outset, Senator Tolentino manifested his support for the passage of the bill. He stated that he and former Sen. Panfilo Lacson endeavored for the enactment of Republic Act No. 11683, entitled "An Act Amending Section 450 of the Local Government Code as Amended by Republic Act No. 9009 by Providing for the Requisites for the Conversion of a Municipality Into a Component City and for Other Purposes" which had become one of the bases for the measure being discussed.

Senator Tolentino described Carmona as a small municipality in the Province of Cavite that is steeped in rich history and traditions which must be maintained and observed. He cited the tradition of *Sorteo* or the triennial lottery where agricultural lands would change hands among different farmers and farmer groups. He noted that the tradition dated back to the Spanish times.

Senator Tolentino expressed certainty that Carmona can comply with the requirements of R.A. No. 11683 and, at the same time, maintain its legacy and history. Highlighting its economic status, he said that Carmona, albeit a small place, was well-endowed with several manufacturing firms and a good-mannered citizenry, and well-known for its tourist spots, horse-racing facility, and other industrial endeavors. He added that proof of its economic viability is the intention of the internationally-respected Johns Hopkins University Hospital to put up a medical center in Carmona.

He also cited the portability provision of R.A. No. 11683 which exempts the conversion of an economically-viable municipality from population and land area requirements. He cited the Supreme Court decision in *Navarro vs. Executive Secretary*, G.R. No. 180050, which was promulgated on April 12, 2011 and stated that "the primordial criterion in the creation of any local government unit should be its economic viability."

Senator Tolentino pointed out that Carmona would be the eighth city in the Province of Cavite, which could set the standard for other localities that are seeking conversion into cityhood, in terms of economic viability and the ability to maintain its traditions and history. He underscored that Carmona would be a trailblazing smart and modern city.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR GATCHALIAN

Senator Gatchalian stated that the Municipality of Carmona will be the first LGU to apply to become a component city under RA 11683. He stated that the new law allows LGUs to take different avenues to becoming a city.

Asked about the criteria under RA 11683, Senator Ejercito stated that the LGU with a locally-generated income "as certified by the Department of Finance, of at least Four hundred million pesos (P400,000,000.00) for the last two (2) consecutive years based on 2012 constant prices, may also be converted into a component city if it has either a population of not less than one hundred thousand (100,000) inhabitants as certified by the PSA or a contiguous territory of at least one hundred (100) square kilometers, as certified by the Land Management Bureau."

Senator Gatchalian noted that while new law reduced the population to 100,000, it increased the minimum annual average income requirement to P400 million at 2012 constant prices.

As to what qualification Carmona falls under, Senator Ejercito stated that it meets the income and population requirements. He informed the Body that for fiscal years 2020 to 2022, based on 2012 constant prices, the LGU's annual average income is P499.907 million as certified by the DOF – Bureau of Local Government Finance, which is more than the required P400 million under RA 11683, and its population as of May 1, 2020 was 106,256 based on the PSA's 2020 Census of Population and Housing, which meets the requirement of 100,000 inhabitants. However, he stated that Carmona's land area did not meet the requirement of 100 square kilometers because it only has a total of 31 square kilometers, of which 27 square kilometers is a contested area, with 3.3 kilometers overlap area as certified by the DENR's Land Management Bureau.

As to Carmona's annual income at 2021 level, Senator Ejercito replied that it was P982,071,627. Senator Gatchalian noted that new law reduced the population requirement from 150,000 to 100,000, and the LGU's income shows that it is highly productive. He stated that he has visited Carmona many times and has seen many businesses and employment opportunities, hence, the locally-generated income was quite substantial. He wondered why, despite its obvious growth and economic activities its population has not reached 150,000. He surmised that the new law's rationale for lowering the population requirement was to allow LGUs like Carmona that are extremely progressive, have high income, but are limited in land area and population, to become cities. He recalled that when San Juan became a city, it had a population of about 150,000 people and an annual income of P100 million.

Asked why Carmona had difficulty reaching the 150,000 mark, he opined that its 27-square kilometer area, with three square kilometers of overlap, had something to do with it. Senator Gatchalian stated that even though San Juan is only 5.95 square kilometers in size, it has crossed the threshold.

Senator Ejercito supposed that the density of San Juan's population could be attributed to its vertical development, as it has many medium to high-rise condominiums and townhouses, whereas Carmona has approximately 12 industrial estates, three industrial parks, a large number of companies, golf courses, and rice fields. He emphasized that given the space available, San Juan's development has become vertical, whereas Carmona's development was sprawling. Senator Gatchalian added that despite San Juan's small land mass, it is at the heart of Metro Manila; everyone would want to move in there because it is easier to go everywhere Manila, Makati, North Luzon; it attracts a lot of residents, that San Juan has become an effective bedroom community of Metro Manila.

He stated that when a municipality is converted into a city, the cities' IRA share decreases. He recalled that when he was mayor of Valenzuela City, there were only 80 cities competing for



a piece of the pie; currently, 147 cities share, with no new municipalities emerging, and no cities becoming provinces. He stated that as the number of cities increases, the number of municipalities decreases, while the number of provinces remain constant or had increased minimally. He stated that cities have been cautious and wary whenever a municipality is converted into a city, thus, the need to ensure that emerging cities truly qualify. He clarified that they are not opposed to conversion, but simply want to ensure that they meet the established criteria, as most cities, including Valenzuela, met the old standard of P100 million average income and population of 150,000. To allay the cities' fears, he stated that RA 11683 provided for portability or a reporting mechanism in which municipalities availing of the law should bring their national taxes when they convert, so that the impact of the conversion would be minimal.

He informed the Body that the term "Internal Revenue Allotment" had been replaced with "National Tax Allotment." He then inquired about Carmona's NTA to be reported in its conversion, as well as its projections in the next three years. Senator Ejercito stated that its current NTA is P334,634,048. He stated that no three-year projections will be submitted because DBM will compute them. He stated, however, that the NTA for 2023 is P268,212,832, and that its projected locally-sourced revenue is P768,787,168 for 2023, P819,649,462.37 for 2023, and P884,221,419.36 for 2025.

He stated that currently, there are no available projections for the NTA. He supposed that the lowering of the NTA from P334,634,048 for 2022 to P268,212,832 for 2023 is an effect of the Mandanas-Garcia ruling of the Supreme Court. Senator Gatchalian added that COVID-19 pandemic may have also contributed, as the calculation was based on the average for the past three years.

Asked if the P268 million would be reported to the side of the cities, Senator Ejercito replied in the affirmative.

As to the amount of NTA which Carmona would receive once it is converted into a city in 2023 and the amount it would bring under the portability provision of RA 11683, Senator Ejercito stated that he did not have the figures yet for 2023, but for 2022 the NTA to be received was estimated to be P758.9 million, up from P334 million. He said that he would submit the figures for 2023 to Senator Gatchalian once the document was available.

Senator Gatchalian stated that the portability feature of the law was a good mechanism to reduce the impact to the cities. In reply, Senator Ejercito stated that the BLGF study showed that the impact on Puerto Princesa City was minus .91 percent and for Vigan City, minus 3.65 percent for the fiscal year 2022.

Given the estimates for Carmona, Senator Gatchalian caculated that from the current NTA of P334 million, it would increase to P749 million upon its conversion into a city, but minus P268 million that would be ported to the cities, it would just leave P481 million for the city of Carmona. Senator Ejercito averred that the BLGF study states that when a municipality converts into a city, the former IRA or NTA allotment of the newly-converted city increases significantly while that of the other existing cities decrease very minimally.

Senator Gatchalian then made a request for the DBM's calculation on the NTA reductions for cities in anticipation of Carmona's conversion into a city—with and without the portability mechanism. Senator Ejercito replied that he would submit the requested projections from the DBM and the BLGF, including the projections for the next three years, once available.

As to how many other municipalities would be able to comply to the cityhood requirements of Republic Act No. 11683, Senator Ejercito replied that the Municipality of Rosario in Cavite and the Municipality of Cainta in Rizal would qualify. However, he said that Cainta was not applying for



cityhood and chose to remain with the province even as most of Rizal Province's former municipalities have already converted to cities.

Senator Gatchalian explained that the province would lose real estate income if Cainta converts into a city because cities are entitled to collect their own real estate income—one major impact on the fiscal well-being of the province.

Finally, Senator Gatchalian believed that Carmona seemed qualified for cityhood under Republic Act No. 11683 since its average annual income was P499 million and its population was about 206,000.

REMARKS OF THE CHAIR

Senate President Zubiri recalled having passed Carmona during his college days in the 80's when it used to be grass-filled and occupied with rice fields. He said that Carmona had grown into an industrial estate. He then expressed his full support to its conversion into a city, as he congratulated the men and women leaders of Carmona.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR EJERCITO

Senator Ejercito likewise manifested that he has seen how Carmona developed through the years into one of the most progressive municipalities of the Province of Cavite, as he used to work in real estate development and with some projects in the area.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

As a former TESDA Secretary, Senator Villanueva recalled that he had the chance to work with Cavite Representative Roy Loyola and Carmona Mayor Dahlia Loyola in creating many jobs for the Call Center Association of the Philippines. He said that he had seen Carmona's developments and that he was supporting Carmona's conversion into a city.

He then stated that House Bill No. 3968 under Committee Report No. 12 would be first in the next session day's agenda, and that there would still be interpellations on it.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 3968

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

Senate President Zubiri thanked Representative Loyola, Carmona Mayor Loyola, and the members of Carmona municipal council who were present at the session hall. He invited them to attend the next session for the continuation of the interpellations and anticipated approval on Second Reading.

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Letter of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., dated 28 November 2022, submitting for the Senate's consideration and concurrence the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership



(RCEP) Agreement which was adopted on November 15, 2020 on the occasion of the 4th RCEP Leaders' Summit via video conference.

To the Committee on Foreign Relations

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1579, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1379, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT DECLARING FORFEITURE IN FAVOR OF THE STATE ANY PROPERTY FOUND TO HAVE BEEN UNLAWFULLY ACQUIRED BY ANY PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE AND PROVIDING FOR THE PROCEEDINGS THEREFOR" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1580, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7743, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL, CITY, AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1581, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE EMPLOYMENT OF QUALIFIED LIFEGUARDS IN ALL PUBLIC SWIMMING POOLS AND BATHING FACILITIES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1582, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SUMMARY TITLING OF REAL PROPERTIES USED AS PUBLIC-SCHOOL SITES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Basic Education; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1583, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 1584, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING A SAFE HAVEN FOR NEWBORN INFANTS ABANDONED AT BIRTH

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1585, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING THE USERS OF RADIO FREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION DEVICES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 1586, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation

Senate Bill No. 1587, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING BARANGAY TALA IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ORANI, PROVINCE OF BATAAN AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

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

Senate Bill No. 1588, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL PUBLIC PARKS SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

of the

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

Senate Bill No. 1589, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVISM IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF R.A. NO. 11364, R.A. NO. 9520, AND R.A. NO. 7160, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

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

Senate Bill No. 1590, entitled

AN ACT CRIMINALIZING THE CREATION AND DISSEMINATION OF FAKE NEWS FOR THE PROTECTION FROM ONLINE FALSEHOODS AND MANIPULATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CYBERCRIME PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 1591, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IGUIG, PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1592, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING BARANGAY MALICO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA FE PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1593, entitled

AN ACT DECRIMINALIZING LIBEL, REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLES 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 360, 361 AND 362 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE REVISED PENAL CODE" AND SECTION 4(c) 4, CHAPTER II OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CYBERCRIME PREVENTION ACT OF 2012"



Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1595, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING WHO ARE INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS AND PENALIZING THEIR MALTREATMENT

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1596, entitled

AN ACT CONFERRING THE CADETS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY THE STATUS OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE, GRANTING SALARIES, BENEFITS, AND PRIVILEGES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Senate Bill No. 1597, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MARINDUQUE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA CRUZ, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE MARINDUQUE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; Local Government; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1598, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SAN JOSE AND MAGSAYSAY, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE OCCIDENTAL MINDORO SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; Local Government; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1599, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN A PORTION OF THE SALOMAGUE COVE AND IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SAN JUAN AND



CABUGAO, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE ILOCOS SUR SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Economic Affairs; Local Government; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1601, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING PROFESSIONALISM AND PROMOTING THE CONTINUITY OF POLICIES AND MODERNIZATION INITIATIVES IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Estrada

To the Committees on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 342, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL JUNIOR GYMNASTS FOR THEIR IMPRESSIVE MEDAL HAUL IN THE 2022 JRC ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS STARS CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD LAST NOVEMBER 17-20, 2022 IN BANGKOK, THAILAND

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 343, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE 2022 WINNERS OF THE 70th CARLOS PALANCA MEMORIAL FOR LITERATURE FOR THEIR LITERARY MASTERPIECES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 344, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINA ACTRESS DANIELLE CLAUDINE "COLEEN" ORTEGA GARCIA-CRAWFORD FOR WINNING BEST ACTRESS IN THE FILM KALUSKOS (RUSTLES) AT THE 2022 EL GRITO INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVALS HELD IN VENEZUELA

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 345, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF SINGER AND ACTRESS SYLVIA LA TORRE DE TAGLE, QUEEN OF KUNDIMAN AND FIRST LADY OF PHILIPPINE TELEVISION

Introduced by Senator Estrada

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 346, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FAULTY RADIOFREQUENCY IDENTIFICATION (RFID) SYSTEMS OF THE VARIOUS METRO MANILA EXPRESSWAYS AND THEIR DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS ON OUR ECONOMY

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 347, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING MAY PARSONS, THE NURSE WHO ADMINISTERED THE WORLD'S FIRST COVID-19 VACCINE AND RECIPIENT OF THE PRESTIGIOUS GEORGE CROSS AWARD, FOR REAFFIRMING THE PIVOTAL ROLE OF FILIPINO NURSES IN THE GLOBAL HEALTHCARE SCENE

Introduced by Senator Poe

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 348, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED CORRUPTION INVOLVING THE ROAD TRANSPORTATION IT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO)

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations; and Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 349, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S OF THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED SHOOTOUT, WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF THREE TEENAGERS IN BARANGAY DIDTARAS, MUNICIPALITY OF LAMBAYONG, SULTAN



KUDARAT WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING THE TRUTH AND CREATING POLICIES THAT WILL STRENGTHEN PEACE AND PROTECTION MECHANISMS FOR THE MORO PEOPLE

Introduced by Senator Padilla

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 350, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE SOARING MARKET PRICES OF LOCAL ONIONS

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 351, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE, AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE WELFARE RESPONSES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO INFLATION AND SOARING FOOD PRICES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 14, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Local Government; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1594, with Senators Legarda, Revilla, Jr., Estrada, Go, Gatchalian, and Villar (M) as authors thereof, entitled

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

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 247, 260, 286, 424, 946 and 1246.

Sponsor: Senator Villar (M)

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 15, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1600, with Senators Hontiveros, Legarda, Villar (M), and Angara as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION, GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION, OR SEX CHARACTERISTICS (SOGIESC) AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 139, 245 and 442.

Sponsor: Senator Hontiveros

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

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. 34 (December 5, 2022) and considered it approved.

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 7:08 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

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

Approved on December 7, 2022