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**SENATE**  
**Pasay City**

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FIRST REGULAR SESSION

PREPARED BY THE  
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SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES

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**SESSION NO. 56**  
Wednesday, March 1, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:22 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Miguel "Migz" F. Zubiri, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada led the prayer, to wit:

*Let us put ourselves in the divine presence of our Almighty God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.*

Our loving and eternal God, we thank You for the opportunity to be gathered here today as one strong, united and august Body.

Grant us the grace to be able to fulfill our mandate to enact laws and enunciate national policies that promote the people's welfare, empower the poor and weak, stimulate economic growth, institute good governance, promote the rule of law, strengthen democracy, protect the environment and the nation's rich cultural heritage and build a sustainable, equitable, prosperous and orderly society.

We ask You to always grant us the wisdom and courage in every meeting, committee hearings and investigations, plenary deliberations and decisions that we are to make and undertake.

May we be guided always by Your sustaining light and divine truth in every manner we conduct ourselves in the everyday performance of our duties.

Grant that each of us may be able to contribute to the best interests of the people that we serve. Grant that we may serve as blessing to others and, most especially, to our respective families and communities as well.

Fortify our hearts and minds as we steadfastly persevere in our advocacies in the service of our nation.

Make us Your instruments of peace and testament of Your good graces as we pursue in providing solutions in alleviating the burden of each and every Filipino family that counts on us.



Grant that we may be able to live up to our vision of a Senate that is independent, fair and fearless; a government institution that zealously protects the Constitution, promote democratic values and upholds the national interest.

*Panginoon, maraming salamat sa makabuluhang buhay na ito na ipinagkaloob Ninyo sa amin. Maraming salamat sa pagmamahal ng aming pamilya, sa suporta ng aming mga kaibigan, sa malasakit ng aming mga kawani, at sa tiwala ng mamamayang Pilipino, upang magawa namin ang aming tungkulin nang buong puso, nang buong husay, nang walang pag-iimbot at nang buong katapatan.*

And finally, we thank You Lord for granting us this mandate as legislators. We could have been in any other position. We could have been in any other place. But You chose us to be here to serve the Filipino nation. We pray that we may be able to carry Your will and glorify Your Name as we fulfill this mission. Guide us and protect us, our Father, and never leave our side.

These we ask in the powerful Name of Jesus Christ our Lord and our Savior, through the intercession of our Blessed Virgin Mary. 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. E.	Tulfo, R. T.
Gatchalian, W.	Villanueva, J.
Go, C. L. T.	Villar, C. A.
Hontiveros, R.	Villar, M. A.
Lapid, M. L. M.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

With 24 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Secretary Cheloy Velicaria-Garafil of the Presidential Communications Office;
- Mayor Lota L. Manalo, and Vice Mayor Jurly Manalo from Lobo, Batangas;
- Violence Against Women and Children (VAWC) desk officers from various barangays in Taguig;
- Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas from the 6th District of Pangasinan;
- Rep. Jefferson F. Khonghun from the 1st District of Zambales;
- Councilor Mary Aiko S. Melendez from the 5th District of Quezon City;
- Board Member Nicandro "Nickel" Suaybaguio Jr. from Davao del Norte;
- Members of the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) Advisory Council, namely: Fr. Bienvenido Nebres, S.J., Rhodora Angela Ferrer, Maria Olivia Lucas, and Taguig Mayor Maria Laarni "Lani" Cayetano;

- EDCOM standing committee members, namely: Amabelle Cariño, Rina Lopez-Bautista, Elvin Ivan Y. Uy, Dr. Diosdado M. San Antonio, Dr. Allan B.I. Bernardo, Fr. Jerome Marquez, Dr. Marie Therese Angeline P. Bustos;
- Vice Mayor Angelo “Gel” B. Alonte;
- Mayor Cristina I. Antonio from Alcala, Cagayan;
- Mr. Richard Rejas from Basilan Province;
- Mr. Abul Khayr Alonto II from Bataan Province;
- Mayor Arman Dimaguila from the City of Biñan, Laguna;
- Punong Barangay Antonio E. Bolaños from Brgy. Cayabu, Tanay, Rizal;
- Mayor Marcel S. Pan from the Municipality of Goa, Camarines Sur;
- Mr. Jose Roni Peñalosa, representing Mayor Jerry P. Treñas of Iloilo City;
- Mayor Sabas C. De Sagon from Itbayat, Batanes;
- Mayor Mary Jean N. Te from the Municipality of Libertad, Antique;
- Mayor Georgina S. Guillen from the Municipality of Piddig, Ilocos Norte; and
- 2022 Galing Pook awardees led by Galing Pook officers, Ms. Georgina Ann Hernandez-Yang, Engr. Liza Silerio, and Adrian Adove.

Senate President Zubiri welcomed the guests to the Senate.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

*It was 3:31 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:38 p.m., the session was resumed with Senator Gatchalian presiding.

Upon resumption, Senator Villanueva also acknowledged the presence in the gallery of Rep. Marlyn “Len” B. Alonte-Naguiat, who was welcomed by the presiding officer.

#### **QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI**

On a matter of personal and collective privilege, Senate President Zubiri made the following statements:

I had seen the news today and it was really quite disturbing. I urgently call on our law enforcement to immediately hunt down and arrest the suspects behind the death of John Matthew Salilig who died because of hazing.

And as we know, the enhanced Anti-Hazing Law was a bill of mine, together with the gentleman from Valenzuela, the Presiding Officer, and Senator Lacson, which I filed when the brother of my staff, Atio Castillo, died about four years ago.

But, since then, it seems that *ang daming pasaway. Ang dami pa ring nanggugulpi ng bata, ng mga inosente*, on the guise of brotherhood and sisterhood. As I said, *nakapanghihina na magising sa balita na may isa na namang batang nasawi dahil sa hazing*. My prayers and condolences go out to John’s family and friends, as well as my assurance that we are with them in finding justice for his death.

Our laws are clear on this: any individual who participates in hazing that leads to the victim's death, is punishable with *reclusion perpetua*. Let me repeat, they are punishable with *reclusion perpetua*, or lifetime imprisonment.

Hazing should not be tolerated by any society; and we have the laws in place to make sure that it should never happen on hapless young men and women only longing for friendship and camaraderie. Those barbarian perpetrators should all rot in jail for the rest of their lives. The culture of secrecy in the guise of fraternal brotherhood is abhorrent. And each and every single person involved—from those who planned the hazing, to those who participated in the brutality, even those who were just present but did nothing to stop the hazing—should be thrown in jail as well. Under our laws, they are all responsible.

*Iyon lamang po ang gusto kong sabihin ngayong araw na ito*, and I hope that the Majority Leader can forward this to the proper committee for proper follow-up and investigation.

#### REMARK OF SENATOR GATCHALIAN

Senator Gatchalian joined Senate President Zubiri in condemning the brutal act of hazing on John Matthew Salilig. He also agreed that the practice would only stop when the perpetrators are arrested and brought to the court of law.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva gave the following statement in support of the Senate President's appeal for swift justice on the death of John Matthew Salilig:

*Hindi po lingid sa kaalaman ng Bulwagang ito na tayo ay miyembro ng Tau Gamma Phi, o Triskelion Grand Fraternity.*

*Nakapanlulumo, nakakagalit, sobra, nakapanglalata, lalo na noong panoorin natin iyong video kung saan natagpuang patay sa Imus, Cavite ang isang 3<sup>rd</sup> year chemical engineering student ng Adamson University, dahil umano sa fraternity hazing. Kinilala po mismo ni Brod John Michael, who is also a member of Tau Gamma Phi, ang bangkay ng kaniyang kapatid.*

The victim was John Matthew Salilig, who was last seen with members of Tau Gamma Phi fraternity in Biñan City, Laguna, and had been reported missing since February 18. Ten days already. Police said that at least 18 suspects are involved in the death of John Matthew.

*Sabi ng isa sa mga suspects, hindi raw po bababa sa pitumpung palo ang tinamo ni John Matthew sa initiation o welcoming rites ng fraternity.*

I would like to put this on record, *hindi po siya pumapasok* as a new member of the fraternity. He has been a member of Tau Gamma Phi in Zamboanga. Welcoming rites *lamang po ito, kaya nagngangalit lalo, nakapanlulumo*. And, I have to say this, *nakakahiya na rin na maging miyembro ng isang organisasyon na kumukunsinte, tumu-tolerate sa mga ganitong gawain.*

His battered body was unceremoniously dumped on an open field in Imus, Cavite. *May mga kuwento po na mula doon sa pinangyarihan, dadalhin sa ospital, ngunit nagbago ang isip. Mayroon din pong kuwentong may nagsasabi na huwag nang dalhin, ilibing na lamang dito sa Imus, Cavite.*

*Wala pong puwang sa mundong ito ang kaharasan. Wala pong salita sa mundong ito strong enough to express that disgust. And I am appalled by what happened to my brother, our brother, John Matthew. Hindi ko po kayang tingnan iyong mga picture; nasa akin, ang dami, pinadala sa aking cell phone.*

*Muli, sasabihin ko, wala pong lugar sa atin ang karahasan at pagpatay. Sayang po ang buhay ng batang ito; nag-aaral sa Adamson University, wanted to be a lawyer; sayang ang kaniyang mga pangarap. His potential as an engineer will never be realized.*

*Kulang po iyong salita para magsabing sorry, pero nais nating sabihin na we are so sorry to the family and loved ones of John Matthew. I join his family in mourning. Wala pong katumbas na sakit at hapdi ang sinapit ng kanilang anak, ng kanilang kapatid, ng kanilang kaibigan.*

*Muli po, I am not speaking on behalf of the entire fraternity brotherhood ng Tau Gamma Phi. Kausap ko po si Rep. Marlyn B. Alonte, who is also a member at Triskelion—Sis; si Vice Mayor Angelo B. Alonte, nandito po. Lahat po kami ay nanlulumo; lahat po kami ay nanlalata; lahat po kami ay nagulat; lahat po kami ay shocked at hindi makapayag sa nangyayaring ito.*

As mentioned a while ago by our dear Senate President and the Presiding Officer, we passed in the Seventeenth Congress *ito pong* Anti-Hazing Act of 2018. And yet some are still very bold to commit such senseless acts of violence that took another innocent life.

*Iyong huling nag-hearing po tayo rito, doon sa isyu ni Atio, doon naman sa UST sa may Navarra Street—doon ginawa iyong karumal-dumal na krimen.*

When we were deliberating in 2018, we noted the following: 18 hazing-related deaths since the passage of the 1995 Anti-Hazing Law; 300 suspects at-large, according to the Philippine National Police (PNP); the first and only conviction under RA 8049 is the case of the University of the Philippines, Los Baños student, Marlon Villanueva—Villanueva *pa po*—in 2006, in the hands of the Alpha Phi Omega Fraternity. This case, which sentenced the two suspects to *reclusion perpetua*, was decided in 2015.

I said this before in this august Hall of the Senate, when the news of the death of Horacio “Atio” Castillo III due to hazing broke: “no type of brotherhood can ever equate to the sanctity of life. *Hinding-hindi nasusukat sa karahasan ang tunay na kapatiran.*”

*Ang mismong Tau Gamma Phi, ilang panahon na, ilang taon nang ini-implement iyon pong tinatawag na “No contact policy.” We were so proud of it na ito na iyong pinapa-implement sa bawat chapter ng Tau Gamma Phi; sa bawat chapter ng mga school and university all over the country.*

Claiming hazing as an initiation to a brotherhood or sisterhood rather than an active blood-thirsty act of violence is like insisting that black is white, and that night is day.

I strongly urge the police to investigate and hold all those accountable for this unacceptable incident, *kahit na kapatiran pa ng Tau Gamma Phi.* We would also like to get an update on the implementation of the Anti-Hazing Law of 2018. How many hazing-related deaths have occurred since then? How many have been convicted? How many complaints have been filed? We need this information, so that we can address any gaps hindering the full implementation of the law. We have to be proactive. *Hindi po puwedeng passive na lamang tayo. Baka dapat mayroon tayong magandang reward system, lalo na sa mga university. Mga batang-bata, sinasaktan. Ayaw padapuan ng lamok ng kanilang magulang, tapos papatayin sa hazing na parang masahol pa sa pagpatay sa isang kikalawing hayop.*

I also urge the full implementation of the Anti-Hazing Law, as called by our Senate President, in all universities and colleges, *upang tuluyan nang mabasura ang karahasan sa ating pamantasan.*

*Ako po’y umaasa na makakamit ng ating kapatid na si John Matthew Salilig at ng kanyang pamilya—ang ating fraternity brother also na si John Michael at ang kanyang ama na isang fraternity brother din—ang hustisya.*

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

## REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senate President Zubiri and the manifestations thereon to the Committee on Justice and Human Rights as the primary committee, and to the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs as the secondary committee.

## 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. 55 (February 28, 2023) and considered it approved.

## PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 316

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316, entitled

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

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 323,335, 337, and 511.

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*.

## MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva stated that in the interest of time, Senator Lapid and himself would just submit their sponsorship and cosponsorship speeches, respectively, on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316 for insertion into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*.

## SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR LAPID

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Villanueva, following is the sponsorship speech of Senator Lapid on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316:

*Mga ginagalang kong kasama sa Bulwagang ito, isang karangalan para sa akin na mag-sponsor ng resolusyon nating ito na nagbibigay-pugay sa sampung mga programa mula sa mga lokal na pamahalaan na nagwagi sa 2022 Galing Pook Awards.*

*Ang Galing Pook Awards ay unang inilunsad noong 1993 kung saan nagkaroon ng pambansang kampanya para sa pinakamakabago at malikhaing mga proyekto ng mga lokal na pamahalaan na nagbibigay solusyon sa mga pangkaraniwan at pang araw-araw na suliranin na kinakaharap ng ating mga kababayan. Sinusuri sa pamamagitan ng isang multilevel screening process batay sa mga positibong resulta at epekto; pagsulong ng partisipasyon at empowerment ng mga mamamayan; innovation, transferability at sustainability; at kahusayan ng paghahatid ng serbisyo ng programa sa komunidad.*

*Ang mga itinanghal na nagwagi ng Galing Pook Awards taong 2022 ay ang mga sumusunod:*

### ***The Green Wall of Alcala (Alcala, Cagayan)***

*Pagkatapos maranasan ang pinakamalalang pagbaha sa loob ng isang siglo, na sumalanta sa sampung libong (10,000) pamilya at nagpalubog sa limang libong (5,000) kabahayan, inilunsad ng lokal na pamahalaan ang Green Wall of Alcala na may layuning magtanim ng mga puno sa malawak na bahagi ng bayan at gamitin ang pamamaraang “agro-forestry” sa pagsasaka upang iwasan na muling maulit ang pangyayaring tinaguriang “100-year-old flood.”*

### ***Advancing and Sustaining Good Governance and Community Actions Towards Resiliency and Empowerment (Basilan Province)***

*Ang peace and good governance initiatives ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Basilan kung saan mahigit 364 kasapi ng mga rebeldeng grupo ang matagumpay na napababa ang armas at nagbalik sa kanilang komunidad kung saan sila ay mapayapang nagsasaka at nangingsida.*

### ***Bataan Public-Private Partnership Programs (Bataan Province)***

*Ang programang public-private partnership ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Bataan ay magandang halimbawa ng pagtutulungan at pagkakaisa ng pamahalaan at ng pribadong sektor para sa pagsusulong ng kaunlaran ng bayan. Isa sa matatagumpay na proyekto sa ilalim ng Bataan Public-Private Partnership Programs ay ang “The Bunker,” isang seven-story na haligi na tatayong sentro ng pamahalaang panlalawigan ng Bataan.*



***Balik-Biñan Project: Tourism Development Through Heritage Conservation (Biñan, Laguna)***

Ang proyekto ng pamahaalng bayan ng Biñan ay may layuning panatilihin ang lokal na kasaysayan at tradisyon ng bayan ng Biñan. Isinama ng pamahalaang lungsod ang pagkakakilanlang pangkultura nito sa mga pangunahing proyekto ng pamahalaan sa edukasyon, kalusugan, agrikultura, pabahay at imprastruktura, kapayapaan at kaayusan, at pag-unlad ng ekonomiya. Ang pamamahalang nakabatay sa kultura ay naging isa sa mga prayoridad ng lungsod. Nanguna ito sa mga pagsisikap sa muling pagpapasigla sa bayan ng Biñan na mayaman sa kasaysayan at kultura.

***From Black to Green: Fishponds, Eco-Tourism, and Full Employment (Brgy. Cayabu, Tanay, Rizal)***

Ang pagsusulong ng pamahalaang bayan ng Tanay sa Barangay Cayabu ng food security at sustainability sa gitna ng pandemya at epekto ng climate change sa malalayong lugar ng mga kabundukan ng Tanay. Sa pagtutulungan ng pribadong sektor at ng pamahalaan, sinisigurong may sapat na pagkain sa hapag kainan at dagdag na pagkakakitaan ang mga pamilya sa pamamagitan ng komprehensibong programa sa agrikultura.

***Trekking to Unlock Community Ailments and Difficulties (Tucad) (Goa, Camarines Sur)***

Ang pagmomobilisa ng mga volunteers ng pamahalaang bayan ng Goa upang maabot at mabigyan ng serbisyong medikal ang kanilang mga kababayan nakatira sa mga liblib at malayong lugar sa kabundukan.

***"I-Bike" A Program Promoting the Development of the Iloilo City Bike Culture (Iloilo City)***

Ang programa ng pamahalaang panlungsod ng Iloilo na nagtataguyod ng alternatibong transportasyon at pagpapalaganap sa kamalayan ng mga mamayan ang malasakit sa kapaligiran at kalusugan, gayon din ang pagpapalawak ng mga bike lanes sa lungsod.

***Yaru: A Whole-of-Community Approach toward Disaster Management (Itbayat, Batanes)***

Matatagpuan sa hilagang dulo ng bansa ang Munisipalidad ng Itbayat na lantad sa malalakas na serye ng mga bagyo taon-taon. Gayon pa man, napapapanatili nila ang zero-casualty record sa pamamagitan ng kanilang diwa ng sama-samang pagkilos na kilala bilang "Yaru." Dahil sa Yaru, ang buong komunidad ay nagsasama-sama upang tulungan ang isa't isa na maghanda, umunlad, at makabangon mula sa bawat sakuna.

***Libertad Fish Forever Savings Club (Libertad, Antique)***

Ang proyekto ng pamahalaang bayan ng Libertad na may layuning tugunan ang mga suliraning kinakaharap ng mga komunidad sa tabing dagat, tulad ng mabilis na pagbaba ng stock ng isda, mas maraming bilang ng mga mangingisda, climate change, ilegal na pangingsda, mahinang pangangasiwa ng pangisdaan, pangingsda ng mga komersyal na mangingisda sa dagat, pandemya, at hindi matatag na mga pamilihan—karamihan sa mga mamamayang bahagi ng sektor na ito ay kulang, kung hindi man walang, sapat na kaalaman sa pananalapi o financial literacy o access sa pangunahing insurance upang maprotektahan sila laban sa kawalang katiyakan.

Ang programa ay nagbigay sa komunidad ng pagsasanay at kinakailangang kaalaman sa pananalapi. Layunin nitong mabawasan ang sobra-sobrang panghuhuli ng isda, at kaalaman sa epektibong climate change adaptation, at mas ganap na lumahok sa pamamahala ng kanilang mga pangisdaan para sa pagpapanatili ng yamang dagat.

***Basta Piddigueño, Agrihenyo: Consolidated Farm Production System (Piddig, Ilocos Norte)***

Ang proyekto ng pamahalaang bayan ng Piddig na kinumbinsi ang kanilang mga magsasaka na lumipat sa pinagsama-samang sistema ng pagsasaka. Ang Consolidated Farm Production System ay isang komprehensibong programa na layong punan ang mga pangangailangan ng mga maliliit na magsasaka mula sa pagsasanay, kaalamang teknikal at mga kagamitan.

Sa likod ng bawat mauunlad na mga komunidad ay ang isang local government unit na tumutugon sa pangangailangan ng mga mamamayan nito. Sa gitna ng krisis na hatid ng pandemya, ang tagumpay ng inyong mga proyekto ay tila liwanag sa gitna ng dilim; na ang bawat kwento tungkol sa pinagdaang mga suliranin, paghihirap at sakripisyo, maging mga paunang tagumpay, ay inspirasyon at huwaran na sa mas marami pang mga local government unit na handang maglingkod sa bayan at baguhin ang kinasasadlakan ng mga kanilang mga mamamayan.

*Kaya mga kagalang galang na mga kasama sa Bulwagang ito, ating kilalanin at bigyang pagpupugay ang mga natatanging proyekto ng ating mga LGU na huwaran hindi lamang sa kanilang mga lugar, kundi ng buong sambayanan. Ang kanilang tagumpay ay nagbibigay ng pag-asa sa ating bansa na kaya nating makapagsagawa ng makabuluhang pamamahala sa ating mga bayan.*

Congratulations po sa mga Galing Pook Awardees. *Mabuhay po kayo.*

### **COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA**

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Villanueva, following is his speech on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316:

We would like to manifest our support for the resolutions congratulating and commending the winners of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Galing Pook Awards.

Launched in October 1993, the Galing Pook Awards is a groundbreaking program that searches and recognizes innovative practices and outstanding initiatives by local government units. To date, more than 330 programs from at least 200 local government units have been awarded the Galing Pook Awards.

For the year 2022, the following local government programs were honored for their impact to the community, promotion of people's participation and empowerment, innovation, resilience and sustainability, successful outcomes, transferability, and efficiency of program service delivery:

- "The Green Wall of Alcala" of Alcala, Cagayan led by Mayor Cristina Antonio;
- "Advancing and Sustaining Good Governance and Community Actions towards Resiliency and Empowerment" of the Provincial Government of Basilan led by Governor Jim Hataman-Salliman;
- "Bataan Public-Private Partnership Programs" of the Provincial Government of Bataan led by Governor Joet Garcia;
- "Balik-Biñan Project: Tourism Development through Heritage Conservation" of Biñan City, Laguna led by Mayor Walfredo Dimaguila Jr.
- "From Black to Green: Fishponds, Eco-Tourism and Full Employment" of Brgy. Cayabu, Tanay, Rizal led by Brgy. Chairman Antonio Bolaños;
- "Trekking to Unlock Community Ailments and Difficulties (TUCAD)" of Goa, Camarines Sur led by Mayor Marcel Pan;
- "I-BIKE: A Program Promoting the Development of the Iloilo City Bike Culture" of Iloilo City led by Mayor Jerry Treñas;
- "Yaru: A Whole-of-Community Approach Towards Disaster Management" of Itbayat, Batanes led by Mayor Sabas De Sagon;
- "Libertad Fish Forever Savings Club" of Libertad, Antique led by Mayor Mary Jean Te; and
- "Basta Piddigueño, AgriHenyó: Consolidated Farm Production System" of Piddig, Ilocos Norte led by Mayor Georgina Guillen.

Indeed, these award-winning programs champion innovative solutions to environmental problems and promote inclusive growth and development particularly in rural and underserved communities. They also showcase the effective leadership and commitment of our LGUs to good governance. I am certain that they will inspire other LGUs and lead to more successful programs across the country for the benefit of the Filipino people.

Congratulations again to the awardees of the 2022 Galing Pook Ten Outstanding Local Governance Programs. *Mabuhay po kayo!*

### **COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR GATCHALIAN**

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316, Senator Gatchalian commended the winners of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Galing Pook Awards and likewise lauded the Galing Pook Foundation for its initiatives that encourage a culture of excellence in local governance.

*Following is the full text of Senator Gatchalian's speech:*

Today, I have the honor to cosponsor Proposed Senate Resolution No. 335, entitled "Resolution Congratulating and Commending the Winners of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Galing Pook Awards."

Launched in October 1993, the Galing Pook Awards continues to serve as a forum that gathers the best practices and new ways of designing and delivering public policies and services, which also inspires other local government units to emulate the best practices, and spur them to create their own initiatives.

Undoubtedly, these awarded LGUs are testimonies that through good governance and stellar leadership, we can institutionalize life-changing programs for our community.

Over the years, the Galing Pook Awards has served as a platform for our local governments to learn from one another and share ideas that will help their communities thrive.

*Ang inyo pong lingkod ay naging bahagi ng prestihiyosong Galing Pook Awards noong 2012, noong tayo ay naging Punong Lungsod ng Valenzuela, bunga ng aming "Simple, Speed, and Service," or "3S in Public Service Program," na nagsilbing plataporma ng lungsod upang wakasan ang katiwalian at korapsiyon. Katulad ng 3S in Public Service Program, naniniwala ako na ang mga programang isinulong ng mga nagwaging local government ay magsisilbi ring daan tungo sa maunlad na kinabukasan ng komunidad na kanilang nasasakupan.*

And now, let me take this opportunity to applaud the efforts of these 10 exceptional LGUs, each of which has demonstrated novel and excellent approaches to serving its citizens. Congratulations for carrying out your insightful recommendations in tackling widespread issues innovatively. Definitely, all of you affirm the community and the local government's commitment to good governance.

*Nagsisilbing susi ang pagpupunyaging natamasa ng mga pinarangalang LGUs upang mas lalo nilang mapalawig ang paghahatid ng serbisyo sa kanilang pamayanan. Isang halimbawa na lamang po rito ang Valenzuela.*

Since 2012, Valenzuela has already garnered a total of seven Galing Pook awards, including the "Education 360 Degrees Investment Program" in 2015, "Disiplina Village" in 2017, and "Tayo Na, Mapayapang Valenzuela" in 2018. And in 2021 alone, Valenzuela accomplished a historic feat by claiming three of the Top 10 best-of-the-best local governance programs. These recognitions have truly served as motivation for Valenzuela to provide even better service to the community.

*Pero, may tampo ho kami sa Galing Pook dahil na-ban na ho ang Valenzuela sa dami raw ng awards na nakuha. Sana bigyan ho kami ng isa pang opportunity para makasali.*

Finally, I would like to applaud the Galing Pook Foundation for taking the initiative to recognize and encourage adoption of the best practices in our country, thereby fostering a culture of excellence in local governance. May you continue to stand as the leading resource institution that promotes innovation, sustainability, citizen empowerment, and excellence in local governance.

In view of the foregoing, this Representation urges this august Body to adopt Proposed Senate Resolution No. 335, Resolution Congratulating and Commending the Winners of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Galing Pook Awards.

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

## **COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR REVILLA**

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316, Senator Revilla delivered the following speech:

I rise today and join my colleagues in recognizing and commending the 2022 Galing Pook awardees. *Ang kanilang husay ay sadyang kahanga-hanga at tunay na huwaran upang mas marami pa ang maging tulad nilang manilbihan, hindi lamang nang may sigla, kung hindi may buong sigasig sa taumbayan.*



*Kinikilala natin ang kanilang husay na pagyabungin ang mga inisyatibong magtutulay ng serbisyo publiko sa mamamayan.*

Local government units are the State's partners in ensuring that goods and services are funneled directly to the people. They have been delegated with powers that broaden the base of governmental power so we can better serve our people.

We applaud the ten awardees who exemplified that genuine public service produces innovative ways to allow their constituents to enjoy the fruits of our government's efforts.

*Kinikilala, hinahangaan, at sinasalduhan natin ang Alcala, Cagayan; Province of Basilan; Province of Bataan; Biñan, Laguna; Barangay Cayabu, Tanay, Rizal; Goa, Camarines Sur; Iloilo City; Itbayat, Batanes; Libertad, Antique; at Pidig, Ilocos Norte. May the light you shine radiate motivation so that others may follow suit. Gamitin ninyo itong inspirasyon upang patuloy na manilbihan nang may katapatan at sikhay; upang mas madama ng taumbayan na hindi nasayang ang sagradong mandato na ipinagkaloob nila sa atin, sa pamamagitan ng buong husay na pagganap sa ating tungkulin.*

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

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316, Senator Legarda delivered the following speech:

It is with a deep sense of pride and honor that I cosponsor the resolution congratulating and commending the 2022 Galing Pook Awardees.

I would like to congratulate the 10 local governance programs that were recognized at the 2022 Galing Pook Awards.

The Galing Pook Awards is an annual search held by the Galing Pook Foundation that recognizes innovative initiatives and local governance programs geared toward promoting innovation and excellence among local government units.

These awardees were chosen among 196 applicants for their programs' outstanding performance in terms of innovation, resilience, sustainability, promotion of people's participation, and efficiency of program service delivery.

Good governance is vital to our country's growth and development. Today, I commend all the 2022 Galing Pook Awardees because striving to efficiently govern and lead toward progress is not a light endeavor, yet they were able to fully deliver with their outstanding local government programs.

As the principal author of the Philippine Innovation Act, I believe that innovation is indispensable in achieving inclusive growth and sustainable economic development. Innovation promotes competitiveness through the utilization of technological improvements in various sectors.

As the principal sponsor and coauthor of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Act, or the MSME Law, I support the mainstreaming of innovation in all government programs because it will aid not only in strengthening existing micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) and creating a highly skilled Philippine workforce, but also in producing excellent local governance programs.

The ten excellent local governance programs that were awarded at the 2022 Galing Pook Awards are:

- "The Green Wall of Alcala" of Alcala, Cagayan;
- "Advancing and Sustaining Good Governance and Community Actions towards Resiliency and Empowerment" of Basilan Province;
- "Bataan Public-Private Partnership Programs" of Bataan Province;
- "Balik-Biñan Project: Tourism Development through Heritage Conservation" of Biñan City, Laguna;



- “From Black to Green: Fishponds, Eco-Tourism and Full Employment” of Barangay Cayabu, Tanay, Rizal;
- “Trekking to Unlock Community Ailments and Difficulties (TUCAD)” of Goa, Camarines Sur;
- “I-BIKE: A Program Promoting the Development of the Iloilo City Bike Culture” of Iloilo City;
- “Yaru: A Whole-of-Community Approach Towards Disaster Management” from Itbayat, Batanes;
- “Libertad Fish Forever Savings Club” of Libertad, Antique; and
- “Basta Piddigueño, AgriHenyó: Consolidated Farm Production System” of Piddig, Ilocos Norte.

The awardees’ success in advocating the use of science, innovation, and technology in order to create excellent local government programs creates a stellar example for other local government units to replicate in their respective localities.

The cited programs not only serve their localities but also inspire local government units all over the Philippines to aim for the same level of excellence and innovation in their local government programs.

This afternoon, we celebrate and congratulate all the 2022 Galing Pook Awardees. *Mabuhay at maraming salamat!*

### **COSPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS**

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316, Senator Hontiveros thanked the Galing Pook awardees for visiting the Senate that day. She also commended them for being models of proactiveness as they continue to search and forge partnerships in the Legislature and among government agencies, as well as in the private sector and civil society.

She pointed out that the awardees were models of excellence in implementing innovative programs – from ecological disaster preparedness and response and tax reform, to promoting a bike culture in the cities and encouraging a savings culture among fisherfolk, and for taking steps to ensure the total legal reintegration of former combatants.

She then requested to be made a coauthor of the resolution.

### **COSPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR PADILLA**

As a cosponsor of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316, Senator Padilla lauded the efforts being made to give due recognition to the efforts of the awardees.

He also commended the local government of Basilan for being one of the recipients of the prestigious award. He noted that Basilan, which used to be a hotbed of terrorism and corruption, was reaping accolades due to its efforts to promote good governance. He said that the recognition given to Basilan showed that nothing is impossible when people work together.

### **COSPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR TOLENTINO**

As a cosponsor of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316, Senator Tolentino associated himself with the previous sponsors in extolling the creativity, innovation, and leadership skills of all the heads of local government units present in the Chamber.

He said that even though Congress had amended the Local Government Code, Republic Act No. 7160, several times, legislators could not place an amendment that would instill creativity and innovation. However, he said that all the LGUs present that day exemplified leadership in action. As such, he joined in giving them due recognition, making special mention of the Province of Basilan, which happened to be celebrating its foundation day that very day.



Having been a former recipient of the Galing Pook Award, he said that he realized that the LGU awardees that successfully implemented such programs, despite coming from the COVID-19 lockdown, would surely serve as an inspiration to other LGUs.

### **COSPONSORSHIP SPEECHES**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion of the cosponsorship speeches of Senators Go, Dela Rosa, and Tulfo on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316 into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*.

#### ***By Senator Go***

It is with great pride and honor that I congratulate and recognize our outstanding local government units awarded in “The Galing Pook Awards” in November last year.

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

For almost three decades, the Galing Pook Award has been given to more than 300 projects from at least 200 local government units or local government partnerships for projects that promote innovation, sustainability, citizen empowerment, and excellence.

*Tunay pong kahanga-hanga ang ating mga* awardees, and I hope that this will serve as an encouragement and a challenge to all our LGUs in the country to really work hard in serving the public.

We thank our awardees for being exemplars of innovative and progressive governance:

- The Green Wall of Alcala-Alcala, Cagayan;
- Advancing and Sustaining Good Governance and Community Actions Towards Resiliency and Empowerment – Province of Basilan;
- Bataan Public-Private Partnership Programs – Province of Bataan;
- Balik-Bihan Project: Tourism Development through Heritage Conservation — Binan City, Laguna;
- From Black to Green: Fishponds, Eco-Tourism and Employment – Barangay Cayabu, Tanay, Rizal;
- Trekking to Unlock Community Ailments and Difficulties (TUCAD) – Goa, Camarines Sur;
- “I-BIKE” A Program Promoting the Development of the Iloilo City Bike Culture - Iloilo City;
- Yaru: A Whole-of-Community Approach Towards Disaster Management - Itbayat, Batanes;
- Libertad Fish Forever Savings Club – Libertad, Antique; and
- Basta Piddigueho, AgriHenyo: Consolidated Farm Production System— Piddig, Ilocos Norte.

Once again, I congratulate and thank the Ten Galing Pook Awardees for their excellence and dedication in serving the people. Continue to serve as an inspiration to our *kababayans*.

#### ***By Senator Dela Rosa***

It is my honor to cosponsor Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 316, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 323, 335, 337, and 511, Resolution congratulating and commending the winners of the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Galing Pook Awards.

In the words of Rohini Nilekani: “We cannot be mere consumers of good governance, we must be participant; we must be co-creators.

To the awardees: Alcala, Basilan, Bataan, Biñan City, Barangay Cayabu, Tanay, Goa, Iloilo City, Itbayat, Libertad, and Piddig – thank you for blazing a trail of good governance, refusing to be mere recipients and consumers of it.

Thank you for showing us what it means to constantly rise to the occasion. *Alam nating lahat na sa gobyerno, hindi uubra ang* one-size-fits-all *na* approach. The face of need changes from

one moment to the next, which means good leaders pay close attention to these changes and respond accordingly.

This is the reason why we are honoring these awardees today. They are prime movers – seeing issues such as food security, climate change, infrastructure, and mobility, and addressing them with creative and innovative solutions.

*Muli, ang aking taus pusong pasasalamat sa mga awardees ng 2022 Galing Pook Awards. Maraming salamat sa pagiging mga huwaran sa larangan ng mabuting pamamahala.*

**By Senator Tulfo**

I would like to join our colleagues in commending the winners of the Annual Galing Pook Awards. The role of our Local Government Units is essential to governance. We, as the national government, cannot deliver true public service without working hand-in-hand with our LGUs.

*Sila po ang nakakaramdam ng pangangailangan ng ating mga kababayan. Alam nila ang pulso ng mga tao.* And it is our constitutional duty to give them the support that they need.

I admire the efforts of our awardees for going beyond the duty bestowed on them. With our country's limited resources, innovation and thinking out of the box is what we need to produce a positive impact to the people.

Again, congratulations to all the winners.

#### **ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 316**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body adopted Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316, subject to style, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 323, 335, 337, and 511.

#### **COAUTHORS**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, all the Members were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316.

#### **PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 469**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 469, entitled

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES  
OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEMISE OF NATIONAL  
SCIENTIST DR. ANGEL C. ALCALA.**

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

The Chair recognized Senator Marcos for the sponsorship.

#### **SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR MARCOS**

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 469, Senator Marcos delivered the following speech:

In science, it has been said that the opinions of thousands are not worth as much as one tiny spark of reason in an individual man. Dr. Angel C. Alcala was just such a man of reason, of wisdom, and of prophecy.

This afternoon, I am honored to sponsor Proposed Senate Resolution No. 469, expressing this Body's profound condolences on the demise of a staunch advocate for the preservation of our marine environment, a Philippine National Scientist and biodiversity hero, Dr. Angel C. Alcalá.

Many times, at the risk of his own life, Doctor Alcalá passionately pursued his prescient advocacy of protecting the Philippine marine ecosystem. Starting the First Marine Protected Area (MPA) in Sumilon, Island, Southern Cebu in 1974; Apo Island, Southern Negros in 1982; creating thereafter the Sumilon Marine Reserve and Apo Marine Sanctuaries. These MPAs continue to this day to protect our marine ecosystems and diversity and to promote sustainable fishing in all these areas. Dozens of similar marine reserves in the Bohol Sea and elsewhere, through Dr. Alcalá's relentless advocacy and influence, have since flourished and prospered.

From Doctor Alcalá, we also learned the concept of community-based coastal resource management as well as the use of artificial reefs in fisheries development. His extensive research on Philippine amphibians and reptiles since the mid-1950s led to the discovery of 50 additional species out of the 400 known species in the country.

He won the Guggenheim Fellowship for Natural Sciences; was awarded the Ramon Magsaysay Award for pioneering scientific leadership in 1992; the Field Museum Founder's Council Award of Merit for his contributions to environmental biology; and became a member in the Fulbright for Philippines Hall of Fame.

Yet, even in his final years, Doctor Alcalá lamented the neglect and overexploitation that persisted in the actions regarding our marine resources. Exploiting the award that he received from the ASEAN, he raged at human greed and irresponsibility, and its dire, fatal consequences. Everything in this world, he said, is reduced to business. The resources that are used for business will eventually be gone, extinct, he said.

He emphasized the private sector's biodiversity conservation as one of its most prolific users. Businesses can actually earn and benefit from biodiversity. You do not exceed the limit or the capacity of the resource to cover. The natural resource capital must be kept intact and only production from that capital should be used in establishing MPAs. You produce more fish and you use only the fish produced by the marine reserves. The capital shall forever be left intact.

"For successful biodiversity conservation, the support of the people is needed," he explained. "But more important," he said, "the people will need good leaders to follow." We need the support of people who will lead the people. Agencies of government, policemen, soldiers as good partners, local government, and leaders of the communities are good partners, people close to you and other sectors. We have to involve everybody. Everybody, he said, again and again, should invest in the earth and the seas biodiversity because it is the key to human survival.

Doctor Alcalá shall be greatly missed by the nation he served so faithfully and so well, as he is already by the people closest and dearest to him.

The world lost an important scholar, a brilliant scientist, an educator, public servant, and a staunch environmental advocate and leader.

But the Philippines, through him, has gained environmental wisdom and activism through the life of our very own national scientist, Dr. Angel C. Alcalá.

## **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA**

Senator Villanueva delivered the following manifestation on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 469:

First and foremost, let me put on record that I would like to extend my sincerest condolences to the family left behind by our national scientist, Filipino biologist Dr. Angel C. Alcalá. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Doctor Alcalá, who would have celebrated his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday today, remains to be a pillar in the field of biological sciences, conducting extensive research on the taxonomy and ecology of amphibians and reptiles since 1955; and introducing the concept of marine protected areas in 1974.





His body of work helped shape policy, including marine protected areas, in our Fisheries Code and the Local Government Code.

Of all the things that he has done in his career as a scientist and academician, Doctor Alcala's greatest legacy is, perhaps, the promotion and advancement of marine protected areas as a means to manage fishery species and allow biodiversity to thrive.

Since introducing the concept in the 1970s, we now have over 1,000 marine protected areas where we can say that its impact can be considered tremendous, not just for biodiversity, but for our people as well.

*At this juncture, Senator Ejercito relinquished the Chair to Senate President Pro Tempore Legarda.*

As a result of protection, our fisherfolk have more fish to catch, while tourism in these areas have allowed our coastal communities to add another means to earn a living.

Today, Sumilon and Apo islands are a living testament to Doctor Alcala's vision of having a series of marine reserves in all the islands, all contributing to keeping the surrounding seas healthy.

*Muli, maraming salamat, Doctor Alcala, for your life well-lived, and may God bless us all.*

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

In expressing her sympathies to the family, friends, and colleagues of Dr. Alcala, Senator Hontiveros stated that scientists were lamentably some of the most unappreciated professionals in the country and that they deserve to be valued more by the public. She believed that Dr. Alcala's passing will be felt most by the fisherfolk and marine ecology sector, whom he had served best. She also said that his work on Philippine coastal resource management and marine protection are invaluable contributions to the Filipino people.

#### **COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR REVILLA**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion of the cosponsorship speech of Senator Revilla on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 469 into the *Record of the Senate*:

I join my colleagues today in expressing our profound sympathy and condolences on the passing of national scientist, Dr. Angel C. Alcala.

A biologist by profession, Doctor Alcala is named the first Filipino ASEAN biodiversity hero and considered father of marine protected areas (MPAs) for his vast contributions in building sanctuaries and promoting biodiversity in the aquatic ecosystems in our country.

*Sa ating pamamaalam, tayo ay nagbibigay-pugay din sa kaniyang hindi matatawarang ambag sa ating bansa lalo na sa inang-kalikasan.* As you leave this world, the waves and creatures of the sea you once studied, explored, tended and cared for, will carry your memories for all eternity.

We, as a nation, will be forever grateful and proud for Doctor Alcala's unceasing passion for marine life and development. Your legacy will always be remembered.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PADILLA**

Senator Padilla conveyed his condolences to Doctor Alcala's family and called him a true patriot, a humanitarian, and an environmentalist. He emphasized the significance of Doctor Alcala's work especially because as the Philippines has the longest coastal shoreline in the world, the care and protection of which will benefit future generations of Filipinos. He then expressed his hope that more Filipinos will follow in the footsteps of Doctor Alcala.

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 469**

Thereafter, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 469 was adopted by the Body.

**COAUTHORS**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, all the Members were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 469.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

*It was 4:23 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 5:42 p.m., the session was resumed with Senator Ejercito presiding.

**REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

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

**MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Letter from the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 22 February 2023, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills, in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 5269, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 11 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL (NON-WORKING) HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAYSAN, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, IN CELEBRATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

**To the Committee on Local Government**

House Bill No. 6913, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE FORESHORE AREAS ALONG THE ALBAY WEST COAST IN THE THIRD DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBAY AS TOURIST SPOTS

**To the Committees on Tourism; and Finance**

House Bill No. entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE BIEN UNIDO DOUBLE BARRIER REEF AND ITS IMMEDIATE UNDERWATER ENVIRONS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BIEN UNIDO, PROVINCE OF BOHOL, A TOURISM DESTINATION

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

House Bill No. 6935, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE MALAMAWI ISLAND IN THE CITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF BASILAN, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE

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

House Bill No. 7004, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE LAST FRIDAY OF MAY OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES IN CELEBRATION OF THE ABACA FESTIVAL

**To the Committee on Local Government**

House Bill No. 7007, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JULY 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF ISABELA, PROVINCE OF BASILAN, IN CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. ELIZABETH OF PORTUGAL, TO BE KNOWN AS "*FIESTA ALEGRIA DE ISABELA*"

**To the Committee on Local Government**

House Bill No. 7008, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 7 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF BASILAN, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY TO BE KNOWN AS "*ARAW NG BASILAN*," AND IN RECOGNITION OF THE "*TENNUN PAKARADJAAN*" AS THE OFFICIAL FESTIVAL OF THE PROVINCE OF BASILAN

**To the Committee on Local Government**

House Bill No. 7010, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 9 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROSARIO, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION ANNIVERSARY

**To the Committee on Local Government**

House Bill No. 7087, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN THE SOUTHERN LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY-MAIN CAMPUS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LUCBAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOUTHERN LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Ways and Means; and Finance**

House Bill No. 7088, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN PHILIPPINES LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATARMAN, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN PHILIPPINES-COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Ways and Means; and Finance**

House Bill No. 7089, entitled

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

**To the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Ways and Means; and Finance**

House Bill No. 7090, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN THE DON MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL STATE UNIVERSITY-SOUTH LA UNION CAMPUS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AGOO, PROVINCE OF LA UNION, TO BE KNOWN AS THE DON MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL STATE UNIVERSITY-SOUTH LA UNION CAMPUS-COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Ways and Means; and Finance**

and House Bill No. 7091, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE CAMPUS OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOCATED IN THE CITY OF PARAÑAQUE, INTO A REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES, TO BE KNOWN AS THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-PARAÑAQUE CITY CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Letter from the House of Representatives informing the Senate that on 27 February 2023, it passed the following House Bills in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 7185, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO KYLE DOUGLAS JENNERMANN

**To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights**

House Bill No. 7206, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO BE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL ROTARY DAY"

**To the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development**

and House Bill No. 7126, entitled

AN ACT NAMING THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, TRAVERSING THROUGH BARANGAYS TAGONGTONG, ABUCAYAN, HIWACLOY, DIGDIGON, BALAYNAN AND PAYATAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GOA, BARANGAYS LUPI, TIERRA NEVADA, BINALAY, CAMAGONG, SALVACION, SAN ROQUE, SAN RAMON, SAGRADA, LA MEDALLA, MAGSAYSAY AND SAN VICENTE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TINAMBAC, UP TO BARANGAY NALAYAHAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIRUMA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, AS SPEAKER ARNULFO "NOLF" FUENTEBELLA HIGHWAY.

**To the Committee on Public Works**

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

##### MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Letter of His Excellency President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., dated 20 February 2023, submitting for the Senate's consideration and concurrence the *Agreement on Social Security between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Government of the Republic of Korea*, which was signed on 25 November 2019 in Busan, Republic of Korea.

**To the Committee on Foreign Relations**

#### BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. No. 1935, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF FLORIDABLANCA, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, A CAMPUS OF THE PAMPANGA STATE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "PAMPANGA STATE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY-FLORIDABLANCA CAMPUS," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1936, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING BALLUAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BALLUAY, MUNICIPALITY OF SABLAN, PROVINCE OF BENGUET INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BALLUAY INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committee on Rules**

Senate Bill No. 1937, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE ASIPULO-LAMUT-LAGAWE-AGUINALDO PROVINCIAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO INTO A NATIONAL ROAD

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committee on Rules**

Senate Bill No. 1938, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH, SANCTUARY OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS, IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAMPICUAN, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committees on Tourism; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1939, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COLLEGE OF MEDICINE IN THE SOUTHERN LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY-MAIN CAMPUS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LUCBAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOUTHERN LUZON STATE UNIVERSITY-COLLEGE OF MEDICINE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. No. 1940, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING THE MANDATE, CAPABILITIES, AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION REVIEW AND CLASSIFICATION BOARD (MTRCB), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1986

Introduced by Senator Padilla

**To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media; Ways and Means; and Finance**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 508, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ALLEGED PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (PDEA) PRACTICE OF PAYING THIRTY PERCENT OF CONFISCATED DRUGS TO LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSETS OR INFORMANTS FOR SUCCESSFUL SEIZURES

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 509, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND RECOGNIZING THE PHILIPPINE ROWING TEAM FOR THEIR MEDAL HAUL IN THE 2023 WORLD ROWING INDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD LAST FEBRUARY 25-26, 2023 IN TORONTO, CANADA

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 510, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG MEN (TOYM) OF THE PHILIPPINES 2023 AWARD

Introduced by Senator Ejercito

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 511, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE 2022 GALING POOK AWARDEES FOR BEING HONORED BY THE 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

Introduced by Senator Legarda

**To the Committee on Rules**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee Report No. 30, submitted by the Committee on Local Government, on House Bill No. 3978, introduced by Representative Teodoro, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 16 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF MARIKINA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10788, ENTITLED "AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 16 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL HOLIDAY AND NO CLASS DAY IN SCHOOLS IN THE CITY OF MARIKINA IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY TO BE KNOWN AS 'MARIKINA CITY DAY,'"

recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsor: Senator Ejercito

**To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

Committee Report No. 31, submitted by the Committee on Local Government, on House Bill No. 3964, introduced by Representative Corvera, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JULY 28 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN CABADBARAN CITY, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE, TO BE KNOWN AS "CABADBARAN DAY," IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY

recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsor: Senator Ejercito

**To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

Committee Report No. 32, submitted by the Committee on Local Government, on House Bill No. 3963, introduced by Representative Yap (Eric), entitled

AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET TO BE KNOWN AS "BENGUET DAY" IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY,

recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsor: Senator Ejercito

**To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

Committee Report No. 33, submitted by the Committee on Local Government, on House Bill No. 925, introduced by Representative Romulo, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JULY 2 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN PASIG CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE "ARAW NG PASIG"

recommending its approval without amendment, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 1681.

Sponsor: Senator Ejercito

**To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

Committee Report No. 34, submitted by the Committee on Local Government, on House Bill No. 3961, introduced by Representative Puno, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 4 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF ANTIPOLO, PROVINCE OF RIZAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS CITYHOOD ANNIVERSARY,



recommending its approval without amendment, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 1828.

Sponsor: Senator Ejercito

**To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

Committee Report No. 35, submitted by the Committee on Local Government, on House Bill No. 3965, introduced by Representative Yap (Eric), entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JULY 15 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CORDILLERA ADMINISTRATIVE REGION TO BE KNOWN AS "CORDILLERA DAY," IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY

recommending its approval without amendment, taking into consideration Seante Bill No. 1826.

Sponsor: Senator Ejercito

**To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

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

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Cayetano (P), as the head of the Philippine delegation of the Philippine Women's National Football Team that competed in February 2023 in Murcia, Spain, reported to the Body on her official trip to promote sports diplomacy.

*Following is the full text of her speech:*

I take the floor to report on my official trip to promote sports diplomacy.

I joined the Philippine Women's National Football Team as their head of delegation as they competed in the 2023 Pinatar Cup in Murcia, Spain.

It was such an uplifting experience to see our girls in action. Our athletes competed against Wales which is ranked 32nd, Scotland which is ranked 25th, and Iceland which is 16th in the international standings. The girls played very well against Wales, the score was just 1-0; against Iceland, it was actually 2-1 and although they lost, it was a great showing and a great experience. This was really the objective of joining the Pinatar Cup. The Philippines, for the record, is ranked 53rd in the international standings.

I am happy to share that Filipinos from different corners of the world also came to cheer for them. There were busloads of our *kababayans* who came all the way from Madrid, Alicante, Valencia, Tarragona, the U.K., and Rome. The chants from the Pinoy crowd were overwhelming and heartwarming, especially in the games against Iceland as it was a weekend and that was when many of our *kababayans* were able to come and support our team.

The team's journey is proof that Philippine women's football has arrived. They made "herstory" by qualifying for the 2023 FIFA World Cup. This is the first time for any Filipino Football team—men's or women's—to secure a spot in the world's most prestigious football game.

Seeing the girls play at a professional level also sends the signal to all, especially the little girls and the little boys that were watching, that women can thrive in sports, which only until recently was considered a male-dominated field. In fact, when I was in college, women's football was not yet a UAAP sport. I do not even know of any organized league that existed at that time, save for a few girls who would just play on the field.

After the football event, I had the opportunity to promote another sport, Padel, which is a sport I recently took up. Padel is considered the fastest growing sport in Europe, if not in the entire world,

where Spain is currently number one. Along with the Philippine Ambassador to Spain, Philippe Lhuillier, I met Spanish Padel Federation President Ramón Morcillo Valle.

As I mentioned earlier in my speech, to be able to have the opportunity to talk to the world's best, to ask how they got to the point where they are, is really a learning experience that I could take home with me, and again, consistent with the mandate of our embassy to promote sports diplomacy.

Meanwhile, in Portugal, I had a similar meeting with Ambassador Celia Anna Feria and Portuguese Federation of Padel President Ricardo Oliveira.

In line with the mandate of the Philippine Embassy in Portugal to promote cooperation between Philippine and Portuguese sports organizations, we discussed the existing cultural agreement between the two countries, with emphasis on sports. Through sports diplomacy, the embassy envisions many opportunities for the Philippines and Portugal to have closer ties.

I also discussed with Ambassador Feria a proposed labor agreement between the Philippines and Portugal that would make it easier for Filipinos to get a working visa in Portugal, since they are in much need of workers especially for their tourism industry.

I glanced at the Majority Floor Leader as I was delivering this, and already he was nodding his head, because I really was going to point this out to him. As we here in the Senate have witnessed the "inhumane" treatment of our *kababayans* in some countries, I actually welcome that there would be a proposed labor agreement between a country like Portugal and the Philippines. Like many of you, I would prefer that our countrymen did not have to leave the country for work. But if they were to leave, I would prefer that they would be in a country like Portugal, that I have seen through my own personal contacts with Portuguese, have very similar values as us and who would truly respect our Filipino workers there. I think there is still work that has to be done to make this a reality, but I hope we will be able to do this.

And also joining us in the discussions was Member of Parliament Ricardo Baptista-Leite, and the one that can be seen in the photo is coach Bryan, who received his training both in Spain and in Portugal.

And then, back to Spain, I had the opportunity to join our *kababayans*, mostly women, in their post-Valentine's Day celebration. It is always a wonderful opportunity to mingle with our *kababayans*, especially this opportunity to celebrate a very special day with them.

So, on that note, that is the end of my report. As I always say, I learned from the best. The late Sen. Nene Pimentel told me to always be sure to report on my official missions as soon as we come back. So, thank you for this opportunity to share the official work that I did.

## MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva congratulated Senator Cayetano (P) for representing the country and the Senate during her official trip to Spain and Portugal. He took note of the report, particularly regarding to the possibility of reaching an agreement with the Portuguese government to expand the country's interest in providing the OFWs better employment opportunities in their country, unlike other some Middle Eastern countries that continue to adhere to the Kafala system.

## COAUTHORS

Senator Villanueva manifested the coauthorships on the following measures:

- Senators Go and Estrada, on Senate Bill Nos. 1359 and 1360; and
- Senator Go, on Senate Bill No. 1864.

## CHANGE OF REFERRALS

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body approved the change of referrals of the following:

- Senate Bill No. 179 (*New Omnibus Election Code of 2022*) from the Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes to the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation as the primary committee; and to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes as the secondary committee;
- Proposed Senate Resolution No. 495 (*Reported Plans of the Bureau of Corrections to Build a New Headquarters at the Masungi Georeserve*) from the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change to the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking as the secondary committee;
- Proposed Senate Resolution No. 422 (*Land-Grabbing, and Illegal Logging and Quarrying Negatively Impacting the Masungi Georeserve*) and Proposed Senate Resolution No. 231 (*Violence, Land-Grabbing, Illegal Logging and Quarrying Affecting the Masungi Georeserve and the Rest of the Upper Marikina River Basin Protected Landscape*) from the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change to the Committee on Tourism as the primary committee; and to the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking as the secondary committee; and
- Senate Bill No. 1496 (*Padre Mariano Gomes National High School in Bacoor City, Cavite*) from the Committee on Rules to the Committee on Basic Education as the primary committee; and to the Committee on Finance as the secondary committee.

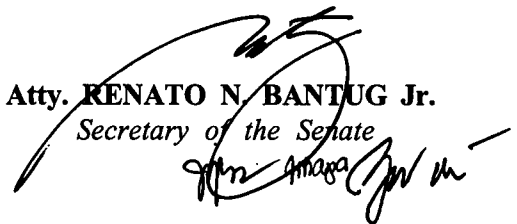
#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, March 6, 2023.

*It was 6:02 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

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



Approved on March 6, 2023