



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 19
Wednesday, September 7, 2016

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:17 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III led the prayer, to wit:

Oh Great Architect of the Universe, Creator of Heaven and of Earth. You alone are God and there is no other.

We, Your children and elected servants, ask for Your mercy and help in this time of need. We pray for Your peace to be upon our land. Let there be peace in Luzon, Visayas and especially Mindanao.

We pray and lift up Davao City unto You and we ask for Your healing to be upon this land. Remove the shadow of fear and chaos in the hearts of our people. Let Your divine comfort be with all the afflicted and grant them Your peace.

Lord, Your word says in 2 Chronicles 7:14, “If my people who are called by My name, will humble themselves and pray and seek My face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from Heaven, and forgive their sins and heal their land.”

Almighty Father, Sovereign God, we humble ourselves before You and ask for Your forgiveness for all of our sins and shortcomings. We seek Your face and we turn away from wickedness. Let it be upon us now according to Your word — that You hear our prayers, forgive our sins and heal our land.

As one sovereign nation we declare that You are the Lord God Almighty.

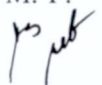
All these we pray in the Mighty Name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Lutgardo B. Barbo, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Honasan, G. B.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Hontiveros, R.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Lacson, P. M.
De Lima, L. M.	Legarda, L.
Drilon, F. M.	Pacquiao, E. M. D.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Sotto III, V. C.
Gatchalian, W.	Villar, C. A.
Gordon, R. J.	Zubiri, J. M. F.



With 18 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Villanueva arrived after the roll call.

Senator Poe was on official mission conducting her “final consultation with relevant stakeholders in connection with the Technical Working Group meeting relative to the emergency power bills,” as indicated in the September 7, 2016 letter of the Senator’s chief of staff.

Senators Cayetano and Trillanes were on official mission abroad.

Senator Pangilinan was “indisposed” as indicated in the September 7, 2016 letter of the Senator’s chief of staff.

Senator Recto was absent.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNALS

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journals of Session No. 17 (September 5, 2016) and Session No. 18 (September 6, 2016) and considered them approved.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read the following Senate bills and resolutions which the Chair referred to the committees hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1124, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES FROM THE PROHIBITION AGAINST DISCLOSURE OF OR INQUIRY INTO DEPOSITS WITH ANY BANKING INSTITUTION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1405, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SECRECY OF BANK DEPOSITS LAW

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 1125, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF PHILIPPINE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1126, entitled

AN ACT ENHANCING THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committees on Public Services; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1127, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PRACTICE OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES AND INSTITUTING HIGHER STANDARDS OF REGULATION IN THE LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING PRACTITIONERS

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV

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

Senate Bill No. 1128, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING AND PREVENTING THE USE OF MOTORCYCLES OR SCOOTERS IN THE COMMISSION OF CRIMES THROUGH THE USE OF BIGGER PLATE NUMBERS

AND IDENTIFICATION MARKS,
REGULATION OF BACKRIDERS
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

**To the Committees on Public Services;
Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Finance**

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 128, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COM-
MITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOY-
MENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT; COMMITTEE ON
YOUTH AND OTHER APPRO-
PRIATE COMMITTEES, TO INQUIRE
AND REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGIS-
LATION, THE CREATION OF A
MULTISTAKEHOLDER COUNCIL
PRIMARILY IN CHARGE OF
ADDRESSING JOB MISMATCH
AMONG THE YOUTH

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 129, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COM-
MITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOY-
MENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES
DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER
APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO
INQUIRE AND REVIEW, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, THE STATE OF JOB-
SKILLS MISMATCH IN THE
PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 130, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID

OF LEGISLATION, AS TO THE
STATUS OF THE MALAMPAYA
DEEP WATER GAS-TO-POWER
PROJECT CONTRACT AND OTHER
ISSUES RELATED THERETO, SUCH
AS THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT
RULING ON THE UNDERPAYMENT
TO CORPORATE INCOME TAXES
BY THE CONSORTIUM

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

**To the Committees on Ways And Means;
and Energy**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 131, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SOLIDA-
RITY OF THE SENATE OF THE
PHILIPPINES WITH OUR MUSLIM
BRETHREN IN THE COMMEMORA-
TION AND OBSERVANCE OF THE
EID AL-ADHA

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committee on Rules

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 131

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no
objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate
Resolution No. 131, entitled

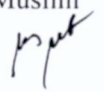
RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SOLIDA-
RITY OF THE SENATE OF THE
PHILIPPINES WITH OUR MUSLIM
BRETHREN IN THE COMMEMORA-
TION AND OBSERVANCE OF THE
EID AL-ADHA.

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

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Zubiri
for the sponsorship.

**SPONSORSHIP SPEECH
OF SENATOR ZUBIRI**

Senator Zubiri presented for the adoption of
the Body Proposed Senate Resolution No. 131
expressing the Senate's solidarity with the Muslim



world in the commemoration and observance of the *Eid al-Adha*.

The full text of his speech follows:

On Monday, September 12, the Philippines will be united as one country in the observance of one holy day in the Islamic calendar. We shall observe the *Eid al-Adha*, often called the greater holiday in Islam relative to *Eid'l Fitr*.

Eid al-Adha is one of the 12 regular holidays and three special holidays observed nationwide. On those 15 days, we cast aside our differences and celebrate as one nation. Most of all, we render respect to the persons and events being commemorated on those special days.

We Christians celebrate many different holidays – Christmas, All Saints' Day, and Holy Week – as regular holidays. Initially, there was only one regular holiday for Muslim Filipinos, the *Eid'l Fitr*, under Republic Act No. 9177, which, by the way, was authored by Senator Legarda and, I believe, Senator Gordon. Thus, in 2009, I authored and sponsored Republic Act No. 9849, which declared *Eid al-Adha* as a national holiday, in solidarity with our Muslim brothers and sisters. It has been seven years since we started observing *Eid al-Adha* as a regular holiday nationwide, yet many are still not aware of the significance of this day for Islam.

Eid al-Adha is one of the two most important days in Islam. It is a celebration of the end of Hajj, the sacred pilgrimage that Muslims must make to the holy city of Mecca at least once in his life. *Eid al-Adha* commemorates the story of Prophet Abraham, with whom many of us are familiar. Allah spoke to Abraham in a dream and instructed him to build a shrine in Mecca. At the time, Mecca was a desolate and barren desert, but Abraham heeded Allah's call with devotion and without complaint. In his most supreme act of obedience to Allah, Abraham was about to sacrifice the life of his only son, Ishmael. But Allah, seeing Abraham's complete devotion and his willingness to give up the life of his only son, spared Ishmael's life moments before the sacrifice and replaced him with a lamb.

Prophet Abraham's ultimate sacrifice is what our Muslim brothers and sisters celebrate on *Eid al-Adha*. I know this story is also in our Bible as Christians. As such, it is known as "the Feast of Sacrifice," which they traditionally commemorate by giving meat to friends, neighbors, relatives, and the needy.

Eid al-Adha falls on a different date every year because its timing is directed by the lunar

cycle. The day of Eid is set when a new moon is sighted, so that *Eid al-Adha* falls on a different day depending on which sect, mosque or region one is in. As such, I commend the President for issuing Proclamation No. 56, declaring September 12th as the exact day of commemorating the tenth day of Zhul Hijja – the twelfth month of the Islamic Calendar, as *Eid al-Adha*.

I believe that awareness and recognition of our diversity is the first step in eliminating prejudice and bigotry, and it is necessary for us to learn about and be open to each other in order to foster mutual respect and unity among all of our people.

To our Muslim brothers and sisters, I wish you a meaningful and blessed *Eid Mubarak*. And I ask my colleagues in the Senate, if we can make all members as author of this resolution, I humbly submit.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PACQUIAO

Senator Pacquiao noted that Senator Zubiri in his sponsorship speech talked about Abraham and his son, Ishmael. He then asked whether Senator Zubiri was aware of the other son of Abraham aside from Ishmael.

Senator Zubiri disclosed that Senator Pacquiao has discussed with him and the other senators the difference between the Christian version and the Muslim version of Abraham's sacrifice. He then requested Senator Pacquiao, whom he considered as the Senate's expert on Bible matters, to share his knowledge on the matter with the rest of the members of the Chamber.

Senator Pacquiao narrated that according to the Bible, Abraham had a wife named Sarah who was unable to bear him a child because of old age; for this reason, Sarah offered her slave Hagar to Abraham so that he may have a child; Abraham had a son with the slave and the son was named Ishmael. He said that God still kept his promise to Sarah and Abraham and Sarah gave birth to a son who was named Isaac from which all people would descend.

Senator Pacquiao said that the story was somehow confusing because according to the Muslims, it was Ishmael who was sacrificed to God but according to the Christian Bible, it was Isaac who was sacrificed but was later spared from death when God saw that Abraham would obey Him even at the cost of his son. He then asked whether Senator Zubiri knew about this story.



Senator Zubiri replied that he was familiar with the story and the difference: the version in the Quran named the son as Ishmael, while the Bible version said it was the son Isaac. Still he said that as a sign of respect for each and everyone's religious beliefs, the Senate should join the Muslim community in commemorating *Eid al-Adha*, one of their most important holidays.

For his part, Senator Pacquiao expressed his respect for the Muslims and their celebration of the *Eid al-Adha*. He informed the Chamber that he intends to file a bill calling for a Bible holiday.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 131

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 131 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

COAUTHORS

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, all senators present were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 131.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the guests of Senator Pacquiao, namely, Mayor Tessa Constantino, Vice Mayor Jun Escalada and Councilor Mark Villareal of Malungon, Sarangani Province.

Senate President Pimentel welcomed the guests to the Senate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 3:36 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:22 p.m., the session was resumed

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto manifested that Senator Gatchalian filed Proposed Senate Resolution No. 130 (directing the Committee on Energy to conduct an inquiry in aid

of legislation on the status of the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project contract and other issues related thereto) which was primarily referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and secondarily to the Committee on Energy. He said that Senator Gatchalian requested to change the referral of the resolution to the Committee on Energy as the primary committee and to the Committee on Ways and Means as the secondary committee.

Senate President Pimentel suggested that the Body follow the agreed procedure by consulting first the chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means before acting on the request.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:23 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:25 p.m., the session was resumed.

CHANGE OF REFERRALS

Acting on Senator Gatchalian's request and with the concurrence of the chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved to refer Proposed Senate Resolution No. 130 to the Committee on Energy as the primary committee and to the Committee on Ways and Means as the secondary committee.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, September 13, 2016.

It was 4:26 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


ATTY. LUTGARDO B. BARBO

clerk Secretary of the Senate
9/13

Approved on September 13, 2016