



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 16
Monday, September 2, 2019

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:37 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Vicente C. Sotto III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Joel Villanueva led the prayer, to wit:

Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for this wonderful time and opportunity You have given us that we can serve our country and people, and especially You, our Lord, our God.

You said in Your word that apart from You we can do nothing, and that is why we ask that You guide us, be with us. Give us Your treasury of wisdom from heaven as we perform our duties and responsibilities as senators of the Republic of the Philippines.

We ask that You bless all of us here, even every family represented in this institution. We give You praise, glory and honor.

In Jesus' Name, we pray.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Malighay Master Chorale of Zambales led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song, entitled "*Pilipinas Kong Mahal*."

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Myra Marie D. Villarica, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Binay, M. L. N. S.	Marcos, I. R.
Cayetano, P. S.	Pacquiao, E. M. D.
Dela Rosa, R. B. M.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Drilon, F. M.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Gatchalian, W.	Poe, G.
Go, C. L. T.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Gordon, R. J.	Sotto III, V. C.
Hontiveros, R.	Tolentino, F. T. N.
Lacson, P. M.	Villanueva, J.
Lapid, M. L. M.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

With 20 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Recto arrived after the roll call.



Senator Angara was unable to attend the session as he was on an official business.

Senator De Lima was unable to attend the session as she was under detention.

Senator Villar was absent.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Mayor Datu Pax Mangudadatu of Abdullah Sangki, Maguindanao;
- Mayor Jovitte Calo of Carmen, Agusan del Norte;
- Dr. Lampa Pandi, former mayor of Poona Bayabao, Lanao del Sur; and
- Delegation from the Restoration of Filipino Values headed by its National-International Director, Mr. Voltaire Acosta Jr.

Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session Nos. 14 (August 27, 2019) and 15 (August 28, 2019) and considered them approved.

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. 984, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SARANGANI STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALABEL, PROVINCE OF SARANGANI, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 985, entitled

AN ACT ALLOWING WOMEN TO REVERT TO THEIR MAIDEN SURNAME, ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR REVERSION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 986, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FULL SCHOLARSHIP TO CHILDREN AND DEPENDENTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS KILLED OR PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED IN THE LINE OF DUTY OR BY REASON OF THEIR OFFICE OR POSITION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 987, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE EXCISE TAX ON HEATED TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 144 (B), 144 (C), 147 AND 150 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 988, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIP-

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PINE NATIONAL SPORTS ACADEMY DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

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

Senate Bill No. 989, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 990, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE JURISDICTION AND POWER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OVER PETROLEUM PIPELINE OPERATIONS AND FOR THIS PURPOSE PROVIDE A PETROLEUM PIPELINE CODE TO PRESCRIBE STANDARDS FOR THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE AND ABANDONMENT OF LIQUID PETROLEUM PIPELINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Binay

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

Senate Bill No. 991, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE DISCOVERY AND PRODUCTION OF INDIGENOUS PETROLEUM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committees on Energy; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 992, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING A LOW CARBON ECONOMY AND ESTABLISHING AN EMISSIONS CAP-AND-TRADE SYSTEM IN THE INDUSTRY SECTOR TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND PROTECTING THE CLIMATE

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committees on Climate Change; Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 119, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SERVICE CONTRACTS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO THE ENERGY EXPLORATION COMPANIES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT SUCH CONTRACTS ARE NOT DISADVANTAGEOUS TO GOVERNMENT AND TO OUR INDIGENOUS ENERGY RESOURCES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Energy

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 120, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO REVIEW THE EXISTING RADIO FREQUENCY ALLOCATION POLICY AND TO DETERMINE THE REMAINING UNCOMMITTED RADIO FREQUENCIES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ITS POSSIBLE REDISTRIBUTION TO QUALIFIED LICENCEES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Public Services

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, transmitting to the Senate copies of the following certified and authenticated BSP issuances in compliance with Section 15 (a) of Republic Act No. 7653 (The New Central Bank Act):

Memorandum No. M-2019-016 dated 11 June 2019;

Circular Letter Nos. CL-2019-040, 041, 042 dated 30 May, 4 June 2019; and

Circular No. 1041 dated 29 May 2019.

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILL ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 993, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10592, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 29, 94, 97, 98 AND 99 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senators Sotto III, Lacson and Gordon

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano, the session was suspended.

It was 3:47 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:50 p.m., the session was resumed.

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF SENATOR CAYETANO**

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Cayetano delivered a privilege speech, entitled "What is the Purpose of Homework: Do We Need More, Do We Need Less?"

Preliminarily, Senator Cayetano asked her colleagues if during their grade school days, they had experienced having a lot of homework, minimal homework or no homework at all. She stated that like many others, they come from different backgrounds in terms of education and experience, and whether they come from private or public schools, they know that there was also a lot of latitude given to their teachers.

Adverting to news reports during the past weeks regarding proposed legislative measures seeking to drastically lessen or even ban homework during weekends, Senator Cayetano believed that before the Senate discusses the issue of homework and decides whether or not homework should be eliminated, they must first understand the purpose of homework.

Senator Cayetano, using a slide presentation, presented a summary that she culled from various sources as regards the purpose of homework as follows: to help reinforce what was taught in class; to gather extra information beyond what was taught; to enhance a student's knowledge on a subject; and to help struggling students improve their grasp of the topic. She emphasized that none of the sources said that the student is meant to study alone through homework.

She stated that when discussing whether to increase or decrease homework, the correlation between the performance in terms of education standards and homework hours must first be considered. She cited five countries with the least number of homework hours per week, namely, Finland, South Korea, Brazil, Argentina and Japan. She noted that while Brazil and Argentina did not even land in the top 30 in terms of the education system ranking, three of them, namely, Finland, South Korea and Japan, showed a correlation between performance when it comes to education standards and homework hours. For instance, she pointed out that Finland, which only has 2.8 homework hours per week, ranked fifth in terms of the best education system ranking; South Korea, which has 2.9 hours, ranked first; and Japan, which has 3.8 hours, ranked second. She believed that Brazil and

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Argentina failed to rank high probably because of other factors affecting their educational programs. However, she said that it would be a bit misleading to conclude that South Korea ranks high because it only has 2.9 hours of homework per week since most of their students spend hours of private study time after school and their classrooms have all the amenities of smart technology which they use in studying.

Senator Cayetano stated that schools in Japan also have short homework hours, although the students have many academic and non-academic after-school activities. She added that a major part of the daily activities of teachers and students is dedicated to cleaning their own schools.

As regards schools in Finland, Senator Cayetano said that only 2.8 hours per week is allocated for homework on top of the various services provided to students, like free meals, easy access to healthcare, and psychological counselling. She also pointed out that formal schooling in Finland starts at age seven, and that although the children are not required to attend pre-school, the country has a very strong early childhood education system, with about 90% of children being sent to pre-school for early childhood education. She said that the best part of Finland's educational system is that all their basic education teachers are required to have a master's degree, making teaching one of the most prestigious professions there. She also noted the fact that there are no private schools in Finland.

Furthermore, Senator Cayetano emphasized that Finland grants a huge latitude on how school teachers would like to teach, and that most noteworthy is that there is no such thing as transferring because all schools in Finland are public schools and Finnish teachers are accorded very high respect that there is no such thing as comparing teachers.

As regards the downside of homework, Senator Cayetano said that numerous studies have shown that homework reinforces inequalities in socio-economic classes in some countries which occur when students of private schools belonging to the upper socio-economic class who do a lot of homework end up faring better than public school students. But she nevertheless refused to conclude that more homework is better, saying that she was simply pointing out the inequalities that are brought about by the different kinds of education that the children can avail of. To elucidate, she pointed out that private schools offer a

lot of academic and non-academic programs inside and outside of school such as glee clubs, sports, arts, music, and debate, and this cannot be said in the case of many public schools. She also cited the fact that while upper class children are able to quietly study in the comfort of their homes, public school children do not have the same opportunity and environment to concentrate while studying. She also pointed out that getting the necessary support from family, substitute parent, relative or a tutor might be more difficult for children from a lower economic bracket because their parents could not afford hiring a tutor or there are no available relatives to teach them, thus making it extremely challenging to implement an effective homework program.

As regards the plight of Filipino teachers, Senator Cayetano hoped that the government would do better in terms of creating a more effective career track that would attract the best and the brightest into the teaching profession. She stressed the importance of having a good teacher who is able to identify the strengths and weaknesses of a student without just going by the books. She said that dictating upon the teacher a blanket prohibition against assignments or mandating him/her how much time to give the student in terms of homework would restrain his or her ability to provide for the needs of the students.

At this point, Senator Cayetano placed on record that she came from a no-homework background as she went to a school that basically had no homework for the entire grade school, and that while she had a mother who was a pre-school teacher, she knew how to study on her own. She stated that she is not against homework *per se*, but that she only wanted to provide the best kind of learning environment for the students, not the ABC type of homework.

She wondered how students could follow the required academic track based on the number of homework hours dictated in an international baccalaureate (IB) program offered in international schools which seem extremely tedious for school children who had to study all day every day including Saturdays and Sundays, depriving them of enough sleep but which they had to do if they plan on entering prestigious schools abroad. In the same manner, she wondered how students who are struggling with their Math subjects could pursue a career in science unless the teacher assigns extra work. She cautioned that prohibiting homework is like banning the student from getting extra work, and

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as a consequence, that student would continue struggling and would have a hard time catching up.

Senator Cayetano stated that even as she is a believer of the “no homework” policy, she supports limiting and focusing on quality homework in order to meet the basic objectives of sustaining a holistic child. She said that children should be allowed to learn outside of school, as she also noted tried and tested results of studies which showed that continuous studying does not give the brain a chance to recover and that students should even take a nap and get a good sleep before taking the exams for better memory retention and to give their brain a chance to take a break.

Senator Cayetano ended her speech with an appeal to the Body to not approach the matter in isolation but rather to look into what is necessary so that young children would be provided with the best holistic environment that promotes learning in the classroom, outside the classroom, in their homes, in the communities, and wherever they are.

INQUIRY OF THE CHAIR

Asked by Senate President Sotto whether it is still homework when it is done in schools, Senator Cayetano stated that schools in other countries provide a study time during which the students would do their homework with the assistance of their teachers so they could go home to enjoy quality time with their families. While she hoped for a similar setup in the country, she said that schools with two-shift and even three-shift classrooms must first be addressed, or a community-based study hall in every barangay should first be established.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR POE

Senator Poe thanked Senator Cayetano for bringing up a holistic approach in educating children. She said that as lawmakers, they are attempting to find a way for children to absorb more from the educational system without overburdening them as well as their teachers with homework. She clarified that her bill, Senate Bill No. 966, specifies no homework for the weekends.

Senator Poe agreed with Senator Cayetano that the hours of extra work should not be quantified considering the economic disparities suffered by some students who are overburdened with homework and

extra projects but do not have enough time and energy to do it because they still need to help their families at home.

Senator Poe disclosed that even her own child has been complaining about the amount of homework assigned by their teachers which, to her, seemed unreasonable. She said that the proposed compromise is for the students to not be given homework on weekends, including projects that are too expensive, or those that require materials which are difficult to find.

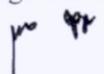
Thereupon, she advised that teachers should consider managing their school period, like allotting, for instance, 30 minutes for discussion and 15 minutes for other activities in a 45-minute period. She believed that it would also train the child to be responsible with time.

Senator Cayetano stated that the main objective of her privilege speech is to not allow burdensome homework and to recognize the reasons for rendering extra work, such as earning additional academic points or extra credits particularly by students who are pursuing a very difficult track. To illustrate, she said that her daughter, who recently graduated from the College of Architecture in U.P., had a tough time with her high-level Physics subject, prompting her to hire a private teacher for her daughter during the summer. She said that while there are instances where extra study is necessary, she agreed with Senator Poe that it should be more of an exception. She also suggested the rethinking of the concept of submitting a class project where students could work on Friday afternoons when their school load is lighter. Additionally, she suggested that DepEd reconsider the purpose of giving an assignment which should not take the place of teaching in classrooms.

Senator Cayetano believed that assignments must be used to enhance learning as well as to give students who are slow learners or are having difficulties the chance to catch up. She noted that even though students who come from higher socio-economic brackets are able to do so by paying thousands of pesos to attend after-school classes, the bulk of Filipino students do not have funding and access to such resources, the reason why teacher training is essential.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Preliminarily, Senator Villanueva congratulated



Senator Cayetano for bringing up such a timely issue and expressed support for her speech. He underscored the importance of achieving student-work life balance similar to how the Telecommuting Act aimed to provide work-life balance to employees. He then asked Senator Cayetano on her views on the matter, saying he was personally against the giving of homework over the weekends as it is during such period that he is able to spend time with his children. He suggested that a specific time limit be set for assignments per subject.

In response, Senator Cayetano said that one such proposal would be for the homeroom teacher to meet regularly with the other teachers to determine which subject should be prioritized for homework on a particular week. On the other hand, she noted that some schools adopt the 10-minute rule which allots 10 minutes for doing homework on a particular subject while others prepare long-term assignments, such as reading lists, to achieve the standards for a certain reading proficiency. She also expressed concern over studies showing that students who come from poorer socio-economic brackets that do not have access to extra resources go back to school a notch lower and experience a form of regression. She believed that there are a number of ways for the DepEd to bridge the learning gap, such as having homeroom teachers coordinate with subject teachers in applying the 10-minute rule in Grade I, 20-minute rule in Grade II, and so on, with the younger students given shorter time for homework so that they could have more playtime. She also suggested that high school students be given assignments depending on their academic or vocational track which could also be considered an after-school activity.

Recalling studies that proposed the giving of assignments to cover all the required competencies in a rigorous curriculum, Senator Villanueva underscored the importance of looking into curriculum development such as that of the K to 12 program. He believed that having students meet the requirements of competency-based programs, such as those being offered in TESDA, would effectively do away with the giving of homework. Senator Cayetano noted that such would be the case if the competencies are defined and are met in the classroom, similar to what is being adopted in Finland which allows students to go after non-academic pursuits outside of school. She pointed out, however, that it is the 1:9 student-teacher ratio in Finnish schools that makes it easy for a teacher to identify and assist a slow learner in class.

Senator Villanueva believed that unlike the TESDA curriculum which can easily be adjusted to determine whether particular training regulations are needed by the industries, totally doing away with homework is not possible considering the CHED program's overcrowded curriculum. Senator Cayetano said that she used to believe in streamlining the curriculum but she noted that developed countries like Japan have even more comprehensive modules which include subjects on the promotion of culture and the arts. She said that the goal for the Philippines to become an upper middle-income country could be achieved if there are skilled and talented teachers, a smaller classroom size, and all the amenities that support learning which, in the end, would require a bigger budget for education, even if it currently has the biggest chunk of the national budget. Senator Villanueva agreed that offering more electives and options would create a budgeting problem.

Asked whether there are research studies that had been locally conducted on the issue of giving homework to students, Senator Cayetano adverted to DepEd Memorandum No. 392 issued in 2010 which was an advisory to public school teachers against giving homework during the weekends. She said that as early as that time, she already reacted to it, believing that it could be interpreted as a reminder for teachers to come up with more creative type of homeworks to hone their students' skills in other areas like music and the arts "so they continue to learn and enjoy their weekends and bond with their parents at the same time."

In a related matter, Senator Cayetano suggested that the DepEd await the results of the Program for International Students Assessment (PISA) which would come out in December of 2019 as the Philippines had renewed its participation in the PISA after having not done so since 2003. She said that the information could be used by the government to assess what needs to be done to improve the educational system.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

At the outset, Senator Hontiveros said that she would want to get insights on how the element of homework fits into the K to 12 system as well as into the policy framework being prepared by the two education committees for their proposed package of education reforms. She also noted that the best practices

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models of Japan and South Korea came about amid concerns raised by educators and parents from within those countries about how much homework is linked to the pressure brought upon students in a competitive learning environment wherein even parents want to ensure that such learning competencies assure their children of success in their future professions.

Asked how much or how little homework relates to the mental and emotional health of students, Senator Cayetano said that it was a conscious decision on her part not to include such an aspect on her speech that would have been overly encompassing as it covers too many issues. She explained that her data on the top five countries with the least homework vis-à-vis their rankings do not reflect the negative effects, if any, such as suicides rates in those countries. She said that she considered Finland as her favorite model because it ranked highest among those surveyed despite its educational system having a more laid-back approach to academics.

Senator Hontiveros stated that something that she has learned from the discussion was that many elements come together to achieve a holistic education. She noted that the question as to where children should best do their homework reminded her of a very healthy approach taken by Montessori education, Waldorf and other progressive and alternative methods. She said that one thing that the ongoing consultations at the Senate on inclusive education has taught them is how to maximize the teaching methodology and pedagogy inside classrooms and formal learning spaces for the children to achieve their academic and non-academic competencies and eventually provide more time and emotional energy for the students to play, rest, do nothing, and spend more time with their families outside of school. She added that gradual reforms to modernize the education system, such as the shift to K to 12, will enable the children to learn as much as appropriately needed in their level of education.

Senator Cayetano agreed with Senator Hontiveros on inclusive education recognizing that every child has different needs. She also emphasized that until the teacher-to-student ratio has been improved, no education program can fully achieve the desired level of education of students because a teacher is only human. She explained that most of the teachers in Metro Manila still have at least two classes in a day, a first batch in the morning and another in the afternoon, with an average of 40 students per class. She noted that the top performing countries when it comes to

education standards and their homework hours – Finland, South Korea, Brazil, Argentina and Japan – have classroom sizes much smaller than what the Philippines has. She suggested that one way to address small classroom sizes is by having teacher assistance through parents and volunteers in the classrooms, a bill she will be proposing to the Body. She said that it would be difficult for a teacher to handle a class of 40 students, some of whom would have tantrums, learning disability and hyperactive or other abnormal behavior.

Senator Hontiveros expressed support for Senator Cayetano's suggestion.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR GORDON

Preliminarily, Senator Gordon asked if Senator Cayetano proposes no homework, some homework, or more homework for the students.

Senator Cayetano said she actually posed the question to the Body and presented other issues that needed attention before they make an informed decision as to whether schools should give more, less, or no homework to the students. She explained that she is inclined to support a legislation for less homework for the younger students, but she admitted the need for a careful study since it would be a proposed law and not just an order of the Department of Education.

Recognizing the good intent of the proposal, Senator Gordon disclosed that he and Senator Pimentel are wary of the Body legislating about school homework for students. He maintained that it should be a choice between teachers and parents actively participating on decisions made in school.

Senator Cayetano explained that from her studies, teaching is a very specific calling and to be effective in that field, one has to have the latitude to decide. She believed that DepEd can come up with better guidelines. She doubted if the Body would have enough time to legislate something that needs to focus on specifics such as the number of hours to be allotted for homework.

Senator Gordon explained that the reality is that working parents rarely see their children since they leave home early for work and come back late at night, and students who have homework have difficulty accomplishing it without the guidance of their parents. He pointed out that not all parents have the comfort-

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able life of some to have ample time to guide their children in doing their homework.

Putting things in another perspective, Senator Gordon said that it is important for the teachers to motivate a child to look forward to going to school by making learning extremely interesting. Senator Cayetano agreed.

Senator Gordon also emphasized the need for quality teachers who, when provided with the necessary aid and tools, training, and a competitive salary, can make school subjects interesting for the students and make them excel.

Senator Cayetano agreed, admitting the need to attract the best professionals to enter the teaching profession.

Commenting on the idea that the government should subsidize the teachers in private schools, Senator Cayetano cited the Government Assistance to Students and Teachers in Private Education (GASTPE) Act which has different programs including teacher's salary subsidy and Senior High School Voucher Program. This way, she said, the government is supporting the survival of the private schools.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Cayetano and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture.

CHANGE OF COMMITTEE REFERRAL

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body approved the change of referral of Senate Bill No. 544 (*Metro Bataan Development Authority Act of 2019*) from the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises to the Committee on Local Government as the primary committee, the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises as the secondary committee, and the Committee on Finance as the tertiary committee.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

It was 4:54 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:53 p.m., the session was resumed.

CHANGE OF COMMITTEE REFERRAL

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body approved to change of referral of Senate Bill No. 894 (*Reforms in Real Property Valuation*) from the Committee on Finance to the Committee on Ways and Means as the primary committee, the Committee on Local Government as the secondary committee, and the Committee on Finance as the tertiary committee.

SECOND 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. 994, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNS' RIGHTS AND WELFARE

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

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

Senate Bill No. 995, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 29, 97, 99, 171, AND 174, AND CREATING A NEW ARTICLE 99-A UNDER ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE REVISED PENAL CODE"

Introduced by Senator Angara

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

Senate Bill No. 996, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER OF SELECTING AN ACTING PRESIDENT, AS REQUIRED UNDER

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ARTICLE VII, SECTION 7 OF THE
CONSTITUTION

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committee on Constitutional
Amendments and Revision of Codes**

Senate Bill No. 997, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE DEPART-
MENT OF OVERSEAS EMPLOY-
MENT, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND
FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources Development; Foreign
Relations; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 998, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 97
AND 99 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committees on Justice and Human
Rights; and Constitutional Amendments and
Revision of Codes**

RESOLUTION

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 121, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON BANKS, FINAN-
CIAL INSTITUTIONS, AND CURREN-
CIES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
PROLIFERATION OF ONLINE LEND-
ING COMPANIES IN POSSIBLE
VIOLATION OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 9474 OR THE LENDING COM-
PANY REGULATION ACT OF 2007

Introduced by Senator Poe

**To the Committee on Banks, Financial
Institutions and Currencies**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 2, submitted by the Com-
mittee on Rules, on Proposed Senate Resolution
No. 66, introduced by Senator Zubiri, entitled

RESOLUTION RECONSTITUTING THE
SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MARAWI
CITY REHABILITATION,

recommending its adoption.

Sponsor: Senator Zubiri

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 3, prepared and submitted by
the Committee on Rules, on Proposed Senate
Resolution No. 122, with Senator Zubiri and the
members of the Committee on Rules as authors
thereof, entitled

RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTIONS 13
(10), (13), (14), (20), (25), and (39)
RULE X OF THE RULES OF THE
SENATE AND CREATING THE
COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS, INNOVA-
TION AND FUTURES THINKING,

and Report on the 27th August 2019 Committee
on Rules meeting on the rationalization and
merging of some committees, taking into consi-
deration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 44,

recommending its approval.

Sponsor: Senator Zubiri

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

It was 5:56 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the
foregoing.



ATTY. MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA

Secretary of the Senate

Approved on September 3, 2019