



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 32
Tuesday, November 5, 2019

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 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 come before You humbling ourselves, knowing that without You we can do nothing. Apart from You, we can do nothing.

Today, as we open our session, we ask that You bless each and every one of us with Your wisdom from heaven and allow us to perform our duties and responsibilities for Your glory alone.

Bless the entire Senate; bless our *kababayans* in Mindanao, embrace them with Your love, especially those who are in need, and we pray that You give us the wisdom to help them and help our people.

Bless everyone here and every family represented here in the Senate.

We thank You and praise You, in Jesus' Mighty Name.

Amen.

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:

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

With 19 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Gordon and Recto arrived after the roll call.

Senators Pangilinan and Revilla were on official mission.

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

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88

ANNIVERSARY GREETING

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri wished Senator Gordon and his wife, Mrs. Kate Gordon, a happy 50th wedding anniversary.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 31 (November 4, 2019) and considered it approved.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- UP NCPAG Master of Public Administration students of former Sen. Sonny Trillanes;
- Mayor Rey “Rebu” B. Buhisan of Misamis Oriental;
- Mayor Inday Amy Olegario of Ipil, Zamboanga Sibugay;
- Mayor Herman Antonio “Jojo” M. Solante of Tudela, Cebu;
- Mayor Joseph Simon Valdez of Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur; and
- Mayor Andy Dangers and Vice Mayor Walter Marquez of Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro.

Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

It was 3:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:04 p.m., the session was resumed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Zubiri called for the immediate passage of the bill creating the Department of Disaster Resilience and

the proposed National Geohazard Mapping Act in light of the three powerful earthquakes that struck Mindanao.

Following is the full text of the privilege speech of Senator Zubiri:

In the course of two weeks, three powerful earthquakes struck Mindanao. The first one was on October 16, 7:37 p.m., with a 6.3 magnitude and the epicenter was in Tulunan, Cotabato. The second one was October 29 at 9 a.m., with a 6.6 magnitude, and the epicenter was again in Tulunan, North Cotabato. The third was last October 31 at 9:15 a.m. with a 6.5 magnitude and its epicenter was in the same municipality as well.

The last two earthquakes, October 29 and October 31, I personally felt when I was in Cagayan De Oro which actually prompted us to duck, cover and hold and go out of the house with my children.

Over the weekend, as Filipinos all over the nation took time to return to their hometowns and to be with their families in remembering those who passed on to the next life, the death toll from the Mindanao earthquakes rose to 22 fatalities. Hundreds more were injured and countless have been left displaced. The Province of Cotabato alone sustained over a billion pesos worth of damage in infrastructure particularly the schools in this province.

We join our people in mourning their terrible losses and we join them in rebuilding their lives. But to do so, I must stress the urgency of creating a Department of Disaster Resilience for which several bills were already filed.

Throughout the past weeks, as Mindanao was struck by three powerful earthquakes, we saw once again how insufficient our current risk reduction strategies are. The creation of a Department of Disaster Resilience will better prepare us to face another natural calamity or catastrophe of this magnitude as it will lead all disaster response agencies that are presently operating independent of one another. As we can see, there are some videos from TV Patrol and GMA showing how strong the earthquakes were. A Department of Disaster Resilience will ensure a more efficient, coordinated and complete system of disaster management — from risk assessment to emergency response, right down to integration assistance and rehabilitation.

Right now, *sa totoo lamang*, it is a blame game. They are saying if there is a lack of relief



goods, *kasalanan ng isang department na ito. Kung first responders, kasalanan naman daw ng isa pang opisinalang ganito*. There is really a blame game now and nobody is taking responsibility on the response that should be given to our people on the ground.

I must also point out the importance of regularly issuing and updating our national geohazard map. We are an archipelagic nation in an age where the globe is facing rapid ecological decline and, therefore, rising sea levels and extreme weather changes. We sit on a path of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. We are extremely vulnerable to natural disasters and so we are in dire need of a national geohazard map, the creation of which I filed in Senate Bill No. 527 for the National Hazard Mapping Act of 2019.

Having a national geohazard map will allow us to identify areas of high risk, helping us to pinpoint possibilities of occurrence, magnitude, and location of potential earthquakes and potential areas of concern. It will also identify areas vulnerable to the effects of volcanic activity, landslides, rock slides, rising sea levels, and other natural hazards. With a national geohazard map, property developers and individuals who plan to construct homes will have guidance on where to locate their buildings and structures. More so, the government will be guided properly in the construction of public schools, hospitals, evacuation centers, and other government institutions in safe zones.

Half of the battle in disaster management is knowing what lies ahead. With a national geohazard map, we will be able to develop better evacuation plans and protect residents in high-risk areas. With a national geohazard map and the Department of Disaster Resilience, hopefully we will not have to rack up the death toll every time a big disaster hits our shores.

We cannot stop these natural calamities but we can prepare for them, and disaster preparedness and resiliency is our priority. We can minimize losses in terms of human lives and properties.

In the United States, they have the Department of Homeland Security which is tasked mainly on two priorities: one is internal security and protection of the American people; the other is action and reaction and relief and response during calamities and effects of natural calamities—typhoons, cyclones, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions.

So, let us not wait for the next one to hit before we take action.

With this, I urge our colleagues to see to the immediate passage of these bill — the creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience and the National Geohazard Mapping Act.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Zubiri to the Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation.

Senator Zubiri explained that his speech was referred to the Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation under Senator Lacson because the bill on the creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience had been referred to the said committee. In addition, he said that the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), which handles natural calamities, as well as the NDRMMC, is under the Department of National Defense.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR TOLentino

Likewise, availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Tolentino spoke on the series of tragedies that struck Mindanao and the need to prioritize the rehabilitation stage and to craft laws that can ultimately save lives.

Following is the full text of the privilege speech of Senator Tolentino:

I join the Majority Leader in calling for the creation of a Department of Disaster Management.

Today is just like any day for most of us. We wake up with our roofs and ceilings intact and the rest of our feet on solid ground as we start the day. Greeting our loved ones, we stepped out with all of our morning's cares ahead of us, confident that the earth will not rumble and split open beneath our feet, so far.

Kagaya po ng sinabi ni Senator Zubiri, iyong sunud-sunod na lindol sa Mindanao—July 19, 5.6 magnitude; October 16, 6.3 magnitude; October 29, 6.6 magnitude; October 31, 6.5 magnitude—nakakatakot po lahat ito. Subalit mapalad pa tayo at ginagabayan tayo ng Panginoon dahil ang sinlakas na lindol na tumama sa Cotabato ay katulad ng magnitude 6 earthquake noong October 24, 2016 na tumama sa Italy kung saan 298 ang namatay. August 3,

2014, *ang lindol sa Yunan, China*, 6.1 magnitude, 615 *ang nasawi*; February 22, 2011, 6.3 magnitude earthquake *sa Christchurch, New Zealand*, 185 *ang nasawi at 100,000 bahay ang nasira*; at noong May 27, 2016, *sa Yogyakarta, Indonesia*, 6.2 magnitude earthquake, 5,700 *ang nasawi*.

Subalit kailangang kumilos din po tayo.

In the wake of the still-developing natural calamity unfolding in Mindanao, I rise today in behalf of our countrymen therein who, at this moment, are still at the mercy of the elements and in dire need of basic amenities — something we cannot just ignore.

But I disagree with Department of National Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana, who is likewise the chair of the NDRRMC, who said that we are now facing a humanitarian crisis. A humanitarian crisis is defined as something which occurs when the human, physical, economic or environmental damage from an event, or series of events, overwhelms a community's capacity to cope.

Ngayon pong araw na ito, binawi na po ni Secretary Lorenzana iyong kaniyang statement tungkol po sa humanitarian crisis.

I rise today, to remind the Filipino people that as a country, we are most vulnerable to natural calamities.

I rise today urging all of us that we must exert all efforts to address all these issues concerning calamities. And like the good Majority Leader, we must pass the Department of Disaster Management Bill. *Ang dami pong naka-pending ngayon.* It is this humble Representation's submission that the passage of the bill is very vital and must be fast-tracked. Senate Bill No. 211 was filed by this Representation, Senate Bill No. 39 was filed by Sen. Francis "Kiko" N. Pangilinan, Senate Bill No. 124 was filed by Sen. Grace L. Poe, Senate Bill No. 198 was filed by Sen. Emmanuel "Manny" D. Pacquiao, Senate Bill No. 205 was filed by Sen. Christopher Lawrence T. Go, Senate Bill No. 245 was filed by the good Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III, Senate Bill No. 289 was filed by Sen. Pia S. Cayetano, and Senate Bill No. 331 was filed by Sen. Juan Edgardo "Sonny" Angara.

This humble Representation likewise calls for the amendment of the existing National Building Code which is circa 1977.

Noon pong pinatupad ang National Building Code, ang pinakamataas na building sa Metro Manila ay ang PhilComCen Building, 12-stories sa Ortigas. Ang pinakamataas na

gusali po sa Makati ay ang Insular Bank of the Philippines na hindi lalagpas ng walong palapag, at ang skyline po ng Metro Manila ay ang Escolta. Ang matataas na gusali po roon ay kasama iyong Burke Building kung saan nagkaroon ng opisina ang dating Senate President Arturo Tolentino, at isa pang mataas na gusali roon ay ang Madrigal Building na hindi po siguro tataas ng anim na palapag. Subalit ngayon po sa Metro Manila, mayroon po tayong 48 stories Tektite Tower sa Ortigas. Mayroon pa tayong naglalakihan at nagtata-yugang building sa BGC. Kailangan po sigurong baguhin na ang National Building Code.

Noon pong 2010, when the country shifted to a proactive disaster management approach with the passage of Republic Act No. 10121, nagsimula po ang NDRRMC.

Among the primary functions of the council is to provide a comprehensive, all-hazard, multi-sectoral, inter-agency and community-based approach to disaster risk management.

But there remains more to be done. The NDRRMC, as of this date, has failed to formulate a post-disaster rehabilitation plan for several regions in the country. What we have now is just a post-disaster plan for Metro Manila, for Region IV-A, and for Region III. We do not have a comprehensive regional disaster plan for Region V, Region VI, Region VII, Region VIII, Region I, *et cetera*.

I remember, and modesty aside, when I was Metro Manila chairman, I conceptualized the *Oplan Metro Yakal*. The *Oplan Metro Yakal* will address a post-disaster scenario for the NCR region when a 7.2 earthquake will hit, God forbid, Metro Manila. *Pagkatapos po noon, wala na pong lumabas na bagong plano. Oplan Metro Yakal* will still be utilized, will still be the guidepost if a 7.2 earthquake would hit Metro Manila.

Sa pangkasalukuyang NDRRMC law, mayroon din pong kakulangan na bigyan ng boses ang mga barangay. The law fails to give an active voice to barangays when it comes to disaster planning. It further suffers from a lack of regional training institutes which could have given the local government units the necessary training to equip them.

It is hereby proposed, just like what the Majority Leader mentioned a while ago, that the new Department of Disaster Management be created to serve as the lead agency for all disasters and rehabilitation management programs, policies, and activities in the country.

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Among its thrusts will be the immediate or quick rehabilitation of affected areas. Post-disaster rehabilitation, recovery, and reconstruction are major challenges which should be faced. Post-disaster physical infrastructure and socio-economic systems need to be designed to adequately withstand the very real possibility of another mega-disaster.

In our current setup, there is a lack of a standard or protocol when it comes to rehabilitation. It is still very vivid after the Kidapawan earthquake. The mayor of Kidapawan is asking for guidance on what to do next. The current law only mentions "emergency rehabilitation projects to lessen the impact of disaster" and the facilitation of "resumption of normal social and economic activities." However, this leaves more to be desired since "rehabilitation," to borrow the words from the same law, is defined as the measures that ensure the ability of affected communities to restore their normal level of functions.

Iyong nakikita po natin doon sa mga kalsada sa Makilala na nagsasabing humihingi ng tulong iyong ating mga kababayan dahil kulang na raw sa pagkain, kulang na raw sa tubig, ay hindi totoo. Hindi totoo iyong nakikita natin na lumalabas sa ilang media sources na mayroon nang kakulangan. Ang mali po roon, sa aking nakita at sa report ni Gov. Lala Taliño, ay proper coordination. Mayroon lamang po tayong ilang mga kababayan na hindi nagpunta sa mga evacuation centers para magparehistro at kumuha nang tama sa mga relief items ng DSWD.

The creation of a new department will be akin to that of Pakistan's Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Authority (ERRA) which was established in 2005 as a response to a deadly quake that same year, and Japan's Disaster Management Bureau. It combined all activities pertaining to post-disaster damage assessment, reconstruction, and rehabilitation under one umbrella to provide fast-tracked and seismically safe reconstruction solutions.

To my second point in amending the National Building Code, this humble Representation seeks to reduce and manage the hazards and exposures from calamities and vulnerabilities of communities.

By amending the National Building Code, we will finally put to rest the antiquated provisions therein. For instance, in Section 213 of the National Building Code, *kapag mayroong nagkamali, ang kaniyang fine ay P2,000 lamang kahit gumuho ang isang matayog na gusali.*

It is high time that the penalties of the National Building Code be increased and the enforcement of the penal provisions be made more stringent.

To my third and last point, these amendments are needed so that we can, in the end, build resilient and sustainable communities.

At this juncture, to enable the communities to quickly respond to such calamities, this humble Representation hereby proposes that a ready and able body of professionals be equipped to be called upon to render aid in emergency situations. The bill entitled "Civil Conscription Act," which I filed yesterday, will require the mandatory service of professionals such as doctors, nurses and engineers in the aftermath of calamities and disasters.

We must go beyond the duck, cover and hold culture. We should not just focus on the immediate rescue operations but give priority to the rehabilitation of a community following a calamity.

Kagaya po ni Sen. Bong Go — nandoon po siya kahapon, kagaya ni Sen. Bong Revilla — nandoon siya ngayon, ako ay nandoon din noong nakaraang araw sa Magsaysay, Davao del Sur noong nagkaroon ng aftershock bandang 8:19 ng umaga. Senator Dela Rosa was also there.

Accordingly, a video was shown on the screen.

Makikita po natin sa video na maayos naman ang distribution ng mga relief items. Maayos naman ang sitwasyon at wala pa talagang humanitarian crisis sa mga affected areas sa Kidapawan, sa Tulunan, sa Makilala, sa Magsaysay, at marami pang areas.

As we stand in solidarity with our brethren from Mindanao, who right now are still reeling from a series of tragedies still unfolding, let this serve as a wake-up call that we are, in the end, at the mercy of calamities, may it be natural or man-made.

I ask for everyone's support. Let us pass the Department of Disaster Management bill.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Tolentino to the Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation.

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PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Hontiveros spoke on the alarming out-of-pocket health expenses of Filipinos due to the mark-ups made by drug manufacturers and private health facilities, and the emergence of high-cost medicines for chronic diseases which hinder the benefits brought by the Universal Health Care Law.

The full text of her privilege speech accompanied by a Powerpoint presentation follows:

Ang presyo ng gamot, hindi maabot.

We are facing the worst threats to public health in over a decade. *Ang dengue ay lumalala* since 2012. From January to August 31 this year, an estimated 1,100 people have died of dengue in the Philippines with almost half being children between five and nine years of age. *Sa measles, mayroong 550% increase in 2019 kumpara sa 2018. At matapos ang matagal na panahon na tayo ay polio-free, nanumbalik ang polio at isa sa pinakabulnerableng area ay ang Bangsamoro Autonomous Region. Palala pa rin nang palala ang problema ng teenage pregnancy at tayo pa rin ang number one sa pagtaas ng HIV/AIDS.*

We have made significant inroads, *at mahalaga ang pagpasa natin ng Universal Health Care Law para harapin ang mga hamon na ito. Ngunit mayroong isang partikular na isyu na maaaring burahin ang mga ganansiya sa universal health. I rise before this Body to call on the government to address an issue that, if left unchecked, threatens to undermine all the efforts, including our effort in the legislature, to achieve universal health care for all Filipinos.*

Ano ang problema? ANG PRESYO NG GAMOT, HINDI MAABOT.

The latest Philippine National Health Accounts (PNHA) showed that 41% of all healthcare spending in the Philippines is on pharmaceutical products or drugs and medicines. This is significant because the share of pharmaceutical spending in the total health expenditure in other countries ranges from 19.7% in high income countries to 30.4% in low income countries.

Bakit mas malaki ang nakakain sa health-care expenditure ng pharmaceutical drugs sa Pilipinas kumpara sa ibang bansa? Hindi kaya dahil the prices of pharmaceutical drugs here are absurdly high compared to other countries?

Isa pa pong punto: pharmaceutical spending accounts for half of out-of-pocket health expenses of Filipinos. Ibig sabihin, sa P100 na ginagastos ng isang Pilipino, P50 ang napupunta sa gamot lamang samantalang sa buong mundo, ang average ng gamot as percentage of out-of-pocket health expenditures ay 32% lamang. The data is clear and alarming. The prices of medicines in the Philippines remain high and out of reach for the majority of Filipinos.

A study commissioned by the DOH says that on average, the prices of medicines in the Philippines are still significantly higher than International Reference Prices (IRP). In the public sector, medicine prices are up to four times higher than IRP, while in the private sector, they can go up to 22 times higher. *Magkahalo na dito iyong mataas na presyo na pinapataw ng manufacturers sa mga gamot nila at iyong napakalaking mark-up na ini-impose ng pribadong health facilities sa mga gamot na ito.*

More on the latter point, it was also found that final prices for innovator branded medicines are 486% higher in the private sector compared to the same drugs sold in public hospitals. I think this is too much.

Another aspect of this issue is the emergence of high-cost medicines which are breakthrough treatments for chronic diseases, orphan diseases, and cancers. These drugs are introduced to Western countries with high prices averaging from \$10,000 to even \$100,000 and when they are launched here in our country, there are no differences in prices and no considerations for equity and the economic situation of the Philippines.

The DOH reports that some cancer drugs and biologics being proposed for inclusion into our National Formulary have average treatment costs that are way above the annual average income of Filipino households. Some drugs for cancer even cost close to P2 million per treatment course. *Kapag ganito kamahal ang gamot mo, wala na talagang pag-asang gumaling iyong maysakit kasi bihira lamang ang may kayang magbayad nito.*

Out-of-pocket expenditure is an important barrier to health services. Often, people in the far-flung areas would still not seek consultation for their ailments because they know that the considerable cost of the health consultation will be shouldered by their savings — by the money that they have set aside for other equally important needs of the family. And, yes, this happens even if they are already part of the PhilHealth-sponsored program.

[Handwritten signature]

A study by the health experts from the University of the Philippines showed that the poor and marginalized Filipinos are being crowded out by those in the higher income segments in accessing health services even in public hospitals and health facilities. Even middle-class and upper middle-class households are affected by out-of-pocket expenditure. We have heard countless stories of families living in relative comfort suffer impoverishment when a member of the family gets ill with catastrophic diseases like cancer, heart attack or stroke. All of the family's finances are channeled to finance these health care needs. Sometimes, it gets to a point where they have to sell property or dip into their savings just to cover the cost of health care.

Something must be done about this. *Masasayang lamang ang UHC Law* if this is not addressed. All the funds that will be channeled for the implementation of this law will not make a dent in providing financial risk protection for our countrymen and women because of the high cost of medicines. *Lahat ng dagdag pondo* will just be eaten up by these companies as they try to maximize profits by keeping their prices high.

Republic Act No. 9502, or the "Cheaper Medicines Law," a landmark piece of legislation which I am proud to have coauthored as a representative of the party list Akbayan in 2008, provided the framework and mechanisms to ensure universal access to quality and affordable medicines. It is built on the Generics Act of 1988 through the promotion of effective market competition and the strengthening of the local pharmaceutical industry as a means to pursue this global objective.

Over the past decade, we have seen how the law worked as reports from the DOH showed an increase in market share in terms of volume and value of generic drugs in our country. Competition has improved but it is not a vibrant one as we would want it to be considering that only 11 companies, 10 of which are multinational companies, account for more than 50% of the total pharmaceutical market. This is explained by the domination of "branded generics" or generics products marketed with unique/tradenames which afford them some differentiation with the other generic drugs and allow them to secure premium pricing. The market share of true low-cost generics accounts for only 2% of value and only 4% of volume sales indicating their low availability and penetration in hospitals and drug retail outlets.

Pero may solusyon. Ang mga sakit kagaya ng kanser na mabilis at malawakan ang pag-

kalat ay kailangan din ng mabilis at malawakang tugon at solusyon.

Fortunately, Republic Act No. 9502 provided the government other instruments to address the issue of high drug prices in the country. I am specifically referring to the power to directly regulate prices of drugs and medicines in the country.

Two years after we passed the Cheaper Medicines Law, the government used this power and set Maximum Drug Retail Prices (MDRP) of five drugs, immediately slashing their prices by 50%. This was done after several discussions with different stakeholders and after dialogue with the pharmaceutical industry. The list of drugs under price control would have been longer if not for the DOH's acceptance of the industry's offer to voluntarily reduce prices albeit at a lower rate.

Isang dekada na ang nakalilipas mula nang huli nating nagamit ang mandatong ito. Panahon na para muling ipatupad ito. Sa tindi ng krisis sa pambansang kalusugan na ating dinadanas, kailangang mabilis, malawakan at mapagkalinga ang ating tugon at solusyon.

For the past two years, I have been asking the DOH about the imposition of the MDRP during budget hearings and oversight committee hearings. Time *pa ni* Sec. Pauly Ubial when I first asked this.

Now, I believe that we have an answer. After months of policy and evidence review and after consultations and deliberations with experts and stakeholders, the DOH is ready to push the button on price control. I understand that they already submitted a list of 120 drugs and medicines to the Office of the President. These are drugs for a variety of conditions: asthma, hypertension, heart diseases, diabetes, and different types of cancers, which are among the top causes of mortality or morbidity in the country. I fully support this effort of the Department of Health as this is long overdue.

I also call on the President, who is given the authority under the law, to impose the MDRP to act on these recommendations immediately. *Huwag na po tayong magpatumpik-tumpik pa. Magandang pamasko ito sa mga Pilipinong nahihirapan na sa mataas na presyo ng lahat ng bilihan.* This is a welcome reprieve for them.

Pero alam natin na mayroon ding pumipigil. I understand also that big pharma is moving heaven and earth to prevent these sets of price cuts from happening. They are again offering voluntary price reduction *ngunit hindi*

ngunit hindi

ito sapat at ito ay kulang na kulang pa rin. Kung kaya naman pala magbaba ng presyo ang industry, bakit kailangang humantong pa sa sitwasyon na sinisita na sila ng gobyerno bago sila umaksiyon? They had several years to do it, so why are voluntary price reductions coming out again only now?

Incidentally, the Philippines is not alone in the world in looking at price control as a cost-containment measure. Multinational pharmaceutical companies around the world are coming under increasing scrutiny from their governments to explain and account for the exorbitantly high prices they set for their medicines. The United States, Canada, the Netherlands and Malaysia have all conducted hearings on this issue and are all planning to institute new policies to address high drug prices. It is high time that we do, too.

Ilan pa ba ang mga Pilipinong dapat magkasakit at mamatay bago ibaba ang presyo ng gamot sa mga sakit na may lunas naman? Kailangan bang mabaon sa hirap ang pamilyang Pilipino sa tuwing may sakunang dumaring? Mura, agaran, epektibong lunas at gamot ang kailangan. Mas mahalaga ang kalusugan ng mamamayan kaysa sa tubo o kita ng iilan.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GO

Senator Go spread into the record his manifestation of support for the initiative to expand the price control on essential drugs for a cheaper access to quality medicines.

The full text of his manifestation follows:

As chairman of the Committee on Health and Demography, and as an advocate of universal healthcare access for all Filipinos, I hereby manifest my support for the initiative to expand the Maximum Drug Retail Price or MDRP to ensure that our countrymen and women gain easier access to cheaper quality medicines.

As I have said before, healthcare is a right, not a commodity.

It is our moral duty as public servants and lawmakers to ensure that the health and medical needs of our countrymen are prioritized over the corporate interests of a few, especially when the country's medical inflation rate continues to rise rapidly, even outpacing our national inflation rate.

In fact, according to data from the 2018 Medical Trends Around the World report of

Mercer Marsh, essential medicines in the Philippines continue to be exorbitantly priced relative to international counterparts. Generic drug prices are also up to four times higher than international reference prices.

While we — as an enterprising nation — value the benefits of a free market, it is also our responsibility under the Constitution to guarantee that such benefits impact the Filipino people positively. To accomplish this task, we in the government must know when to direct the free market towards more ethical and beneficial social ends.

I believe that expanding the MDRP is one of such methods to achieve a greater end — the improvement of the quality of life of all Filipinos.

We already enacted a law in 2008 — the Cheaper Medicines Act. The law allows the President to impose maximum retail prices on drugs and medicines.

With this said, I will suggest to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte for the inclusion of all essential medicines in the proposed list of expanded MDRP and for its immediate release to complement the Universal Health Care or the UHC Law.

We have no time to waste. As we speak, millions of our fellow Filipinos are suffering from medical and health concerns, in dire need of our support and assistance. We must listen to them. We must not fail them. We must make haste in ensuring that this proposal gets implemented as soon as possible.

Senator Hontiveros thanked Senator Go for his support for the initiative.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri expressed his agreement with Senator Hontiveros' intervention and assessment of the health sector as well as with the statement of Senator Go to include all essential medicines in the proposed list of the expanded Maximum Drug Retail Price (MDRP), citing that the prices of medicines in the country are actually four times higher than those of other countries such as Thailand, Indonesia and most especially India.

Senator Zubiri mentioned that his 56-year-old brother went through a quadruple bypass operation which cost them millions of pesos and was fortunate to have an international insurance that covered the expenses. However, he said that not everyone has

that type of insurance and would have to depend on PhilHealth which can only cover P30,000 to P40,000 of the hospital bill.

Senator Zubiri expressed concern over how Filipinos could afford complex medical procedures such as bypass, chemotherapy, and specialized medication for problems in the liver and kidneys which could cost millions of pesos.

He recalled a controversial bill that he filed establishing a Drug Price Regulatory Board (DPRB) supposedly to regulate drugs and medicine prices as an accompaniment of the Cheaper Medicines Act. He said that the removal of the proposed section on the DPRB was the reason why the monitoring of prices of drugs and medicines is still a problem.

Senator Zubiri reiterated his full support for the initiatives of Senators Hontiveros and Go.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO

Preliminarily, Senator Cayetano expressed her full support for the concerns raised by Senator Hontiveros in her privilege speech.

As cosponsor of the Cheaper Medicines Act of 2008 (Republic Act 9502), Senator Cayetano recalled the debate on the Drug Price Regulatory Board (DPRB). She said that she supported the non-inclusion of the DPRB in the Act to avoid having pharmaceutical companies lobbying with the Board. She said that the law instead provided that the Department of Health Secretary should report directly to the President. She admitted that there are pros and cons to any system. As such, she said that she is open to reassessing the most effective way to address the high prices of drugs.

Senator Cayetano pointed out that people would always opt to go to a private hospital on the belief that they could avail of better facilities and better services of doctors even for a higher fee. She said that the challenge is for government hospitals and even Congress to help improve the facilities and delivery of public health services in order to attain that same trust that the public has for private hospitals.

On that note, Senator Cayetano called her colleagues to support her efforts to provide more funding for the Universal Health Care Law.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Hontiveros on the expansion of the coverage of the MDRP and the succeeding manifestations thereon to the Committee on Health and Demography.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 159

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 159, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE
OF THE SENATE RECOGNIZING
THE UNWAVERING AND STEAD-
FAST FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA
AND COMMEMORATING THE 70TH
ANNIVERSARY OF OUR ROBUST
BILATERAL RELATIONS.

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.

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

Senator Pimentel explained that the resolution simply expresses the sense of the Senate in recognizing the steadfast and unwavering friendship between the Republic of the Philippines and Republic of Korea as 2019 is the 70th year of the establishment of both countries bilateral diplomatic relations. He said that the adoption of the resolution was timely since President Duterte was scheduled to be in the Republic of Korea in late November for the Asean-Republic of Korea Commemorative Summit.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 159

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body adopted the Proposed Resolution No. 159.

ALL MEMBERS AS COAUTHORS

Senator Zubiri manifested that all members are coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 159.

2

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. 1099, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TOWARDS THE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION OF DRUG DEPENDENTS OR PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS (PWUDs) BY ESTABLISHING DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTERS IN EVERY PROVINCE AND CITY IN THE COUNTRY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1100, entitled

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE PROVINCIAL AND SUB-PROVINCIAL JAILS TO THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990" AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 1101, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE RANK CLASSIFICATION STRUCTURE OF THE UNIFORMED MEMBERS OF

THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP) AND THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP) ORGANIZATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

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

Senate Bill No. 1102, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE FILIPINO FIRST POLICY IN THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

To the Committee on Finance

Senate Bill No. 1103, entitled

AN ACT INCREASES THE BED CAPACITY OF THE CAGAYAN VALLEY MEDICAL CENTER (CVMC) IN TUGUEGARAO CITY, PROVINCE OF CAGAYAN, FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1104, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EARLY VOTING FOR QUALIFIED SENIOR

**CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH
DISABILITIES IN ALL ELECTIONS**

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committees on Electoral Reforms
and People's Participation; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1105, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING THE TERM OF
OFFICE OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS
AND MEMBERS OF THE SANG-
GUNIANG KABATAAN, AMENDING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OTHER-
WISE KNOWN AS "THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committees on Local Government; and
Electoral Reforms and People's Participation**

Senate Bill No. 1106, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE INDE-
PENDENCE OF THE COMMISSION
ON ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVI-
SIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA 881,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE," AS
AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committees on Electoral Reforms
and People's Participation; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1107, entitled

AN ACT URGING THE PLANNING,
EVALUATION, AND PROMOTION
OF PINEAPPLES FOR INTER-
NATIONAL EXPORT, ESTABLISH-
ING THE PINEAPPLE EXPORT
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committees on Agriculture, Food
and Agrarian Reform; Trade, Commerce and
Entrepreneurship; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1108, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPA-
CITY OF THE VICENTE SOTTO
MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER
(VSMMC) OF THE PROVINCE OF
CEBU, FROM ONE THOUSAND
TWO HUNDRED (1,200) TO ONE
THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (1,500)
BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1109, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING MANDATORY
AIRTIME FROM TELEVISION AND
RADIO STATIONS TO ENABLE THE
GOVERNMENT TO INFORM THE
PUBLIC, SAFEGUARDING THE
PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO INFORMA-
TION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committees on Public Information
and Mass Media; and Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 1110, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 8178 OR THE "AGRICULTURAL
TARRIFICATION ACT OF 1996," AS
AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1111, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY
OF THE LICENSE TO OWN AND
POSSESS, PERMIT TO CARRY

OUTSIDE OF RESIDENCE OR PLACE OF BUSINESS AND REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 4, 7, AND 19 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10591, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Senate Bill No. 1112, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD ACADEMY ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Public Services; National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1113, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8762, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE RETAIL TRADE LIBERALIZATION ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 1115, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1116, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, WHOSE STATUS OF APPOINTMENT IS EITHER CASUAL OR CONTRACTUAL, AND WHO HAVE CONTINUOUSLY RENDERED A TOTAL OF TEN (10) YEARS OF EFFICIENT SERVICE

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1117, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SCHOLARSHIP TO CHILDREN AND DEPENDENTS OF FARMERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; Basic Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1118, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED NATIONAL POLICY AND PROGRAM GUIDELINES FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF DORMITORIES AND BOARDING HOUSES, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 1119, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF INTERNET CAFÉS, VIDEO AND

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COMPUTER GAME SHOPS AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS, PROVIDING COMPUTER SERVICES WITHIN THE VICINITY OF SCHOOLS, PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS, DAY CARE FACILITIES AND CHURCHES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1120, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS AND HOSPITALS TO PROVIDE FOR MOTORCYCLE MEDICAL EMERGENCY FIRST-RESPONDERS

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1121, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY INCLUSION OF ANTI-OBESITY EDUCATION PROGRAM AND EXERCISE INCLUDING PLAY AND TRADITIONAL GAMES, IN THE PRE-SCHOOL, ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA, BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committees on Basic Education, Arts And Culture; and Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1123, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FIVE (5)-DAY SPECIAL EMERGENCY LEAVE FOR ALL WORKERS IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR DIRECTLY AFFECTED BY NATURAL CALAMITIES OR DISASTERS

Introduced by Senator De Lima

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

Senate Bill No. 1124, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 443, 454, AND 463 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committees on Local Government; and Tourism

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 160, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DIVING TEAM WHO WON THREE GOLD MEDALS HELD LAST SEPTEMBER 24, 2019 TO OCTOBER 2, 2019 IN BENGALURU, INDIA

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 161, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROGRAMS AND PLANS OF THE GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO THE ATTACKS ON TWO MAJOR OIL FACILITIES IN SAUDI ARABIA

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Energy

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 162, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY



TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE STATUS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTING ORGANIZATION INCLUDING ITS RECOMMENDATION FOR THE COUNTRY TO EMBARK ON THE NUCLEAR POWER PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committees on Energy; and Science and Technology

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 163, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING GYMNAST CARLOS EDRIEL YULO FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL FOR THE MEN'S FLOOR EXERCISES DURING THE 2019 WORLD ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD LAST OCTOBER 12, 2019 IN STUTTGART, GERMANY

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 164, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MS. LOUISE MABULO FOR BEING AWARDED AS ONE OF THE UNITED NATIONS YOUNG CHAMPION OF THE EARTH 2019

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 165, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE LA SALLE FILIPINIANA DANCE COMPANY AND THE CAVITE INSTITUTE MARILAG FOLKDANCE TROUPE OF SILANG FOR WINNING IN THE INTERNATIONAL DANCE ORGANIZATION (IDO) WORLD FOLKLORE FESTIVAL 2019 IN SOUTH KOREA

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 166, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO WON AND CAPTURED MEDALS IN INTERNATIONAL SPORTING COMPETITIONS FOR THEIR EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTION TO PHILIPPINE SPORTS HISTORY

Introduced by Senator Go

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 167, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING CARLOS EDRIEL YULO AND NESTHY PETECIO FOR WINNING GOLD MEDALS IN THE ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP AND IN THE WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP, RESPECTIVELY

Introduced by Senator De Lima

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 168, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE ON THE DEATH OF THE HONORABLE AQUILINO 'NENE' QUILING PIMENTEL, JR., FORMER SENATE PRESIDENT AND FATHER OF THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE"

Introduced by Senators Sotto III, Recto, Zubiri, Drilon, Angara, Binay, Cayetano, De Lima, Dela Rosa, Gatchalian, Go, Gordon, Hontiveros, Lacson, Lapid, Marcos, Pacquiao, Pangilinan, Pimentel III, Poe, Revilla, Jr., Tolentino, Villanueva and Villar

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 169, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DRASTIC ESCALATION IN THE NUMBER OF PREGNANCIES AMONG TEENAGERS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REVIEWING THE STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10354, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT OF 2012," AND INTENSIFYING PUBLIC AWARENESS ON THE MYRIAD NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator De Lima

To the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Health and Demography

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 170, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CONTINUING ATTACKS AND KILLINGS OF LAWYERS, PROSECUTORS AND JUDGES, AND TO DIRECT THE GOVERNMENT TO EXERT AND EXHAUST ALL EFFORTS TO STOP AND INVESTIGATE THESE UNRESOLVED EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLINGS

Introduced by Senator De Lima

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Justice and Human Rights

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 171, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING BOXING CHAMPION NESTHY PETECIO FOR BAGGING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE FEATHERWEIGHT DIVISION OF

THE 2019 AIBA WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD LAST OCTOBER 13, 2019 IN ULAN-UDE, RUSSIA

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution. No. 172, entitled

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING POLE VAULTER ERNEST JOHN OBIENA FOR WINNING IN A TOURNAMENT HELD IN CHIARA, ITALY

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 173, entitled

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING PINOY BOXER EUMIR MARCIAL FOR WINNING THE SILVER MEDAL IN THE 2019 AIBA WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN YEKATERINBURG, RUSSIA

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 174, entitled

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING CARLOS YULO FOR BAGGING THE COUNTRY'S FIRST GOLD MEDAL IN THE WORLD ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS CHAMPIONSHIPS IN GERMANY

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 175, entitled

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING NESTHY PETECIO FOR WINNING THE GOLD

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MEDAL IN THE 2019 AIBA WOMEN'S
BOXING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS
IN ULAN-UDE, RUSSIA

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 176, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND
COMMENDING CARLOS EDRIEL
YULO FOR WINNING THE FIRST
PHILIPPINE GOLD MEDAL AT
THE 49TH FEDERATION INTER-
NATIONALE DE GYMNASTIQUE
(FIG) ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS IN
STUTTGART, GERMANY LAST
OCTOBER 12, 2019

Introduced by Senator Angara

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 177, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND
COMMENDING FILIPINA BOXER
NESTHY ALCAYDE PETECIO FOR
WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN
THE 2019 AIBA WOMEN'S WORLD
BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD
IN ULAN-UDE, RUSSIA

Introduced by Senator Angara

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 178, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND
COMMENDING CARLOS EDRIEL
YULO FOR WINNING THE GOLD
MEDAL FOR THE MEN'S FLOOR
EXERCISES AT THE 49TH FIG
ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS WORLD
CHAMPIONSHIP IN STUTTGART,
GERMANY

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 179, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND
COMMENDING NESTHY ALCAYDE
PETECIO FOR WINNING THE GOLD
MEDAL AT THE 2019 AIBA WOMEN'S
WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP
HELD IN ULAN-UDE, RUSSIA

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 180, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND
CONGRATULATING CARLOS
EDRIEL YULO FOR BAGGING THE
GOLD MEDAL AT THE 2019
WORLD ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS
CHAMPIONSHIP

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 181, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND
CONGRATULATING NESTHY
PETECIO FOR BEING THE FEATHER-
WEIGHT DIVISION CHAMPION IN
THE 2019 AIBA WOMEN'S WORLD
BOXING CHAMPIONSHIP

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committee on Rules

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report No. 15, prepared and submitted
by the Committee on Public Services, on Senate
Bill No. 1122, with Senators Recto, Revilla, Jr.,
Dela Rosa and Poe as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT DESIGNATING THE THIRD
SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER EVERY
YEAR AS THE NATIONAL DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH
VICTIMS, SURVIVORS, AND THEIR
FAMILIES,



recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 605, 1018, 1035 and 1069, taking into consideration House Bill No. 4611.

Sponsor: Senator Poe

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1125, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL RESILIENCY AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1126, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE PHIL-HEALTH OUTPATIENT COVERAGE ON DIALYSIS AND RENAL REPLACEMENT THERAPY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1127, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE COCONUT TRUST FUND, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION, RECONSTITUTING THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1128, entitled

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (ICCs/IPs) COMMUNITY CONSERVED TERRITORIES AND AREAS (ICCA), ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL ICCA REGISTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committees on Cultural Communities; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1129, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY CIVIL CONSCRIPTION FOR DISASTER AND HUMANITARIAN SERVICE

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

To the Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation

Senate Bill No. 1130, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FULL TUITION SUBSIDY TO MEDICAL STUDENTS ENROLLED IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs) AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Senate Bill No. 1131, entitled

AN ACT CREATING HIGHER LEVEL

13

TEACHING POSITIONS OF PUBLIC
SCHOOL TEACHERS AND PROVID-
ING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Civil Service, Govern-
ment Reorganization and Professional Regula-
tion; Basic Education, Arts and Culture; and
Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1132, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC
HOSPITALS TO PREPARE AND
IMPLEMENT A HOSPITAL SITE
DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE
OPTIMUM UTILIZATION OF ITS
RESOURCES IN DELIVERING
HEALTH SERVICES

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; Public Works; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1133, entitled

AN ACT CREATING ONE REGIONAL
HEART CENTER IN EACH OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS IN
THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1134, entitled

AN ACT CREATING ONE REGIONAL
KIDNEY AND TRANSPLANT INSTI-
TUTE (RKTi) IN EACH OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS IN
THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1135, entitled

AN ACT CREATING ONE REGIONAL
LUNG CENTER IN EACH OF THE
ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS IN
THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1136, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE SALARY
OF CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT
PERSONNEL AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

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

Senate Bill No. 1137, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

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

Senate Bill No. 1138, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING LOCAL
GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION
IN AGRICULTURE DEVELOPMENT
BY INSTITUTIONALIZING A TEN
PERCENT (10%) BUDGETARY
ALLOCATION FROM THEIR
INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND



SERVICES FOR AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 17, 106, 107, 110, 287, 443, 454, 482(A), AND 511-A OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar

To the Committees on Local Government; Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1139, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; Ways and Means; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 182, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE BANGON MARAWI COMPREHENSIVE REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY PLAN, ITS ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION, AND THE UTILIZATION OF THE CORRESPONDING FUND THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Senate Special Committee on Marawi City Rehabilitation

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 183, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID

OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND WELFARE ACT AND OTHER LEGISLATION RELATIVE TO THE PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF CHILDREN

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS AND ALL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE AUDIT AND REVIEW OF EXISTING BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES THEREBY ENSURING COMPLIANCE TO THE STANDARDS SET BY THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE ON STRUCTURAL SAFETY AND INTEGRITY SO AS TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE AGAINST AVOIDABLE DAMAGES TO PROPERTY AND LOSS OF LIVES

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committees on Public Works; and Local Government

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 185, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING MR. WESLEY SO FOR ATTAINING THE TOP SPOT IN THE 2019 INAUGURAL WORLD FISCHER RANDOM CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP HELD AT THE HENIE ONSTAD ART CENTER IN NORWAY

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 187, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPRO-

PRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SAFE PHILIPPINES PROJECT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF MITIGATING POTENTIAL RISKS TO NATIONAL SECURITY OR PUBLIC INTEREST ARISING FROM FOREIGN-ASSISTED PROJECTS CONTRACTED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 188, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE-SYNTHESIZED AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIALS, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS *DEEPFAKES*, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING GOVERNMENT MECHANISMS TO IMPLEMENT CYBERCRIME AND DATA PRIVACY LAWS, SAFEGUARDING THE PRIVACY, INFORMATION AND IDENTITY OF ALL FILIPINOS AND PROTECTING THE INTEGRITY OF PHILIPPINE SOCIAL, POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Science and Technology; and Justice and Human Rights

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 189, entitled

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MARGIELYN DIDAL FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN TWO SKATEBOARDING EVENTS HELD IN CALIFORNIA, USA

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 190, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING CARLOS EDRIEL YULO FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE 2019 WORLD ARTISTIC GYMNASTIC CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN STUTTGART, GERMANY

Introduced by Senator Go

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 191, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING FILIPINO BOXER EUMIR FELIX MARCIAL FOR WINNING THE SILVER MEDAL IN THE 2019 AIBA WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN EKATERINBURG, RUSSIA

Introduced by Senator Go

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 192, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINA BOXER NESTHY PETECIO FOR CAPTURING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE 2019 AIBA WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN ULAN-UDE, RUSSIA

Introduced by Senator Go

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 193, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING FILIPINA WEIGHTLIFTER HIDILYN DIAZ FOR CAPTURING MEDALS IN THE 55KG WOMEN'S DIVISION OF THE 2019 IWF WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND THE 2019 ASIAN WEIGHTLIFTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Introduced by Senator Go

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 194, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND
COMMENDING POLE VAULT STAR
ERNEST JOHN OBIENA FOR
SUCCESSFULLY WINNING THE
GOLD MEDAL IN THE 23RD ASIAN
ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS AND
THE 30TH SUMMER UNIVERS-
AIDE 2019

Introduced by Senator Go

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 195, entitled

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR STRICTER
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROVI-
SIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10611,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
FOOD SAFETY ACT OF 2013, TO
ENSURE THAT HUMAN HEALTH
IS PROTECTED AND MARKET
ACCESS OF LOCALLY PRODUCED
FOODS AND FOOD PRODUCTS IS
FACILITATED

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepre-
neurship**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 196, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING JOSE
SAGUBAN FOR WINNING THE
MAIN AWARD FOR THE TOP
20 BEST CACAO BEANS IN THE
WORLD AT THE 2019 INTER-
NATIONAL COCOA AWARDS
HELD AT SALON DU CHOCOLAT,
IN PARIS, FRANCE

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 197, entitled

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING THE
SENATE INSTITUTE ON LEGIS-

LATIVE STUDIES AND TRAINING
CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE
SENATE INSTITUTE FOR THE
CONTINUING EDUCATION, STUDIES,
RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROG-
RAMS FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE
SENATE, ITS OFFICERS AND STAFF,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committees on Accounts; and Finance

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report No. 16, prepared and submitted
by the Committee on Finance, on Senate Joint
Resolution No. 9, with Senators Marcos and
Angara as authors thereof, entitled

JOINT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE
AVAILABILITY OF THE 2019 APPRO-
PRIATIONS FOR MAINTENANCE
AND OTHER OPERATING EXPENSES
AND CAPITAL OUTLAYS TO
DECEMBER 31, 2020, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 65
OF THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11260, THE
GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT
OF FISCAL YEAR 2019,

recommending its approval in substitution of
Senate Joint Resolution Nos. 6 and 7.

Sponsor: Senator Angara

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the House of Representatives,
informing the Senate that on 4 November 2019,
the House of Representatives passed House
Bill No. 4933, entitled

AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2020
BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIAN
KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMEND-

ING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10952, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate.

To the Committee on Rules

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report No. 17, submitted jointly by the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes; and Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations, on:

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106, introduced by Senator Drilon, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE REPORTED ELIGIBILITY OF ANTONIO SANCHEZ FOR AN EARLY RELEASE FROM PRISON WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF, AND ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION TO, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10592;

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 107, introduced by Senator Sotto III, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS; CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND REVISION OF CODES; AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 10592 ON GOOD CONDUCT TIME ALLOWANCE (GCTA) WITH THE END IN VIEW OF AMENDING THE SAME IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THOSE PRISONERS WHO TRULY DESERVE THE LAW'S BENEFITS

SHALL BE GRANTED OF THE SAME;

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 108, introduced by Senator Binay, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT 10592 PARTICULARLY THE COMPUTATION OF THE GOOD CONDUCT ALLOWANCES (GCTA) OF PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY, IN LIGHT OF THE IMPENDING RELEASE OF 11,000 INMATES DUE TO THE REVISION OF THE COMPUTATION OF GCTA AND ITS RETROACTIVE APPLICATION;

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 123, introduced by Senator Dela Rosa, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW, AMEND, AND MODIFY THE ISSUED IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10592 TO REFLECT THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT OF THE CONGRESS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF UPHOLDING THE IMPARTIAL DELIVERY OF JUSTICE;

The PRIVILEGE SPEECH ON THE GOOD CONDUCT TIME ALLOWANCE OF SEN. RICHARD J. GORDON, DELIVERED ON AUGUST 27, 2019; and

MOTU PROPRIO BY THE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS – INVOCATION BY THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN OF RULE 10, SEC. 13 OF THE SENATE RULES THAT THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE MAY UNDERTAKE AN INVESTIGATION ON ANY MATTER OF PUBLIC INTEREST ON ITS OWN INITIATION *MOTU PROPRIO* (TSN DATED SEPTEMBER 2, 2019 P.3),

2

recommending its adoption of the recommendations and their immediate implementation.

Sponsor: Senator Gordon

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Vice Mayor Jess Ronquillo, Councilors Romero, Ceballos, Balad-on, Jagonia, Demecillo, Corvera, Macadine, and Barangay Captain Dumagat from Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur; and
- Mayor Andres Dangers, Vice Mayor Bong Marquez, Councilor De Vera and other councilors from Sablayan, Occidental Mindoro.

Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 15 on Senate Bill No. 1122 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1122

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 1122 (Committee Report No. 15), entitled

AN ACT DESIGNATING THE THIRD
SUNDAY OF NOVEMBER EVERY
YEAR AS THE NATIONAL DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE FOR ROAD CRASH
VICTIMS, SURVIVORS, AND THEIR
FAMILIES.

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

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Poe, Sponsor of the measure.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR POE

Senator Poe, as chairperson of the Committee on Public Services, submitted to the Body for plenary consideration Committee Report No. 15 on Senate Bill No. 1122, otherwise known as the "National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors, and their Families Act."

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

Everyone who grew up in the 1980s knows that car chases and car accidents were a staple of action movies. *Kahit si FPJ ay mayroong mga eksenang ganyan – Hahabulin ng bida ang mga "goons" sa mga kalsada ng Maynila na wala man lamang nababanggang sasakyan. At sa huli, lilipad at magpapaikot-ikot ang sasakyan ng mga "goons" sabay sasabog ito. Tila makatotohanan dahil wala pang trapik noon.*

In real life, however, road accidents are neither as high-octane nor as glamorous. By our estimate, around 13 accidents occur every hour in Metro Manila, with each costing between P420,000 to P3.47 million. From 2006 to 2017, more than 100,000 died from vehicular accidents and it is considered the top cause of death among the youth aged 15 to 24 years old.

Last October 2, we had a chance to hear the stories straight from the survivors and families of the victims of road crash. *Naroon si Dr. Nuella Manzanida, namatayan ng anak, isang nurse, dahil sa diumano ay drunk and drugged driver sa C-5; si Ma'am Louie Golla, namatayan ng anak dahil sa isang aksidente sa motorsiklo sa Rizal; si Karen Graneta, isang nurse, survivor ng karambola ng tatlong truck sa Nagtahan Bridge noong 2016; si Celso Taray, 55 years old, isang parking attendant na na-hit-and-run.*

Ang mga biktima ng aksidente sa kalsada ay hindi lamang nadisgrasya, patuloy pang napeperwisyo. Ang ilan nga ay nagkabaon-baon na sa utang dahil sa pagpapa-ospital.

Our hearing also revealed so many lapses in our country's road safety that need to be addressed in order to minimize the ramifications of road crash incidents.

Una, ang kawalan ng makabagong breath analyzers na sana ay makatutulong sa pagre-

resolba sa mga insidente ng drunk driving. Lumalabas na nadi-dismiss lamang ang karamihan ng mga kaso dahil sa kawalan ng mga breath analyzers.

Ikalawa, ang kawalan ng traffic enforcers sa madaling araw kung kailan nangyayari ang karamihan ng mga road accidents dahil ayon kay MMDA Chairman Garcia, hanggang 9:00 p.m. lamang ang shift ng mga enforcers.

Ikatlo, ang kawalan ng hazard pay para sa mga traffic enforcers na nagiging biktima rin ng mga aksidente sa daan.

These are just some matters which, I think, as legislators we can work on through possible legislation.

On our end, the Committee on Public Services introduced in the plenary a few weeks ago the proposed a National Transportation Safety Board as a response to the call for solutions to accidents in the country.

Today, we are proposing yet another heed to the call by declaring the third Sunday of November as the “National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims, Survivors and their Families.” On this day, road crash victims, survivors, and their families will be commemorated through religious mass services, designation of public spaces as memorials, blood donation campaigns, and other means.

According to a book, entitled *World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims*, “Public reflection is the act of recognition. It states to the victims and their families that their humanity is valued, that their loss is our loss, and that their suffering is shared, if only through recognizing the tragedy and error of its occurrence.”

We must not forget that remembrance is a precursor of justice. Remembering road crash victims, survivors and their families will not only prevent them from becoming just another statistic. It will also preserve the call to justice for future generations. It will insulate their tragedy from political amnesia.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR RECTO

Senator Recto delivered his cosponsorship speech, as follows:

Five days ago, 40 Cagayano farmers clambered aboard a truck at the break of dawn to go to Tuguegarao to claim the corn seeds the Department of Agriculture (DA) was giving them for free.

By nightfall, 19 of them lay dead after their rented ride plunged into a ravine in Conner town, Apayao, pinned under the sacks of seeds they will never be able to sow.

Their tragedy is no longer an isolated case in a country where road crashes have become a raging national epidemic.

Unlike polio, against which there is a vaccine, there is no inoculation against vehicular accidents. The body count is on such a steep rise that a land transport official had recently claimed that motorcycle crashes have broken into the nation’s Top 10 list of killers by claiming the No. 9 spot.

Although vehicular accident deaths have not been officially tallied by government statisticians, there is no reason to doubt that motor vehicle accidents have become a major league grim reaper. While stats have yet to bear this out, we already see the spectacle of banged-up cars and mangled bodies on our streets fairly regularly.

In Metro Manila alone — where the biggest parking lot masquerades as a road called EDSA and the rest of the roads host demolition derbies — there was one recorded vehicular accident almost every five minutes in 2018; or 321 a day; or 116,906 the entire year. These resulted in 17,891 injuries in 2018, 383 of which were fatal.

And speaking of EDSA, it accounted for almost 13,000 vehicular accidents, an ignominy which supports the suggestion that it should be renamed Epifanio Todos de los Santos Avenue.

In fact, when this year’s road crash data will be released early next year, it will probably include the case of one distinguished rider, the motorcyclist-in-chief who thankfully figured in a minor mishap within the Malacanang complex, which is not his first accident entry in his motorcycle diaries which span decades.

But the figures I cited above were just the reported ones.

The conventional wisdom is that many accidents go unreported, mutually settled on the spot by the parties who are wary that letting the police intervene will create — and cost — more problems than the mishap itself.

When the injury to the pride is greater than that on the body, the intrepid motorcycle riders of Metro Manila will just dust themselves off. They will treat the incident as part of the hazards of riding a “*motorsirko*” in a metropolis recently ranked by Waze as having the worst traffic in the world because of its glacial 5 kilometer per hour average travel speed.

That means to drive the distance of a marathon, a Filipino in a car will navigate it in 8 hours, which is more than double the time of Senator Cayetano's personal best.

The carnage on our streets results in income lost, productivity forfeited and medical bills for a people who are one hospitalization away from bankruptcy.

For the fatal ones, it leaves behind families who grieve for lives whose full potential will never be realized.

At a personal level, road crashes leave a hole in the heart and on the pocket, but at the macro level, they hurt the economy as well.

The World Bank claims that we could potentially add 7% to our GDP if road crashes do not happen.

Against this disheartening backdrop, the best antidote to accidents is the one inside what the helmet covers. Even the best app is no match against the safety consciousness a driver imbibes and practices.

Of course, aside from education, the other two E's — enforcement and engineering which are government equities in road management — must perform their roles as well.

For as long as the implementation of these two remains spotty, our roads will be hazardous obstacle courses that will challenge even the best educated drivers.

Culture also shapes behavior. When society is blanketed with reminders to drive safe, which likewise serves as commandment to the government to create the right environment, then these practices seep into the national consciousness.

One milestone we should observe is a National Day of Remembrance for Road Crash Victims. It can be used as an occasion to pray for the dead, but more so to push for good policies for the living.

It will also serve two other purposes: commemorative, because each one of us has a friend or friends who have perished in road accidents; the other is preventive, because any organized reminiscences on a national level will inculcate a fear factor that deters unsafe operation of motor vehicles.

There is no vaccine against road crashes. But the mind's powerful ability to remember and learn from tragedies may just save lives.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1122

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

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 9 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1083 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1083 (Committee Report No. 9), entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9372, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT TO SECURE THE STATE AND PROTECT OUR PEOPLE FROM TERRORISM.

Senator Zubiri stated that the parliamentary status was still the period of sponsorship.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Dela Rosa to cosponsor the measure.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR DE LA ROSA

Senator De La Rosa delivered his cosponsorship speech, as follows:

Today, it is my privilege to cosponsor a bill that will amend a law to ensure protection of all Filipinos from an evil that has caused so much pain and suffering; a destructive force that has no regard for innocent lives; the phenomenon that is terrorism.

I am referring to Senate Bill No. 1083, or the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2019 under Committee Report No. 9, which was first presented to this august Body by Sen. Panfilo Lacson as chairperson of the Senate Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation.

Sometime in 2016, a gruesome video showing three men standing with their knives, each positioned to slit the throat of three kneeling captives, circulated on social media platforms. The only audio that can be heard from the video is the voice of the man at the center uttering

Handwritten signature

words in support of a terrorist organization and waging war against law enforcement agencies in Asia. After this man's utterances, they beheaded the said captives.

At this juncture, a video clip was presented to the Body.

Unknown to most of us, the man in the center of the video, who seems to be the leader of the trio, is a Filipino and a registered voter of a barangay located in the southern part of the country. He is Mohammad Reza Kiram. It was found out that in 2012, after his bomb-making training abroad, he was able to recruit fellow Filipinos to join their organization which aims to sow terror in the country as motivated by Osama Bin Laden's video on the 9/11 attack in the United States of America.

In 2015, his organization, *Dawlaa Islamiyah*, pledged their support to the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and he was able to travel to Syria. The following year, he appeared on the video I showed to you earlier. A Filipino-turned-terrorist.

Before he made the video, we had already apprehended him as a suspected terrorist when I was still the Davao City Police Director in December of 2013. We have monitored all of his moves, including that of an occasion when he, together with his wife and son, visited the hotel room of a known Jemaah Al Islamiyah member and Malaysian suicide bomber named Mohammed Nor Fikrie. Fikrie was later neutralized by my SWAT team when he was about to detonate himself inside a crowded restaurant in Davao City.

At this juncture, a video clip was presented to the Body.

If we have observed, *iyong nasa gitna na may hawak na kutsilyo, iyong naka-khaki, siya iyong si Mohammad Reza Kiram. Naaresto namin doon sa Davao.*

However, since the military and police intelligence could not provide us sufficient evidence to prove his terrorist activities before the lapse of the allowable detention period, we were forced to release him. If only we had been allowed then to detain him for at least a week in order to build a solid case against him as a terrorist, he would not have had the opportunity to commit more terror acts, like the beheading of those victims.

In 2018, he was included in the US list of "Specially Designated Global Terrorists." The UN Security Council also designated him under the ISIS and Al-Qaeda Sanctions List. Moreover, this man was included in the INTERPOL Red Notice list in April 2019.

Despite his notoriety as a terrorist, in 2018, our law enforcement agency was only able to file a case against him for the crime of inciting to sedition in relation to the Cybercrime Prevention Act of 2012 for the very video I showed to this Body.

Imagine, a person especially designated as a global terrorist was charged only with a crime beyond arms-length of our current anti-terrorism law, or the Human Security Act of 2007.

The other terrorist in the video who was standing on the right side of Reza – *iyang naka-square iyong mukha*, was identified as Mohammad Saifuddin Faiz, an Indonesian national who spent most of his adult life in Mamasapano, Maguindanao. He was arrested by PNP Intelligence Group operatives in Zamboanga City last 2005 but was released in 2015 after the dismissal of cases filed against him. He was later on deported to Indonesia and eventually joined the ISIS in Al-Racchah, Iraq.

There lies our problem. Our law against terrorism is so soft that it is almost tantamount to tolerance. We do not tolerate acts of terrorism. We must let it be known to the world that we are in solidarity in the global fight against terrorism and this stand should materialize in legislation.

The most advanced weaponry budget can provide is worthless if our law enforcers' hands are tied because the law restricts them to be more aggressive in their cause against terrorism. It is the terrorists that should fear the law and not our law enforcers who are always under threat of law suits for violating rights of suspected terrorists.

I fully agree with the statement of Sen. Panfilo Lacson when he said during his sponsorship speech that it is "Only in the Philippines" – as the expression goes – "where the anti-terrorism law has literally more provisions restricting our law enforcers than bringing terrorists to justice."

(slide presentation)

To bolster the fact that we are in urgent need to update and amend our anti-terrorism legislation, let me state for the record that in 2017, the Philippines was ranked as the No. 12 country in the world with the highest impact of terrorism. Unfortunately, in 2018, our Global Terrorism Index ranking became worse. We are

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now the 10th country most impacted by terrorism. This is a list where we do not want to be included, not in the top 15 and not even in the top 100.

(slide presentation)

With our ranking, the Institute for Economics and Peace recorded 2,869 deaths due to terror attacks in the country since 2001, 326 of which was from 2017 – our highest recorded number of deaths in more than a decade. They recognized the New People's Army, and the two groups which have declared their allegiance to the Islamic State (ISIS), the Abu Sayyaf and the Maute, as the major terrorist groups in the country.

With thousands of Filipinos who have died and the properties that have been destroyed by the acts of these terrorist groups, the economic impact of terrorism in our country has already taken its toll on our goal of sustainable and inclusive economic growth. We will not prosper economically and the improvement of the lives of our people will be hindered if we will not be able to ultimately prevent the terror acts in our land.

The Executive Department, in declaring martial law in Mindanao, intends to suppress the acts of terrorists in the areas. It has been extended twice. It has achieved and served its purpose in suppressing terrorism for the time being, but we need a more permanent solution when the declaration expires once again. As legislators, we do not only provide our military and police the weapons to combat terrorism by increasing their budget but also arm them with the necessary laws that shall further empower them in implementing peace and order.

The declaration of martial law in Mindanao is not enough to address the potential magnitude of destruction that may be brought about by the evil minds of these terrorists. What we need, to complement the efforts of the Executive Department, is to enact a new law, a law that will revive and strengthen our anti-terrorism legislation. With this, our law will capacitate and enable our law enforcers to effectively investigate and prosecute those who have committed acts of terror.

With the numerous amendments introduced by Senate Bill No. 1083 to our current anti-terrorism law, I would like to give emphasis on the proposed amendment to increase the detention days of a suspected person without warrant of arrest. Senator Lacson mentioned and, as stated in Senate Bill No. 1083, from three days, the allowable detention period outside a warrant of arrest will be a non-extendible period of

14 working days. I fully support this. I will even support a period longer than 14 days.

If only time was on our side when we apprehended the Filipino terrorist in the video I showed to you earlier, we could have killed the cancer before it grew. Let us not allow technicalities to get in the way of quelling and ultimately eliminating terrorism. We are dealing with a new breed of criminals. Criminals that are wise enough to run for protection under the very same law that intends to persecute them.

(slide presentation)

Terrorism thrives because of fear. And so, we remove fear. We are not afraid.

The enactment of the new anti-terrorism law will be very timely to fully prepare us with the move of the Kurdish government to repatriate the imprisoned foreign ISIS fighters back to their home countries, including Filipino ISIS fighters, as a result of the US forces withdrawal from the previously ISIS-controlled areas. We are in need of a new and effective law that will help us confront treacherous enemies. Sadly, they are countrymen who chose the path of evil—returning Filipino fighters and all other returning foreign-trained fighters from other countries and will bring home senseless war to Mindanao which they view as a safe haven for terrorists for various reasons, including a weak anti-terror policy. A law that will provide the necessary mechanism to control and perhaps aptly prosecute them for the terrorist acts they have committed and plan to commit.

After the 9/11 terror attack, it was exposed that the United States, which some consider the most powerful country in the world, is not safe from attacks. Terrorism has become a global phenomenon that it has sown fear and insecurity on everyone. The war against terror here in our country is a contribution to the tireless efforts of other nations to defeat this evil.

Having said these, I appeal to this honorable body for the swift passage of the Anti-Terrorism Act of 2019. Time is of the essence in preventing these terror attacks. Let us not waste more precious seconds. It is about time that the government intensifies its efforts and protect the citizenry against the evil acts of terrorist groups.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1083

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

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MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri said that there were still two more items in the agenda for the day – the measure of Senator Cayetano on sin taxes and the measure for sponsorship by Senator Gordon.

Senator Zubiri asked permission from Senator Gordon for the Body to first resume consideration of the sin tax measure of Senator Cayetano, which, he said, should have been the first item on the agenda of the session that day. He also informed Senator Gordon, with Senator Cayetano's permission, that his measure would be considered first on the agenda the next day followed by Senator Cayetano's measure for interpellation, to which Senator Cayetano acceded.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GORDON

Senator Gordon recalled that during the all-senators' caucus held the previous day, the members had the understanding that Senator Cayetano's measure was going to be taken up first on the plenary session that day followed by his measure. However, he noted that there was a parade of speeches considered ahead.

Nonetheless, Senator Gordon said that he was willing to withdraw and would deliver his sponsorship speech the following day.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 6 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1074

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1074 (Committee Report No. 6), entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE EXCISE TAX ON ALCOHOL PRODUCTS, HEATED TOBACCO PRODUCTS AND VAPOR PRODUCTS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTIONS 141, 142, 143, 144, 147, 150 AND 288, OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senator Zubiri stated that the parliamentary status was still the period of interpellations.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Cayetano, sponsor of the measure, and Senator Pacquiao for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PACQUIAO

Preliminarily, Senator Pacquiao informed the Body that during the current Congress, he filed Senate Bill No. 383, which seeks to increase the excise tax on alcohol products, and Senate Bill No. 987, which seeks to increase the excise tax on heated tobacco products and vapor products. As a fellow athlete and a health advocate, he commended Senator Cayetano, chairperson of the Committee on Ways and Means, for conducting public hearings on Senate Bill No. 1074 under Committee Report No. 6.

Noting that the objectives of the proposed measure were to attain better health outcome for the people as well as to raise revenues for the Universal Health Care Act to fund the gap for its implementation, Senator Pacquiao said that the focus of his interpellation would be in terms of health and revenue impact. He then asked on the specific impact of the proposed rates as provided in the committee report on the Universal Health Care Law.

Senator Cayetano replied that some changes have been made since the time she sponsored the proposed measure up to the present, which is precisely the reason it was important that the Members consider her proposed rates which were clearly higher. She said that in her sponsorship speech and during the time she conducted committee hearings, the amount anticipated to be received through the General Appropriations Act (GAA) was P195 billion, but the actual amount was only P182 billion, with a difference of about P12 billion to P13 billion, increasing, in the process, the funding gap.

She noted that in the privilege speech delivered by Senator Hontiveros earlier, the importance of universal health care and health care in general was emphasized so that when the gap was considered, it was just the bare minimum of what the measure seeks to achieve. She said that catastrophic illnesses, one of which is liver cancer, was not covered by the universal health care packages. She recalled at some point that Hepatitis B vaccine is required to be given in three dosages but only one was covered by PhilHealth

at that time, although the DOH and PhilHealth have been increasing and improving their packages through the years. She informed the Body that Undersecretary Domingo had just assured her that three dosages of Hepatitis B vaccine are already available.

Asked on the minimum rate for specific alcohol products needed for politically visible universal healthcare, Senator Cayetano replied that the rate she proposed was higher than what was proposed and passed by the House of Representatives and higher than the DOF's proposal. However, she said that the DOF and the DOH already support her proposal. She explained that one only needs to visit one healthcare center to know the reason why there is a need for more funding. She surmised that even with the legislation of the Universal Healthcare Program, the health program of the government still has a long way to go particularly on the kind of services it would deliver to the people. She cited as an example the need for specialty hospitals to cater to any complications of illness suffered by the people which could not be covered by current healthcare units. Noting that the Philippines is reported to be already composed of 7,600 islands, she admitted the difficulty in providing for the kind of healthcare that the people deserve. She believed that the higher rate proposed in the committee report would not be enough to cover the kind of healthcare that can be accessed in private hospitals. She likewise admitted that she did not hesitate to propose a higher rate because she was fighting for the poor.

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano said that she would give Senator Pacquiao and the other members of the Body a copy of the rates for alcohol products which are based on prices like 20% for distilled spirits, specific tax per proof liter which starts at P90 with 10% indexation, fermented liquor and alcopops which starts at P45, wines with a small percent of the total sales in terms of alcohol at P600 specific tax per liter, and another P43 specific tax with 10% indexation also for wines.

Senator Pacquiao said that his proposal was for a specific tax for the year 2020 at P40 per proof liter and P45 for the succeeding year, and so on. He noted that the reflected rate on the substituted bill proposes a specific tax of P90 per proof liter for the year 2020 and P100 for the succeeding year.

Asked by Senator Pacquiao on the difference in the recovery rate in revenues between his proposal

and the substituted bill, Senator Cayetano replied that the revenue expected to be obtained in alcohol products in the substitute version which is Senate Bill No. 1074 is P45.7 billion, while the proposal of Senator Pacquiao is P27.7 billion, or a difference of about P18 billion. She believed that the DOF earlier supported the proposal of Senator Pacquiao in the Seventeenth Congress as there were some differences in the figures presented which was similar as regards the anticipated revenue from GAA which also changed in the amount of about P12 billion to P13 billion. However, she stated that the outcome that Congress wanted in the Universal Health Care is boundless, thus the change in the projections of DOH and DOF.

Asked on the impact of the revenue that the proposed bill seeks to realize on the Universal Health Care, Senator Cayetano replied that it is P2 billion which already includes the funds obtained from e-cigarettes, which is negligible because the sales of e-cigarettes are still very small. She opined that the figure is negligible because the total revenue to be generated under the substitute version is P47.9 billion. However, she noted that there is still a funding gap of P11.8 billion even with the higher rate; and even if there are additional revenues which can be sourced out, it could only cover the bare minimum, and renovation of dilapidated hospitals could not be done immediately. She said that she would welcome any additional revenue.

Senator Pacquiao said that he would not prolong his interpellation as he coauthored the proposal to increase alcohol tax. Senator Cayetano said that she, in fact, has found an ally in Senator Pacquiao and was grateful to him, who is a DOF and DOH champion, for his interpellation.

At this point, Senator Cayetano spread into the record the concerns raised about the likelihood of the people working in companies producing alcohol products losing their jobs. She said that the proposal was a DOF initiative meant to provide stability to the economy. She said that it is impossible for her to consider the measure that could hurt other people who have decent work. Likewise, she said that the demand for alcohol products is inelastic and people would still buy them even with higher prices. She added that the bill wanted to achieve what is not so accessible to the most vulnerable which is the youth and the poor. She said that taxation alone should not be considered as a preventive tool but should go

along with other measures including education campaigns or advocacies.

Senator Pacquiao said that as one of the sponsors of the measure, he only wanted to sufficiently fund the gap of the universal health care and to ensure that the revenues would go to where it should be. He also expressed his dedication to keep the youth away from vices like alcohol. He reminded Congress, however, to keep the balance, especially the effects of such proposals on the business sector.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri informed the Body that he, as well as Senators Hontiveros, Gatchalian, Villanueva, Lacson, Drilon, and Angara, was also scheduled to interpellate on the bill.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1074

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

SENATE CONFEREES

Upon motion by Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the following senators were designated to

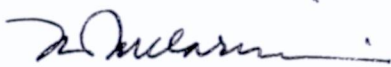

constitute the Senate panel in the bicameral conference committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1043 and House Bill No. 4933 (postponing the barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections to May 2020): Senator Marcos as chairperson; and Senators Zubiri, Dela Rosa, Revilla and Drilon as members.

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 Wednesday, November 6, 2019.

It was 5:15 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


ATTY. MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA
Secretary of the Senate


Approved on November 6, 2019