



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

# Journal

**SESSION NO. 33**  
Wednesday, November 6, 2019

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**SESSION NO. 33**  
Wednesday, November 6, 2019

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:01 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Vicente C. Sotto III, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

Sen. Risa Hontiveros recited the prayer of Oscar Romero, to wit:

It helps, now and then, to step back and take a long view. The kingdom is not only beyond our efforts, it is even beyond our vision. We accomplish in our lifetime only a tiny fraction of the magnificent enterprise that is God's work. Nothing we do is complete, which is another way of saying that the Kingdom always lies beyond us. No statement says all that should be said. No prayer fully expresses our faith. No confession brings perfection. No pastoral visit brings wholeness. No program accomplishes the Church's mission. No set of goals and objectives includes everything. This is what we are about: We plant the seeds that one day will grow. We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise. We lay foundations that will need further development. We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities. We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing that. This enables us to do something, and to do it very well. It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and

do the rest. We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker. We are workers, not master builders; ministers, not messiahs. We are prophets of a future not our own.

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.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Gatchalian, W.	Sotto III, V. C.
Go, C. L. T.	Tolentino, F. T. N.
Gordon, R. J.	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 Drilon, Poe and Recto arrived after the roll call.

Senator Pangilinan was on official mission.

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

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri acknowledged the presence in the gallery of Mayor Nelia Angeles and members of the Sangguniang Bayan of General Aguinaldo, Cavite.

Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

#### **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. 32 (November 5, 2019) and considered it approved.

#### **PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 163**

With the consent of the Body, upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the Body considered 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,**

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 174, 176, 178, 180, 190, 199 and 207.

#### **SPONSORSHIP SPEECHES**

Senator Zubiri informed the Body that Senators Angara, Binay, Villanueva, Lapid Pacquiao, Revilla, and Go would be submitting their sponsorship speeches for insertion into the record.

*By Senator Lapid*

Honorable colleagues of this august Chamber, it is my honor to present to you Senate Resolution No. 163, entitled "Congratulating and Commending Gymnast Carlos Edriel Yulo for

Winning the the Gold Medal for the Men's Floor Exercises during the 2019 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships held last October 12, 2019 In Stuttgart, Germany."

It is with great pride and honor that I join my fellow senators in congratulating and commending Mr. Carlos Edriel Yulo in his historic feat by winning the Philippines' first ever gold medal at the world artistic gymnastics.

With his determination and commitment to the sport and his years of training to be able to master his craft, Mr. Yulo once again proved that Filipinos are world-class talents and that we can do anything if we put our hearts into it.

Moreover, I vow to continue supporting our Filipino athletes in their endeavors and I do wish the best of luck for Mr. Yulo as he competes in the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

*By Senator Angara*

On two successive days last October, two Filipino athletes won gold medals in their respective sports.

*Gymnastics Gold*

On October 12, Leveriza Street resident Carlos Edriel Yulo broke records and became the first Filipino and first male ASEAN gymnast to win the gold medal at the 49th FIG1 Artistic Gymnastics World Championships held in Stuttgart, Germany. In fact, at 19 years old, Carlos was the youngest participant at the international competition. Dubbed a 4-foot 9-inch tall dynamo, Carlos earned himself a slot at the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

*Best in Boxing*

A day after Carlos's victory, Tuban, Davao del Sur native Nesthy Petecio emerged victorious at the 2019 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships at Ulan-Ude, Russia. Her gold-medal win is in fact the country's second, following the flyweight victory of Josie Gabuco in 2012.

Carlos and Nesthy's victories truly bring honor and prestige to the country. Our sponsorship and presentation of the Senate's resolutions to commend them is but a humble gesture to recognize their feats. We are likewise glad to note that under the National Athletes Incentives Law (RA 10699) that we authored and sponsored, Carlos and Nesthy will be receiving hefty rewards for their medals.

However, that their victories have earned very limited fanfare outside of his august Chamber

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only speaks volumes about how the achievements of many of our national athletes often go unnoticed — and are hence easily forgotten. The silence also points to how we as a society can do so much more to support and honor our athletes.

Consider that Carlos in fact has been training in Japan, under a Japanese coach in recent years — even though his passion for the sport was ignited when he first saw Filipino gymnasts at the Rizal Memorial Stadium. Hopefully, once the Philippine Sports Training Center is constructed, more of our compatriot-athletes can hone their skills here on our shores.

Consider on the other hand that Nesthy — who is 27 years old now — has actually been boxing since she was seven. But since there is hardly any grassroots development program when it comes to boxing for women, it took eight years before Nesthy actually gained the opportunity to showcase her talent and become part of the women's national boxing team. I have always argued that if we aim to earn more gold medals, we should ramp up our grassroots initiatives particularly in identifying and training our young athletes.

The saying goes that a broken clock can be right two times a day. In the same vein, we can produce two gold medalists, even though there is much to fix with our sports development programs and policies.

And so while we pay tribute to Nesthy and Carlos, we also reiterate our commitment to continue pushing for policies that will help us care for and train our national athletes, broaden our chances of winning Olympic medals, and ultimately, making sports another hallmark of Filipino pride.

*By Senator Binay*

It is my privilege and honor to sponsor Senate Resolution 207 — Honoring and Commending Carlos Edriel Yulo for winning the first ever gold medal of the Republic of the Philippines in the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships.

*Nakikiisa ako sa ating buong sambayanan sa pagkilala ng tagumpay ni Carlos.*

By bagging the first gold medal for the Philippines in this international competition, Carlos made our country proud and showed the world the country's promise for competitiveness and international recognition in the field of gymnastics.

In an interview after his historic win, Carlos said that what challenged him to execute his routine was to “show the beauty of the sport.” And while he succeeded in showing the grace and beauty of the sport he loved, he also displayed for the entire world to see the Filipino people's indomitable will and unflinching spirit.

Behind his beautiful routine was a lot of hard work and sacrifice. His coach, Munehiro Kugimiya, revealed that before the competition, Carlos would train for five hours a day, six days a week.

*Sinimbolo ni Carlos ang lakas ng loob at pagtitiyaga na ipinapakita nating mga Pilipino, lalo na sa pagharap natin sa mga pagsubok. Ang panalong nakamit niya ay bunga ng kanyang disiplina, pagpupunyagi, tiwala sa sarili at sa Diyos.*

He showed us that those who persevere and focus against self-doubt can win. *Siya ay isang inspirasyon hindi lamang para sa ating mga kababayang atleta kung hindi para na rin sa bawat Pilipinong nais patunayan ang kanilang mga sarili sa anumang larangan.*

In view of the foregoing, it is with utmost pride that I sponsor this resolution commending Carlos Edriel Yulo for bringing pride and honor to our country. May his victory inspire future generations of home-grown athletes to work hard in the pursuit of their dreams and to excel in their chosen craft.

*Mabuhay ka, Carlos, at mabuhay ang atletang Pilipino!*

*By Senator Villanueva*

*Isang kagalakan at karangalan po sa inyong lingkod ang magbigay ng pagkilala sa dalawang atletang Pilipino na dahilan kung bakit muling iwinagayway ang bandila ng Pilipinas sa buong mundo.*

*Sisimulan ko po sa isang katanungan: Bakit po kaya na sa tuwing may Pilipinong sumasabak sa kahit anong kompetisyon sa ibang bansa — lalo na po sa larangan ng isports, tila napupuno ng inspirasyon, ng tapang, ng diwang makabansa ang puso ng sinumang kababayan nating nakatunghay sa laban?*

*Nadama ko rin po ito habang pinapanuod ko ang laban ni Carlos Edriel Yulo sa 2019 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships sa Stuttgart, Germany. Katulad na pakiramdan din ang naranasan ko habang sumasabak sa boxing ring si Nesthy Alcayde Petecio sa 2019*

*RV*

Aiba Women's World Boxing Championships na ginanap sa Ulan-Ude, Russia.

*Isa, dalawa, tatlo at higit pang beses kong pinanuod ang laban nina Carlos at Nesthy at hindi po nagbabago ang damdamin ko. Pinakamasarap ang marinig ang deklarasyong sila ang naka-GOLD sa laban — Kampeon sa floor exercise si Carlos at kampeon sa featherweight division si Nesthy.*

*Ang tagumpay nina Carlos at Nesthy ay panibagong testamento na wala ng puwang ang kaisipan na "kapag gawa sa Pinas, low class." Wala ng puwang ang mentalidad na "pwede na" o "bahala na" na malaking hadlang para mag-excel o maipakita ang tunay na galing ng mga Pilipino.*

*Kapag ang pangarap ay nilahukan ng sakripisyo, dedikasyon at nasyonalismo — may "Carlos" na ngayon po ay ang kauna-unahang Pinoy at male southeast Asian na World Champion sa Gymnastics, at may "Nesthy" na ngayon po ay ang ikalawang Pinay World Champion sa featherweight division sa boxing.*

*Napakahalaga po sa ating lahat, lalo na po sa ating mga kabataan, ang tagumpay ng ating mga kababayan sa mga kompetisyong ginagawa sa international arena tulad ng mga kompetisyong nilahukan nina Carlos at Nesthy sa Germany at Russia.*

*Marahil ito rin po ang sagot sa tanong na ibinato ko kanina — dahil nagbubukas ito ng pagkakataong makita ng bawat Pilipino ang kanyang sarili na sumasabak din sa laban ng buhay; na tulad din nina Carlos at Nesthy na naniwala sa kanilang sarili at nagsumikap nang husto, kahit sino ka pa at kahit ano pa iyong pinagdaraan ay kaya mo ring manalo sa buhay.*

*Muling iwawagayway ni Carlos Yulo ang watawat ng Pilipinas sa Tokyo Olympics sa 2020 (kasama rin si EJ Obiena sa larangan naman ng pole vault). Subalit ngayong taon, sina Carlos, Nesthy at EJ at iba pang atletang Pilipino — sa wakas, dito mismo sa ating sariling bayan, sa paparating na Southeast Asian Games — ay sama-samang magpapamalalas ng husay at tapang ng lahing Pilipino.*

*Kaya lubos ang aming pagkilala sa inyo Carlos at Nesthy dahil ang isang araw na laban n'yo sa Europa ay matagal na panahong paghuhugutan ng inspirasyon ng ating mga kababayan na bumangon din araw-araw at lumaban sa buhay.*

*Lakip din po ng pagkilalang ito ang ating pagtanaw ng utang na loob at pasasalamat sa*

*kanilang pamilya — narito po ang lolo ni Carlos na si Ginoong Rodrigo Frisco na unang nakadiskubre ng potensyal ng kanyang apo na si Carlos na ngayon ay isa ng world champion; narito rin po si Bb. Cynthia Carrion, ang pangulo ng Gymnastics Association of the Philippines, na naging tulay para mabigyan ng de-kalidad na training si Carlos Yulo.*

*Kasama naman po ni Nesthy ang kanyang mga coaches, (possibly, Coach Boy Velasco at Coach Reynaldo Galido) gayundin ang iba pang kinatawan mula sa Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines o ABAP. Nagpapasalamat po tayo sa kanila sa pag-alalay kay Nesthy na ngayon ay isa na ring world champion.*

*Maraming, maraming salamat po sa inyo. Muli, congratulations, Carlos at Nesthy, at sa lahat ng ating mga kababayang nakahugot ng inspirasyon, nabuhayan ng lakas ng loob at muling napag-alab ang kanilang diwang makabansa dahil sa tagumpay ng ating mga atleta.*

*By Senator Pacquiao*

One of our homegrown athletes took the world by surprise by delivering an exemplary performance at the World Artistic Championships held in Germany this October.

Our very own 19-year old Carlos Yulo brought pride and honor to the country by being the first Filipino athlete to win a gold medal in the competition. We rejoice because we have another outstanding Filipino athlete to qualify for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics together with EJ Obiena in gymnastics.

Carlos is also First Southeast Asian male world champion and he will be competing in the 2019 Southeast Asian Games which will be held in the country this month. Young Carlos stated that, "In life, there is no secret, just hard work."

With this, the Pasay-raised athlete traveled to Tokyo, Japan to further work on his talent and to focus on his passion in gymnastics. All the hard work paid off with his world-shocking victories.

Carlos, congratulations on your victory and continue inspiring others to pursue their passion and to achieve greater heights.

*Mabuhay ka at ang ating mga atleta!*

*By Senator Go*

The 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2019 will forever remain a momentous date in Philippine sporting history. On that day, the Philippine national

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anthem was played at the World Artistic Gymnastics Championships for the first time after our very own gymnast, Carlos Edriel Yulo, captured our first-ever gold medal in the men's floor exercise in the history of the prestigious sporting competition.

Because of this feat, the nineteen-year-old Yulo became the first Filipino and Southeast Asian male to score a gold in the said event. The victory also secured him a berth in the upcoming 2020 Olympics to be held in Tokyo, Japan.

This triumph of Mr. Yulo is nothing short of an extraordinary achievement by a Filipino athlete well deserving of recognition and praise from this esteemed Chamber. It is for this reason that I have filed a resolution recognizing and commending Mr. Yulo for the pride and glory he recently brought our country.

It is my hope that his victory serves as an inspiration to all Filipino athletes and aspiring athletes to pursue their passion for sports and excel in it.

May this recognition also serve as a reminder to our athletes that they have the government and the entire Filipino nation rooting for them each time they compete and represent our nation in the world stage.

As a country that is never scarce of sporting talent and skills, I am optimistic that Mr. Yulo's achievement — and the achievements of all our athletes who made waves in international competitions this year — is just the start of the renaissance of Philippine sporting glory.

#### **ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 163**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body adopted Proposed Senate Resolution No. 163, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 174, 176, 178, 180, 190, 199, and 207, subject to style.

#### **COAUTHORS**

Senator Zubiri manifested that all senators present were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 163.

#### **PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 171**

With the consent of the Body, upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 171, entitled

#### **RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING BOXING CHAMPION NESTHY PETECIO FOR BAGGING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE FEATHER- WEIGHT DIVISION OF THE 2019 AIBA WOMEN'S WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD LAST OCTOBER 13, 2019 IN ULAN-UDE, RUSSIA,**

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 175, 177, 179, 181, 192, 200, and 206.

#### **SPONSORSHIP SPEECHES**

Senator Zubiri said that Senators Lapid, Pacquiao, Revilla, Villanueva, Go, De Lima, and Binay would be submitting their sponsorship speeches for insertion into the record.

#### *By Senator Lapid*

Honorable colleagues of this august Chamber, it is my honor to present to you Senate Resolution No. 171, entitled "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."

It is with great pride and honor that I join my esteemed colleagues in honoring Ms. Nesthy Petecio for winning the gold medal in the Featherweight Division of the 2019 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships.

Despite the lack of opportunities for female boxers in the country, Ms. Petecio pursued boxing at a young age and has been a boxer for two decades. Twenty years of perseverance, passion and dedication and now she is finally reaping the fruits of her labor.

Ms. Petecio continues to serve as an inspiration to many young Filipinas who aspire to be a boxing champ like her someday and we will continue to support her in achieving more of her dreams as an athlete.

#### *By Senator Angara*

On two successive days last October, two Filipino athletes won gold medals in their respective sports.

#### *Gymnastics Gold*

On October 12, Leveriza Street resident

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Carlos Edriel Yulo broke records and became the first Filipino and first male ASEAN gymnast to win the gold medal at the 49th FIG1 Artistic Gymnastics World Championships held in Stuttgart, Germany. In fact, at 19 years old, Carlos was the youngest participant at the international competition. Dubbed a 4-foot 9-inch tall dynamo, Carlos earned himself a slot at the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

#### *Best in Boxing*

A day after Carlos's victory, Tuban, Davao del Sur native Nesthy Petecio emerged victorious at the 2019 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships at Ulan-Ude, Russia. Her gold-medal win is in fact the country's second, following the flyweight victory of Josie Gabuco in 2012.

Carlos and Nesthy's victories truly bring honor and prestige to the country. Our sponsorship and presentation of the Senate's resolutions to commend them is but a humble gesture to recognize their feats. We are likewise glad to note that under the National Athletes Incentives Law (RA 10699) that we authored and sponsored, Carlos and Nesthy will be receiving hefty rewards for their medals.

However, that their victories have earned very limited fanfare outside of his august Chamber only speak volumes to how the achievements of many of our national athletes often go unnoticed — and are hence easily forgotten. The silence also points to how we as a society can do so much more to support and honor our athletes.

Consider that Carlos in fact has been training in Japan, under a Japanese coach in recent years — even though his passion for the sport was ignited when he first saw Filipino gymnasts at the Rizal Memorial Stadium. Hopefully, once the Philippine Sports Training Center is constructed, more of our compatriot-athletes can hone their skills here on our shores.

Consider on the other hand that Nesthy — who's 27 years old now — has actually been boxing since she was seven. But since there is hardly any grassroots development program when it comes to boxing for women, it took eight years before Nesthy actually gained the opportunity to showcase her talent and become part of the women's national boxing team. I have always argued that if we aim to earn more gold medals, we should ramp up our grassroots initiatives particularly in identifying and training our young athletes.

The saying goes that a broken clock can be right two times a day. In the same vein, we can produce two gold medalists, even though there is much to fix with our sports development programs and policies.

And so while we pay tribute to Nesthy and Carlos, we also reiterate our commitment to continue pushing for policies that will help us care for and train our national athletes, broaden our chances of winning Olympic medals, and ultimately, making sports another hallmark of Filipino pride.

#### *By Senator Binay*

It is my privilege and honor to sponsor Senate Resolution No. 206 — Congratulating and Commending Filipina Boxer Nesthy Petecio for winning the gold medal in the 2019 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships Featherweight Division.

*Bilang kapwa Pilipino at babae, ikinagalak ko ang pagkapanalong ito ni Ms. Petecio.*

We can learn a lot from Ms. Petecio's experience. She has shown grit in the face of many challenges, and particularly amid disappointments in her career. *Hindi naging madali ang karera ni Ms. Petecio.* She had faced various disappointments in her quest for boxing glory. Yet, despite all these, *patuloy siyang lumaban, hindi lamang para sa kanya at sa kanyang pamilya, kundi para sa buong bansa.*

Ms. Petecio represents the strength and resilience of the Filipino woman. *Sa bawat pagsubok na dinanas niya, buo ang paniniwala niyang kaya niyang manaig.* Her finally getting the gold medal is not a miracle, but rather a deserved reward for always giving her all.

*Naniniwala akong simula pa lang ito.* I am one with the Filipino nation in rooting for her and believing that she will finally secure the Olympic berth that she has set her eyes on.

In view of the foregoing, it is with utmost pride that I sponsor this resolution commending Nesthy Petecio for the honor she has brought to our country. *Nawa'y magsilbi siyang inspirasyon sa iba pa nating atleta na huwag sumuko at bumangon sa bawat dagok ng buhay sa pagkamit ng kanilang hangarin.*

*Mabuhay ka, Nesthy, at mabuhay ang atletang Pilipino!*

#### *By Senator Villanueva*

*Isang kagalakan at karangalan po sa inyong lingkod ang magbigay ng pagkilala sa dalawang atletang Pilipino na dahilan kung*

*PN*

*bakit muling iwinagayway ang bandila ng Pilipinas sa buong mundo.*

*Sisimulan ko po sa isang katanungan: Bakit po kaya na sa tuwing may Pilipinong sumasabak sa kahit anong kompetisyon sa ibang bansa — lalo na po sa larangan ng isports, tila napupuno ng inspirasyon, ng tapang, ng diwang makabansa ang puso ng sinumang kababayan nating nakatunghay sa laban?*

*Nadama ko rin po ito habang pinapanuod ko ang laban ni Carlos Edriel Yulo sa 2019 World Artistic Gymnastics Championships sa Stuttgart, Germany. Katulad na pakiramdan din ang naranasan ko habang sumasabak sa boxing ring si Nesthy Alcayde Petecio sa 2019 Aiba Women's World Boxing Championships na ginanap sa Ulan-Ude, Russia.*

*Isa, dalawa, tatlo at higit pang beses kong pinanuod ang laban nina Carlos at Nesthy at hindi po nagbabago ang damdamin ko. Pinakamasarap ang marinig ang deklarasyong sila ang naka-GOLD sa laban — Kampeon sa floor exercise si Carlos at kampeon sa featherweight division si Nesthy.*

*Ang tagumpay nina Carlos at Nesthy ay panibagong testamento na wala ng puwang ang kaisipan na "kapag gawa sa Pinas, low class." Wala ng puwang ang mentalidad na "pwede na" o "bahala na" na malaking hadlang para mag-excel o maipakita ang tunay na galing ng mga Pilipino.*

*Kapag ang pangarap ay nilahukan ng sakripisyo, dedikasyon at nasyonalismo — may "Carlos" na ngayon po ay ang kauna-unahang Pinoy at male southeast Asian na World Champion sa Gymnastics, at may "Nesthy" na ngayon po ay ang ikalawang Pinay World Champion sa featherweight division sa boxing.*

*Ginoong Pangulo, mga iginagalang kong mga kasamahan:*

*Napakahalaga po sa ating lahat, lalo na po sa ating mga kabataan, ang tagumpay ng ating mga kababayan sa mga kompetisyong ginagawa sa international arena tulad ng mga kompetisyong nilahukan nina Carlos at Nesthy sa Germany at Russia.*

*Marahil ito rin po ang sagot sa tanong na ibinato ko kanina — dahil nagbubukas ito ng pagkakataong makita ng bawat Pilipino ang kanyang sarili na sumasabak din sa laban ng buhay; na tulad din nina Carlos at Nesthy na naniwala sa kanilang sarili at nagsumikap nang husto, kahit sino ka pa at kahit ano pa*

*iyong pinagdaraan ay kaya mo ring manalo sa buhay.*

*Muling iwawagayway ni Carlos Yulo ang watawat ng Pilipinas sa Tokyo Olympics sa 2020 (kasama rin si EJ Obiena sa larangan naman ng pole vault). Subalit ngayong taon, sina Carlos, Nesthy at EJ at iba pang atletang Pilipino — sa wakas, dito mismo sa ating sariling bayan, sa paparating na Southeast Asian Games — ay sama-samang magpapamalas ng husay at tapang ng lahing Pilipino.*

*Kaya lubos ang aming pagkilala sa inyo Carlos at Nesthy dahil ang isang araw na laban n'yo sa Europa ay matagal na panahong paghuhugutan ng inspirasyon ng ating mga kababayan na bumangon din araw-araw at lumaban sa buhay.*

*Lakip din po ng pagkilalang ito ang ating pagtanaw ng utang na loob at pasasalamat sa kanilang pamilya — narito po ang lolo ni Carlos na si Ginoong Rodrigo Frisco na unang nakadiskubre ng potensyal ng kanyang apo na si Carlos na ngayon ay isa ng world champion; narito rin po si Bb. Cynthia Carrion, ang Pangulo ng Gymnastics Association of the Philippines, na naging tulay para mabigyan ng de-kalidad na training si Carlos Yulo.*

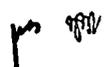
*Kasama naman po ni Nesthy ang kanyang mga coaches, (possibly, Coach Boy Velasco at Coach Reynaldo Galido) gayundin ang iba pang kinatawan mula sa Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines o ABAP. Nagpapasalamat po tayo sa kanila sa pag-alalay kay Nesthy na ngayon ay isa na ring world champion.*

*Maraming, maraming salamat po sa inyo. Muli, congratulations, Carlos at Nesthy, at sa lahat ng ating mga kababayang nakahugot ng inspirasyon, nabuhayan ng lakas ng loob at muling napag-alab ang kanilang diwang makabansa dahil sa tagumpay ng ating mga atleta.*

*By Senator Pacquiao*

*Nag-uumapaw ang ating galak sa pagwagi ni Nesthy Petecio sa featherweight division ng 2019 AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships noong Oktubre sa Russia.*

*Nesthy Petecio won via split decision against Russian Liudmila Vorontsove. Despite being in the opponent's homecourt, the 27-year old athlete delivered more solid blows and displayed composure and talent in the three-round affair.*



Nesthy Petencio is the second Filipino world champion in women's boxing since Josie Gabuco won the light flyweight gold in 2012.

With this victory, she is now on track in her bid to land on the Southeast Asian Games podium and secure a spot in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

*Isang malaking inspirasyon ang tiyaga at sipag na ipinamalas ni Nesthy sa kanyang paghahanda bago pa makamit ang tagumpay.* The Davao-grown athlete engaged into boxing and trained hard since she was seven.

With this, I encourage parents to support their children to engage in sports and for schools to give equal premium to sports with academics.

Nesthy's perseverance and hard work continues to serve as an inspiration to all homegrown athletes and to the Filipino citizenry.

*Higit sa medalyang ginto, dala mo ang paggalang at pagpugay ng sambayanang Pilipino.*

Congratulations, Nesthy Petencio! We are proud of you!

*By Senator Go*

Our country has produced world boxing champions. From Gabriel "Flash" Elorde to our colleague, Senator Manny "Pacman" Pacquiao, who is the only boxer to win in eight different world titles. Today, we honor another boxer different from all the world champions. We honor a woman who has fought her way to bring home glory — a gold medal finish in the Featherweight Division of the 2019 Amateur International Boxing Association (AIBA) Women's World Boxing Championships.

Nesthy Alcayde Petencio, who hails from Davao del Sur, defeated her opponent and ruled the division. She is now the second Filipina who bagged the gold medal and will continue her journey towards the 2019 Southeast Asian Games and the Asia Olympic qualifier for an opportunity to earn a ticket to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Nesthy's triumph is also the nation's triumph and an inspiration to many young Filipinos aspiring to be national athletes, most especially in boxing.

Despite juggling her time with school and training, Nesthy showed that hardwork, determination, and heart are keys to success.

I hope this recognition will also serve as an inspiration to many Filipinos that the government is here to support the country's sports programs and that we believe in the indomitable Filipino spirit.

We are a nation full of talent and I have always believed that we will never get short of that. May the triumph of Nesthy give light to many programs in boxing and in other sports. I am confident that the government will also push further in recognizing extraordinary talent especially to other athletes who have been making waves in international competitions.

This is only a start of the renaissance of our sporting glory and I am positive that there will be more athletes who will dominate the international scene in the near future.

May our flag rise high in every competition anywhere around the world.

#### **ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 171**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body adopted Proposed Senate Resolution No. 171, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 175, 177, 179, 181, 192, 200, and 206, subject to style.

#### **COAUTHORS**

Senator Zubiri manifested that all senators are coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 171.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

*It was 3:12 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:21 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### **DEFERMENT OF THE REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body deferred the Reference of Business to a later hour.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1122 (Continuation)**

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

*Handwritten initials*

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

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

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Poe, sponsor of the measure, and Senator Drilon for his interpellation.

**INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR DRILON**

Asked by Senator Drilon if the commemoration falls on the third Sunday of November, Senator Poe answered in the affirmative.

Saying that there is no question therefore on whether or not it is a paid holiday because it is a Sunday, Senator Drilon asked if the purpose of the bill is only to commemorate and remind the public of the need to be conscious of road safety. Senator Poe replied in the affirmative, adding that the bill also aims to remind the government of the need to implement regulations and projects that would help prevent loss brought about by road accidents.

Senator Poe thanked Senator Drilon for clarifying that the holiday is a nonworking holiday as it falls on a Sunday anyway.

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS**

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

**POE AMENDMENT**

On page 1, line 7, as proposed by Senator Poe, there being no objection, the Body approved to replace the word "Week" with DAY.

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS**

There being no other individual amendment, upon

motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of individual amendments.

**APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 1122 ON SECOND READING**

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, Senate Bill No. 1122 was approved on Second Reading.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1122**

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

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUEST**

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri acknowledged the presence in the gallery of Gov. Edwin Juhanib of Davao Del Norte.

Senate President Sotto welcomed Governor Juhanib to the Senate.

**SPECIAL ORDER**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 17 Re: Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 106, 107, 108, and 123 and the privilege speech of Senator Gordon delivered on August 27, 2019.

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body considered Committee Report No. 17 Re: Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 106, 107, 108, and 126 and the Privilege Speech of Senator Gordon delivered on August 27, 2019.

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 committee report was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Gordon for the sponsorship.

## SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR GORDON

Senator Gordon submitted to the Body the recommendations of the Committees on Justice and Human Rights, Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes; and Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations, and their immediate implementation on the issue of GCTA and other prison anomalies as embodied in Committee Report No. 17.

Preliminarily, Senator Gordon stated that the police are at the center of the investigation. He acknowledged that the investigations were only made possible because of the resolutions that were filed, such as Proposed Senate Resolution No. 106 filed by Senator Drilon to conduct and inquire, in aid of legislation, on 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. Likewise, he mentioned Proposed Senate Resolution No. 107 introduced by Senate President Sotto pertaining to the same GCTA, entitled "Resolution directing the Senate Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; 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."

He said that also included was Proposed Senate Resolution No. 108 by Senator Binay also relative to the Good Conduct Time Allowance Law. He said that Proposed Senate Resolution No. 122, on the other hand, entitled "Resolution urging the Department of Justice and Department of the 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," was proposed by Senator Dela Rosa.

As regards his own privilege speech on the GCTA, Senator Gordon stated that it allowed the Committees to also *motu proprio* conduct an investigation. He explained that while the joint committees were investigating, in the course of the testimony of General Magalong on the conditions

prevailing in the penitentiary, the "agaw-bato" scheme, which involves the recycling of recovered drugs from previous operations, came out. He said that it was an earth-shaking revelation of national interest that prompted Senate President Sotto and Senator Drilon to reiterate the need for the Blue Ribbon Committee to *motu proprio* pursue the investigation; thus, the GCTA investigation branched out into hearing the other anomalies in prison.

Relative to the "agaw-bato" scheme, Senator Gordon expressed admiration for General Magalong, a PMA graduate who dared speak up against his fellow PMA alumnus. Since it was revealed in an open session, he said that the testimony of General Magalong was submitted to the President out of courtesy to him for his war on drugs which has become very controversial and continues to be so.

Citing the story of Captain Horatius of the Gate by Thomas Babington Macaulay, Senator Gordon quoted: "Then out spake brave Horatius, The Captain of the Gate: To every man upon this earth, death cometh soon or late. And how can man die better than facing fearful odds, for the ashes of his fathers, and the temples of his gods." Similarly, he believed that General Magalong had taken a great risk for standing up for justice despite the tradition of protecting a fellow alumnus from shame.

Senator Gordon stated that never in the annals of the history of the Blue Ribbon Committee had six generals come out to testify against their fellow officer, General Oscar Albayalde. He narrated that then PNP Chief General Alan Purisima started the investigation by calling on General Magalong who was then with the CIDG; after General Magalong's investigation, Region III Director General Petrasanta also conducted an investigation and recommended the dismissal of 13 policemen, while General Albayalde was placed on a floating status.

From the testimonies of General Purisima, General Petrasanta, General Magalong, General Aquino, General Lacadin and General Mijares, Senator Gordon said that the Joint Committees came out with a finding that, at the very least, there was a dereliction of duty on the part of General Albayalde. He also raised the possibility of a conspiracy that allowed the policemen, led by a certain Major Baloyo who was the intelligence officer of General Albayalde, to perpetrate their ill will on November 29, 2013, which was not a raid but a buy-bust.

Senator Gordon pointed out that General Albayalde already erred when he claimed that he received information on December 23 that there were drug operations going on in a certain locality in Pampanga, a claim that was totally different from his statement on December 29 that they only acted based on the report that they conducted a raid there.

Senator Gordon informed the Body that at the time of the incident, General Albayalde, who was then a colonel, was the provincial police director of Pampanga under whose command was then Major Baloyo, the intelligence officer who reconnoitered the buy-bust operation.

Senator Gordon deplored the way the raiding team disregarded the rules on buy-bust operations — pre-raid conference, summary of information of the target, special report, surveillance report, contact meeting report, development report to ensure the safety of the apprehending team, and coordination with PDEA regarding seized or confiscated items.

Senator Gordon noted that the apprehending team even failed to observe the chain of custody rule in drug cases, which require: (1) the drug samples to be tested by the PDEA forensic laboratory; (2) a certification of forensic laboratory results; (3) filing of a criminal case; (4) ocular inspection of the confiscated drugs; (5) the destruction of seized or confiscated items; (6) submission of the sample to the court; (7) a sworn certification to the fact of destruction after the promulgation of the criminal case and samples presented as evidence; and (8) evidence to be returned and properly destroyed by PDEA.

He also cited inconsistencies in the testimonies of the team: they claimed that the raid occurred in the morning but the PDEA revealed that they received the report already in the afternoon. He also mentioned General Ferro, the lead investigator who, together with witnesses, confirmed that there were plenty of drugs in the house.

Senator Gordon stated that Major Baloyo who was supposed to be conducting a buy-bust operation, did not even know who owned the house; where the drug lord, Johnson Lee, resides; and where the amount of P100,000 came from. He expressed disbelief on how the operation was conducted and he questioned if it was regular for two of the police

officers to enter the house and upon apprehending the drug lord, took out the phone and made a call. He said that there were two conflicting stories that came out: one narration was that nobody reported the incident to General Albayalde who, as commanding officer, should have known the particular time and place of the operation and that the team seized 36 kilos of drugs from the house; the second story was that a man, half-naked, jumped out of the window, later found by barangay captains in Pampanga and escorted by barangay tanods to CAFGU. He said that per Baloyo's report, the team had to remove all the evidence from the house and to bring the same to their headquarters as commotion was arising in the subdivision. Additionally, he said that Baloyo and his raiding team consisting of 10 men were intimidated by two security guards. What was more upsetting, he said, was that even Baloyo instructed that the witness named Cesar Cabag be brought to the headquarters, but Baloyo himself went missing for three to four hours as he brought with him the half-naked man, confiscated the latter's passport, and concocted the story that they have confiscated 200 kilos of shabu from a Fortuner vehicle owned by the half-naked man, identified as Johnson Lee, a Chinese who later became a Korean, and that in the process, the suspect disappeared.

Senator Gordon disclosed that the Blue Ribbon Committee and the Committee on Justice and Human Rights requested the Korean Ambassador to find Johnson Lee who, two days ago, appeared in his office. He wondered how Baloyo and his group were able to get the passport of Johnson Lee and made him appear as the drug lord when it was Ding Wen Kung that should be captured.

Senator Gordon stated that the Korean claimed to have handed his passport at the hotel where his photo might have been copied; in fact, even his LTO driver's license was also forged.

Noting the very deep operation of certain government officials, Senator Gordon said that it has been symptomatic in every investigation by the Blue Ribbon Committee that foreigners—either Chinese or Korean — were included in the fiasco accompanied by a high official from the PNP or the BOC. He observed that the high officials would usually surrender the small items but not the bulky ones. He lamented the manner by which such officials deceive people by portraying the capture of certain offenders so that they would be given commendations when, in reality,

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when, in reality, loads of drugs were disseminated nationwide.

Senator Gordon stated that the court of Pampanga granted the demurrer to evidence against Ding Wen Kung as he was still to be captured; thus, what transpired at a house in Woodbridge Subdivision was not a buy-bust operation but a barge-in, a *hulidap* where the arresting team took Johnson Lee and returned with Ding Wen Kung (*palit ulo*), causing the dismissal of the case filed against the latter. Additionally, he said that a number of generals, including General Gaerlan, attested to the deception of the buy-bust operations, claiming further that General Albayalde saved the 13 men belonging to Baloyo's team.

Meanwhile, Senator Gordon said that General Albayalde crossed the line when he started talking to his friends in the PMA as then PNP Chief Purisima instructed General Magalong to investigate certain police officers who have been relishing in luxury cars and cash from a drug operation.

Although the "*agaw-bato*" scheme was already in operation when General Albayalde was appointed provincial director, Senator Gordon said that he still kept quiet when 13 of his men were apprehended and he did not even follow up on their case in view of the claim that he was immediately placed under administrative leave (non-duty status). Furthermore, he noted that General Lacadin, in the investigation, openly quoted General Albayalde who allegedly remarked, "*Nag-iimbestiga pala kayo, wala naman po akong nakuha riyon*" or "*maliit lamang ang nakuha ko riyon*," words to that effect.

Senator Gordon said that General Albayalde talked to General Aquino, another of his senior officers, telling him not to implement the order of dismissal of Region III Police Director General Petrasanta. Later on, he said that General Corpus, a classmate from Class 1986, came in and suggested that the 13 men be demoted.

Senator Gordon also mentioned Senator Lacson asking the team who the lookout was, to which they replied that it was Lacsamana who, in turn, denied, claiming that he was not around at the time of the raid because he was on leave. He said that Baloyo kept lying all the way and Gen. Albayalde, with his power and influence, transferred his men—Baloyo, now demoted to major, was assigned in Tagaytay;

while Inspector Joven de Guzman was sent to Antipolo. He said that Inspector de Guzman was dismissed from police service by General Gamboa when he initiated an *agaw-bato* operations and took P70,000 and a cellphone from the victim.

Notwithstanding Secretary Año's comment—"*Walang kaso, walang ebidensya*," which could render the case against General Agbayalde and his men moot and academic, Senator Gordon expressed belief that the finest officers should be commended while the worst officers should be jailed and cases should be filed against them for the sake of the country and for the sake of the PMA and the PNPA.

He further hoped that the findings that came out of the investigation would be studied by the Department of Justice.

Senator Gordon said it would be unfair for the eight officers who honestly came out, did not violate tradition, and spoke for the honor and traditions of the Philippine Military Academy and the Philippine National Police. He said that the Senate has to honor what they did since the integrity of the police force is important and the people deserve to know what will happen to the rogue policemen to make sure that their duty to serve and protect would be followed. He also commended the staff of the committees involved in the hearings for their thorough investigation on the matter.

In submitting the committee report, Senator Gordon reminded his colleagues of their oath to protect the people and make sure that laws are followed. He then discussed the recommendations that were stated in the Committee Report No. 17, to wit:

- Make the Internal Affairs Service (IAS) truly independent by taking it out of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

He said that investigations on police officers have been pending and not acted on for a long time and are also subject to appeal to the Chief PNP. He said that in his talks with Senator Drilon and the Secretary of Justice, IAS might be suited to be transferred to the Office of the Ombudsman in a section handling military and police cases.

- Amend the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 or Republic Act 9165.

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Senator Gordon said persons of good repute – retired judges, lawyers, and teachers – should be included to monitor if the procedures and chain of custody in drug buy-bust were followed.

- Disciplinary actions on rogue policemen should not be merely a reassignment to Mindanao or other posts but immediate suspension or dismissal.
- Confiscation of service firearms and badges of rogue policemen who have been dismissed or suspended or facing criminal and administrative charges.

Senator Gordon said this is to prevent further misuse of power and abuse by the said rogue policemen.

- Shorten the review of administrative cases filed against rogue policemen.
- Create a training program which will conduct mandatory training on values, character formation and leadership for all policemen in order to professionalize the police force in all levels.
- Police officers should have four-year college course, although not necessarily taken from the PNPA. Police officers should also focus on specific after-college training such as a boot camp of 27 weeks under a specialized training in forensics, information technology crimes, and white-collar crimes investigation techniques.
- Remove the *kabaro* system.

Senator Gordon said the principles of *mistah* is a good option but *mistah*, *bok*, and classmate must be reconfigured back to its original intention. He stressed that Police officers should uphold the value of loyalty to country, justice and to country above self and not loyalty to a *mistah* alone.

- Resignation from office is not exemption from criminal liability. If no suspension can be imposed, fines may be imposed chargeable to whatever benefits.

Senator Gordon said that administrative charges may still be filed against General Albayalde before he retires and that probable criminal charges must continue to be investigated by the best lawyers of the Department of Justice.

- Choose a PNP Director General who not only has a clear record but one whose stress is the cleansing of the ranks, the reinstatement of proper values — love of country over self.

Senator Gordon said that salaries of the PNP can be raised, and values and character-building can be inculcated and focused on but he warned that any lofty system created will crumble from the rot of greed, covetousness, and blind pursuit of power if the needed values of principled leadership are not fortified. He then presented additional recommendations as follows:

- There is a need to perpetuate the testimonies of possible witnesses.
- The arresting officer Senior Police Official 1 Ronald Santos, who never appeared in spite of several subpoenas, should be captured and made to testify.
- The Bureau of Immigration must ensure the barring of undesirable foreign nationals from entering the country.

Senator Gordon cited as an example the visible involvement of Chinese nationals in the drug trade. He said that there was clear participation in smuggling of shabu using steel canisters and eventually magnetic lifters. He added that Chinese nationals involved in the drug trade pay in advance a six-month rent in the amount of Php 900,000 but would leave their rented place after only a month after their shabu transaction is completed.

He further pointed out that 90 percent of shabu smuggled in the country came from China under the control of Chinese nationals while others came from Vietnam, and Myanmar. He said that authorities of those countries should primarily catch them already from their shores. He stressed that more than corrupting public trust, these police officers have been Trojan horses for the very drug addiction and destruction that they were entrusted to prevent. He said that these policemen violated public trust that suspension and dismissal from service is not enough.

Senator Gordon noted how, in 2013, a police colonel was placed on a floating status because of a questionable buy-bust operation in that province that involved 13 policemen under him. He said that he found it suspicious that then Colonel Albayalde, aspiring to be a general, never protested being placed

on floating status and that he even recommended himself, and his men, for an award which was inappropriate.

Senator Gordon stated that there is a need to ensure the safety of the people and that everyone wants to trust the police force. He said that if the country cannot trust its policemen, then the country has a broken system. He added that the government can start reforms in the PNP, the courts, and the IAS, and that now is the best start.

Senator Gordon said that never in the annals of the Blue Ribbon Committee and in the country's history had he seen eight generals coming in and testifying against their fellow PMA alumnus.

Saying that the Senate cannot wait for the next round of scandal or malfeasance only to go through the same farce, Senator Gordon said they should demand the resignation of the involved official and accountability of public officers. There is a need to focus and to get back to those who are concerned, he added.

Senator Gordon said that the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee was created under the Rules of the Senate to investigate "malfeasance, misfeasance, and non-feasance in office by officers and employees of the government, its branches, agencies, subdivisions, and instrumentalities; implementation of the provision of the Constitution on nepotism; and investigation of any matter of public interest on its own initiative or brought to its attention by any member of the Senate." He added that after the investigation, it is also the Senate's duty to point that out, make recommendations for prosecution where warranted.

Senator Gordon posited that General Albayalde is guilty of malfeasance because he profited from the sale of shabu made by PSupt. Baloyo and his men. He pointed out that General Albayalde became even more guilty when he told then General Lacadin that he only got a small amount from the sale, and requested General Lacadin's successor, General Aquino, not to implement the dismissal order signed by General Petrasanta. He noted that General Albayalde also wasted the time of the Court when the case against Ding Wen Kun was dismissed and the real suspect, Johnson Lee, was nowhere to be found.

Senator Gordon asserted that Colonel Baloyo must produce Mr. Lee. Thus, he announced that the

Committee was not closing the hearings on the matter and that Colonel Baloyo would remain in the New Bilibid Prison in Muntinlupa until he decides to tell the truth.

He noted that it was a rare moment that the Committee would be faced by former and active duty generals.

Thereafter, Senator Gordon read the acts committed by PSupt. Baloyo and his men: "Malfeasance for failure to properly account for the seized contraband; for conducting a sham buy-bust in the house owned by Ding Wen Kun; for planting evidence and arrest of Roel Cabag and Ding Wen Kun; and for taking items seized during an alleged buy-bust operation." He said that like his men, General Albayalde could also be held accountable.

Senator Gordon stated that while he was not happy with the turn of events, he was proud that he belonged to a Senate that would pursue justice, integrity and practice *acta non verba* – actions, not words. He said that to perpetuate and start the renewal of the country everyday in the Senate and to make sure that people not only believe in their Senate and to protect the nation as representatives of the people, they must make sure that they live by its code and in accordance with their oath.

Thereafter, he thanked the Members who signed the committee report and participated in the hearings – Senate President Sotto, Senators Drilon, Lacson, Tolentino and Go, among others, for contributing to the tapestry of the investigation, for their patience, support, and for the pursuit of justice.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR DRILON

On behalf of the Minority, Senator Drilon commended Senator Gordon as the chair of the Blue Ribbon Committee and the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, for his perseverance, hard work and long hours that he dedicated in gathering evidence, even to the point of working on holidays. He said that Senator Gordon had put in tremendous and immense work in preparing the committee report.

Senator Drilon also pointed out and as mentioned by Senate President Sotto in one of the hearings, that the remark that he and Senator Gordon were playing politics was uncalled for and had absolutely no basis. He pointed out that the issue of ninja cops arose

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because of the statement made by General Aquino in the course of the budget hearing of the PDEA that recycling anomalies in the PNP had worsened. He said that it was grossly unfair that the Body would be accused of playing politics.

Senator Drilon again commended the Blue Ribbon Committee for submitting to the floor a comprehensive report, albeit preliminary at the moment.

#### REMARKS OF SENATOR GORDON

Senator Gordon thanked Senator Drilon for the kind words as he also expressed his appreciation for the help that Senator Drilon extended, in particular in ensuring that everything that was said during the executive session was true. He stated that he was really touched by Senator Drilon's commendation to him and to the Committee.

In turn, Senator Gordon commended the Blue Ribbon Committee staff for their hard work, dedication and for taking on the challenge, despite his demanding style. He also extended his commendation to the rest of the Secretariat, including the OSAA, who arrested some of the people during the hearing. He believed that the country has a Senate that the people could be proud of, hardworking and dedicated.

Senator Gordon stated that coming from General Aquino who commented that the truth would always come out when Senators Lacson, Drilon, Senate President Sotto and himself work together and no politics are involved, there is indeed hope in the military and the police and the people can be proud of them when they bring out their best. He then expressed his gratitude to Senate President Sotto, Senators Drilon, Lacson and the other senators who helped.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR TOLENTINO

Senator Tolentino informed the Body that he was one of the members who signed the committee report and he commended Senator Gordon and the Blue Ribbon Committee and Committee on Justice and Human Rights for their dedication and hard work in sleuthing and producing the report.

Senator Tolentino reiterated his marginal note that he was taking cognizance that the *agaw-bato*

transpired in 2013 or three years before the Duterte Administration. Anent the Sponsor's recommendation that the Executive Department should make the necessary adjustments, he cited the appointment/designation of the Vice President as co-chair of the anti-drug body in leading the anti-drug campaign.

Echoing the oft-repeated clause "let justice be done though heavens may fall," Senator Tolentino reiterated his concurrence in the separate comment made by Senator Marcos that there is really a continuing need to establish integrity within the Philippine National Police as an institution. He commended Senator Gordon for mentioning the vigilance of the Senate as the country's bulwark of justice and that it should be preserved. However, he took exception to the recommendation that the Philippine National Police Academy should be abolished. He believed that an institution should not be abolished just because it has produced some bad elements; instead, it should all the more be strengthened as an academic institution and that reforms should be instituted.

In conclusion, Senator Tolentino stated that Section 14, Article III of the Constitution should now be the determinative guidepost that the report be passed on to the Department of Justice, the Office of the Ombudsman or let the courts decide and the guilty be penalized.

#### REMARKS OF SENATOR DRILON

Senator Drilon stated that as he manifested earlier, there was no politics involved in crafting the committee report. Thus, he took exception to the implication of Senator Tolentino's comments that the *agaw-bato* scheme started in 2013, during the past administration. He asserted that the issue had nothing to do with the Aquino administration because, as declared by General Aquino, it is a continuing problem. He stressed that there was no politics involved and that he would not let the statement of Senator Tolentino pass without being challenged.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR LACSON

Senator Lacson stated that he was glad to hear Senator Gordon mentioning that the Senate was not closing the inquiry in light of the new jurisprudence in G.R. No. 234608, *Balag vs Senate* which came about when several fraternity members challenged

before the Court the contempt citation that was issued by the Senate against them. He said that in the *Balag* case, the High Court ruled that "the period of imprisonment under the inherent power of contempt by the Senate during inquiries in aid of legislation should only last until the termination of the legislative inquiry under which the said power is invoked. Further, the Court rules that the legislative inquiry of the Senate terminates on two instances: 1) upon the approval or disapproval of the Committee Report; and 2) The legislative inquiry of the Senate also terminate upon the expiration of on Congress'. He said that the 18<sup>th</sup> Congress would expire on June 30, 2022, and that it was pointed out earlier that it was a partial report.

Agreeing with Senator Lacson, Senate President Sotto stated that even if the committee report is approved that day, the Body would only be approving a partial committee report of both the Blue Ribbon Committee and Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GORDON**

Senator Gordon clarified that as regards the PNPA, it was just a recommendation. He stated that any changes in the PNPA would have to go through legislation and would surely be a subject for debate. He explained that while he tends to exaggerate at times, it was meant to send a very strong message to the people that the PNPA must reiterate its core values. He stated that the academy has a big budget, and the police involved belong to the PNPA Class of 1999. He said that the PNP is civilian in character, but national in scope. He stressed that its core values must be taught and retaught all the time.

As former mayors, Senator Gordon stated that both he and Senator Tolentino know that the Constitution clearly provides that the National Police Commission (Napolcom) is the disciplinary authority over the police force but has evolved to become an appellate to its authority.

Senator Gordon explained that the Body ought to look into the idea of having a separate body that would investigate erring police personnel. He said that had the National Police Commission been civilianized, it would not have taken six years to decide on the issue, the action and decision would have been swift. In addition, he believed that the law

creating the Napolcom as an appellate authority must be amended so that it could come up with a professional police force.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT SOTTO**

Senate President Sotto reminded the Body that they should take note of the manifestation of Senator Lacson that what the Blue Ribbon Committee submitted was a partial committee report.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17**

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

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 7 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1076 (Continuation)**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1076 (Committee Report No. 7), entitled

#### **AN ACT ESTABLISHING MALASAKIT CENTERS IN ALL DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) HOSPITALS IN THE COUNTRY AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

Senator Zubiri stated that the parliamentary status was the period of individual amendments.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Go, sponsor of the measure.

#### **GO AMENDMENTS**

As proposed by Senator Go, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments on page 4, one after the other:

1. On line 3, replace the word "that" with TO;
2. After line 21, insert a new paragraph to read as follows:

PUBLIC HOSPITALS WITH EXISTING  
MALASAKIT CENTER SHALL COMPLY  
WITH THE ABOVEMENTIONED  
STANDARDS AND CRITERIA. THE DOH

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MAY AUGMENT MALASAKIT CENTER PERSONNEL IN OTHER PUBLIC HOSPITALS, SUBJECT TO STANDARDS AND CRITERIA TO BE SET BY THE DOH.

#### DRILON AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Drilon and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments, one after the other:

1. On page 5, line 27, replace the word "provide" with FACILITATE; and
2. On page 6, after line 5, insert a new paragraph to read as follows:

NOTHING IN THIS ACT SHALL LIMIT ACCESS TO OR AVAILABILITY OF MEDICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE ONLY TO INDIGENT AND FINANCIALLY INCAPACITATED PATIENTS REFERRED THROUGH MALASAKIT CENTERS.

#### GO AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Go, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments, one after the other:

1. Also on page 6, delete the phrase starting with the word "to" on line 1 up to the word "patients" on line 2;
2. On the same page, line 19, after the acronym "DSWD," insert a comma (,) and the word PHILHEALTH;
3. Still on the same page and line, after the word "issue," insert UNIFORM;
4. Still on the same page, after line 26, insert a paragraph to read as follows:

NOTHING IN THIS ACT SHALL PROHIBIT A PATIENT OR HIS/HER REPRESENTATIVE FROM ACCESSING AND REQUESTING MEDICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DIRECTLY FROM THE AFOREMENTIONED AGENCIES.

5. On page 7, delete the entire Section 11, from lines 1 to 26, and renumber the succeeding sections accordingly;
6. On page 8, line 10, after the word "under," insert the phrase REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3019, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT AND."

#### HONTIVEROS AMENDMENT

As proposed by Senator Hontiveros and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion on page 4, after line 4 of a new subsection (f) to read as follows:

- (F) PROVIDE CRITICAL INFORMATION ON HEALTHY BEHAVIORS AND CONDUCT HEALTH PROMOTION ACTIVITIES IN THE HOSPITAL.

Senator Hontiveros explained that the rationale for the additional subsection was to further enhance the health promotion function of the center which has evolved from being a one-stop shop for assistance to a more dynamic unit with other functions which include providing patient navigation and referral to health care provider networks, providing information on membership, coverage and package of the National Health Insurance Program, documentation, processing and utilization of data from patient experience to shape institutional changes in the hospital, and provision of capacity-building and performance evaluation to ensure good client interaction.

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

Senator Hontiveros proposed an omnibus amendment to rename "Malasakit Center" and all its references wherever found in the bill to MALASAKIT AND KALUSUGAN CENTER to capture the essence of the enhanced function of the center which would go beyond the provision of medical and financial assistance to a center that strengthens health promotion and education and enhances the responsiveness of the hospitals, and to distinguish it from other Malasakit Centers, like the Malasakit Centers for OFWs in airports.

Senator Go expressed regret that he could not accept Senator Hontiveros' proposed amendment, saying that the bill aims to institutionalize and improve what has already been started. He said that since people have identified the existing 49 Malasakit Centers as their one-stop shop for medical assistance, it would only confuse them to add the word "*kalusugan*" to it.

However, Senator Hontiveros maintained that it was precisely to avoid confusion and to give distinction to the health-related Malasakit Center from the centers

like those found in the airports. Senator Go reiterated that he does not want to confuse the people since they have already recognized the Malasakit Center as a one-stop shop for medical assistance.

### INQUIRY OF SENATOR DRILON

Senator Drilon asked whether the Malasakit Center that he personally saw in the Iloilo airport terminal caters to patients or only to those people whose flights had been delayed. Senator Go replied that it is the airport's own initiative to put up Malasakit Help Desk in order to assist people with their flights and other complaints. He said that some offices, like TESDA, have also put up help desks using the word "*Malasakit*" because Filipinos are known for their compassion or "*malasakit*."

### RECTO AMENDMENTS

At the outset, Senator Recto lauded Senator Go for filing a bill which seeks to promote greater efficiency in the process of availing of medical and financial assistance through the one-stop shop center.

Asked by Senator Recto whether the bill would reduce the out-of-pocket expenses of patients, Senator Go replied that there would be no additional funds for the Malasakit Centers because as envisioned, they would simply house the agencies providing medical assistance for efficiency and easier access to all Filipinos. He agreed with Senator Recto that the purpose of the bill was not to reduce the out-of-pocket expenses of Filipinos needing health services but to improve the efficiency in the process of availing of medical and financial assistance.

Asked if there are no new funds that would be included in the national health expenditure account which amounted to roughly P799 billion in 2018, Senator Go answered in the affirmative.

As proposed by Senator Recto and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments on page 1, one after the other:

- On line 4, after the word "ensure," insert the phrase ACCESS TO AND EFFICIENCY IN THE PROCESS OF AVAILING MEDICAL AND; and
- On line 5, replace the word "access" with the word ASSISTANCE and after the word "to," insert the word FUND.

Asked on the number of hospitals in the country today, Senator Go replied that there are around 400 public hospitals including the 73 DOH-run hospitals.

Senator Recto said that the data he obtained showed that there are 73 DOH-retained hospitals, around 633 LGU-owned hospitals, 38 military hospitals, two university hospitals, and the UP-system with three other hospitals, or around 749 accredited public hospitals, while there are 994 licensed private hospitals.

Senator Go stated that there are 434 government hospitals and 790 private hospitals for a total of 1,224.

Asked whether the bill seeks to establish Malasakit Centers only in 73 hospitals, Senator Go explained that the reasons behind the establishment of Malasakit Centers in DOH-run hospitals only are funding and personnel constraints. He said that LGU hospitals and other public hospitals may have their own Malasakit Centers provided that they follow certain criteria, including providing personnel for the center and infrastructure, while the DOH, DSWD, PCSO, and PhilHealth would train the LGU-hired personnel regarding the availment procedures of the medical or financial assistance they provide. He stated that even if the LGUs have their own budget, they could not simply put up a Malasakit Center if they could not comply with all the criteria and without the participation of the four agencies involved in the program.

Senator Recto then asked how many in-patients the 73 DOH-retained hospitals with Malasakit Centers as well as the 633 LGU-owned hospitals, and the 994 private hospitals would cater to, pointing out that there are indigent and financially-incapacitated patients in both LGU and private hospitals who are able to get financial assistance from the government, whether from PCSO, DSWD, or DOH. Senator Go replied that there are around nine million in-patients in DOH-run hospitals, but he added that he has no data on the number of in-patients in LGU-owned hospitals. He also clarified that private hospitals are not included in the *Malasakit* program.

Senator Recto believed that there are around 11 million in-patients, a small portion of them in DOH-run hospitals. He also noted that many poor or indigent patients, before going to regional hospitals or to the four specialty hospitals in Metro Manila would visit first the district hospitals or even local hospitals.

Senator Go stated that some LGU hospitals can establish their own Malasakit Centers provided they follow the criteria being set in the bill. He said that the bottomline of the current problem is funding, which the national government could not give to all the LGUs. On the other hand, he stated that the DOH-run hospitals already have their own existing public assistance units which would easily be transformed into Malasakit Centers.

But Senator Recto pointed out that currently, there are patients admitted in hospitals not run by the DOH but are availing of medical assistance from the PCSO, DSWD, and DOH. He said that he would want assurance that they continue to avail of such medical assistance.

On page 6, as proposed by Senator Recto and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion of the phrase **OR THROUGH THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED** after the word "Centers" on line 13.

Senator Recto asked whether the PGH, a national hospital or *ospital ng bayan* which is not run by DOH but is under the U.P. system, has a functioning Malasakit Center. Senator Go replied that a Malasakit Center was, in fact, launched in the PGH last September 12, 2018.

On page 3, as proposed by Senator Recto and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments, one after the other:

- On line 2, after the word "care," replace the period "(.)" with a semicolon (;) and insert the word AND; and
- On line 3, insert a new subletter (I) to read as follows:

**I. PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL (PGH) REFERS TO THE STATE-OWNED TERTIARY HOSPITAL ADMINISTERED AND OPERATED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-MANILA.**

Asked by Senate President Sotto whether the Vicente Sotto Memorial Hospital in Cebu has a Malasakit Center, Senator Go answered in the affirmative, adding that the hospital is spending more than P50 million a month for indigent patients.

To explain how a Malasakit Center operates, Senator Go cited a patient who received a package of P45,000 from the Universal Health Care but the zero-balance billing target of the UHC could not be obtained because the hospital bill reached P200,000 after undergoing several operations to treat complications of the illness suffered. He said that the patient need not go far to ask for financial assistance to defray the remaining balance of the bill because the Malasakit Center, which is stationed in the hospital, could arrange for financial assistance from agencies like DOH and DSWD. In the case of the PGH, he said that the President has a standby fund which indigent or poor patients could avail of. He said that the DSWD could even provide for the patient's transportation expenses in going home.

Senator Recto stated that it was agreed upon during the crafting of the Universal Health Care bill that the funding would be taken from the PCSO and Pagcor, from the increase in the members' PhilHealth contributions, and from the revenues collected from sin taxes. He surmised that if all the money from Pagcor and PCSO is given to PhilHealth, then the endless queue of people asking for financial assistance could be avoided even in Malasakit Centers. But he agreed that until there is no ready fund for PhilHealth, there are still funds for the DOH's Medical Assistance Program (MAP), PCSO and DSWD. Senator Go clarified that the Malasakit Center would simply serve as a one-stop shop; there would be no funding given to it. He affirmed that all medical and financial assistance would only be given to DOH-run hospitals.

Asked by Senator Recto if those who are not the poorest but have become financially incapacitated because of medical concerns would still be able to access and avail of assistance from government even if they are not confined in DOH hospitals. Senator Go replied in the affirmative.

Senator Recto noted that at present, more than 60% of PhilHealth patients are in the private hospitals and not in public hospitals. Asked if this implies that private hospitals offer more medical services than public hospitals, Senator Go replied that it is possible given that PhilHealth pays private hospitals two-thirds more than the public hospitals.

As proposed by Senator Recto and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments on page 3, one after the other:

*Handwritten initials and marks.*

- On line 4, after the word “hospitals,” insert the phrase AND THE PGH;
- On lines 6 and 7, delete the phrase “in DOH hospitals”; and
- On line 14, after the word “individuals,” insert a colon (:) and a proviso to read as follows: *PROVIDED, THAT FINANCIALLY INCAPACITATED PATIENTS WHO SEEK HEALTH SERVICES IN OTHER PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND PRIVATE FACILITIES ARE STILL ELIGIBLE TO AVAIL OF FINANCIAL AND MEDICAL ASSISTANCE SUBJECT TO THE ASSESSMENT AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE MEDICAL SOCIAL WORKER.*
- As modified by Senate President Sotto, insert the phrase AND THE PGH and to delete the phrase “in the country.”

Asked whether Section 14 (*Appropriations*) was still necessary since there is no new funding source anyway, Senator Go replied that the appropriation is for the personnel of the national government agencies.

Asked how much of the MAP would be used for the Malasakit Centers, Senator Go replied that it would depend on the need of each hospital. He noted that the amount allocated to MAP was P9.3 billion for 2019 and P9.4 billion for 2020.

On whether the 2019 MAP amounting to P9.3 billion was already used, Senator Go said that 83% of the said amount was already utilized, but as to how much would be needed for the establishment of Malasakit Centers for 2020, he reiterated that it would depend on the DOH on how they would utilize their MAP. As to how much of the P9.4 billion for 2020 would go the DOH hospitals, he said that it is the DOH that would determine how much would be distributed.

Senator Recto asked if specialty hospitals and LGU hospitals, PGH, West Visayas State University Hospital, among others, are given allocation aside from DOH hospitals. Senator Go replied in the affirmative.

As regards some private hospitals with which the government has a memorandum of agreement, Senator Go said that the DOH has MOAs with private hospitals in areas where there are no public hospitals.

As proposed by Senator Recto and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments, one after the other:

- On page 8, line 31, after the word “hospitals,” insert the phrase AND THE PGH;
- On the same page and line, after the acronym “PGH,” insert a proviso to read as follows: *PROVIDED, THAT THE OTHER PUBLIC HOSPITALS WITHOUT MALASAKIT CENTERS SHALL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE FROM THE DOH;* and
- On the title of the bill, after the word “COUNTRY,” insert the phrase AND IN THE PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL (PGH).

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS**

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

#### **APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 1076 ON SECOND READING**

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, Senate Bill No. 1076 was approved on Second Reading.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1076**

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

#### **ADDITIONAL SENATE CONFEREE**

Upon nomination by Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, Senate President Sotto designated Senator Go as an additional conferee to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1043 and House Bill No. 4933 (Postponement of the May 2020 Barangay and SK Elections).

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 6 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1074** (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no

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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 Zubiri for his interpellation.

**MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR TOLENTINO**

At this juncture, Senator Tolentino stated that for the last two days, he was listed as No. 2 to interpellate on Senate Bill No. 1074. He clarified that he has no qualms for being second in the list insofar as the order of interpellators was concerned, but he recalled that last September 30, 2019 before the recess, he was the last to interpellate on the bill and that the interpellation was suspended only because of lack of material time. Relative thereto, he quoted a portion of the relevant rule from the *Riddick's Rules of Procedure* which states: "After a recess, the parliamentary business resumes at the point of interruption." He reminded the Body that when the interpellation on the bill was interrupted, it was he who was interpellating Senator Cayetano. Nonetheless, he reiterated that he has no issues with him being the second in the list and that he would give way to the other Members to interpellate Senator Cayetano. He said that he supports the bill and that his only concern was on vaping, in which 104 countries are without regulation, 34 countries are against, and two countries — Singapore and Australia — have declared vape products as poison.

Senator Zubiri pointed out that there were no numbers corresponding to the interpellators listed in

the agenda. Nevertheless, he agreed to give way to Senator Tolentino.

Senate President Sotto clarified that the agenda merely reiterated those who have expressed their intention to interpellate but that it was not necessarily the order of interpellators. He stated, however, that the point raised by Senator Tolentino was absolutely right, but he explained that there is an elbow room as far as recognizing who would interpellate on a bill, and that whoever is available could start first.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano, the session was suspended.

*It was 5:42 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 5:43 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Pro Tempore Recto presiding.

**INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI**

Senator Zubiri cited the two main purposes of the bill: to raise revenues and to curb alcohol consumption. But he expressed concern that increasing the excise tax rates on alcoholic beverages may trigger increase in prices which may, in turn result in the smuggling of counterpart products and in consumers shifting to cheaper but unregulated products with higher alcohol content, negating the purpose of what is supposedly a health measure. He then asked how the bill would address the apparent conflict between the bill's intended purpose and the probable consequence of the effect of a tax rate.

In reply, Senator Cayetano pointed out that cigarettes are small products that can be easily replicated and smuggled, while alcoholic drinks are bigger products that are not easy to smuggle. She also pointed out that higher taxes are not the primary determinant of high level illicit trade as there are other factors such as level of governance and enforcement that influence illicit trade.

Senator Zubiri clarified that he was not referring to smuggled alcohol products but more of what the Americans call "bootlegged" or "moonshine" products

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during the Prohibition period in the United States when alcohol was banned. Moonshine or illegally manufactured alcohol, he explained, is very easy to make in the country since fermented drinks could be produced from rice and wine from *bignay*. *Tuba* and *lambanog* are very popular in Southern Tagalog and in Bicol, he added. His concern, he said, is that a tax increase on alcohol products, which are actually regulated and FDA-approved, might encourage people to shift to unregulated, unsafe or illegally manufactured alcohol. He recalled the *lambanog* controversy in which the coconut wine was found to have high levels of methanol and whose consumption reportedly killed 21 people. He feared that instead of encouraging health, the sin tax may draw people to consume these dangerous and unregulated alcohol products.

In reply, Senator Cayetano clarified that the bill is not seeking a ban on alcohol so that the analogy with “bootlegged” or “moonshine” products may not be accurate. She said that the bill does not refer to products that are produced illicitly; it refers to products that comply with government requirements and are, in fact, allowed by the government to be sold.

As to the mention of *tuba* and other local products, Senator Cayetano maintained that they are not banned products but are actually allowed to be sold. What needs to be done, she said, is for the DOH, FDA, and other agencies to work with local industries to ensure that their product complies with safety standards.

Senator Zubiri maintained that there are illicit products and there are unregulated products. Illegal products, he explained, are those unregulated and not FDA-approved products with high alcohol content. He said that *tuba*, *tapuy*, *basi*, for instance, are not yet FDA-approved and therefore are technically illegal.

Senator Cayetano stated that illicit products should not be made synonymous to the locally-produced alcohol products like *tuba* that are duly registered with the FDA and authorized to be sold.

Asked if it is illegal for a person from Quezon province to manufacture his own *tuba* or *lambanog* but does not subject his product to regulation and then sells it, Senator Cayetano said that it would be illegal.

Considering that the regulation on the manufacture of *tuba* in the country was lost, Senator Zubiri pondered if the proposed measure would be too prohibitive for the Filipino, particularly those living in the provinces who would shift to cheaper, unregulated products because the price of what they normally consume would become prohibitive.

Senator Cayetano clarified that *tuba* could be legitimately sold as it is FDA-approved. As regards the tendency to downshift, she stated that based on the 2013 data, when there was increase in excise taxes, there was no downshift that occurred. She noted that drinkers develop habits such that beer drinkers stick to beer and gin drinkers to gin; thus, it should not be assumed that they would automatically shift to a native drink just because their favorite drink has become expensive. She also raised the possibility that instead of downshifting, they would shift to distilled products with higher alcohol content which means lesser volume. She explained that the Committee tried to balance the need to increase funding for the Universal Health Care program, and to distribute the burden on various sin products. She explained that alcohol alone has three major categories: beer or fermented liquor; distilled products, which includes gin, rum, vodka, among others; and wine. She said that she is open to suggestions to make the burden equitable. She supposed that there may be different advocates and that it would really depend on the kind of drink a person is inclined to support. She said that the Committee worked on increasing the tax on distilled products, noting that a person could easily get drunk with only one shot of distilled spirit compared to drinking beer. She said that the Committee also thought of applying a unitary tax on beverages that are high on alcohol or “proof” content in order to discourage drinking. She explained that as proposed, P6 should be charged per shot of distilled spirit. She posited that if a 16-year old boy has P20, it could only afford to buy three shots as compared to the previous rate of being able to buy four shots for the same amount of money.

Senator Zubiri stressed that he was supportive of sin taxes on tobacco and vaping products because they are more hazardous to health.

Senator Cayetano recalled that when she and Senator Tolentino went to Geneva to speak to experts in the World Health Organization (WHO), they learned that the WHO was very much concerned about alcohol drinking worldwide. She informed the Body

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that WHO supports the policy to use taxation as a comprehensive package in deterring vices. She underscored that taxation is an effective barrier that has been used in many countries.

Senator Cayetano stated that although tax is a difficult tool to use because lobbying in such sector is very high, it is a device that the government must not shy away from. Citing an article in *The Economist*, she said that by far alcohol ranks as the most dangerous drug, much higher than heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine and even tobacco.

As regards wine being the drink of choice through the centuries, Senator Cayetano stated that wine was far safer to drink than water then; that it was the rich who had the upper hand because they could afford to buy wine; and that the poor people who could not afford were forced to drinking unsafe water but they succumbed to many water-borne diseases.

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri stated that he feels strongly that distilled alcohol products should be taxed higher because anyway they are consumed by those belonging to the ABC classes who could easily afford and would not feel the pinch. However, he believed that taxes on fermented liquor like beer should not be high because it would affect a large number of working Filipinos who would just want to take a break after a hard day's work. He stressed that addiction to alcohol usually occurs to those who drink distilled spirits like vodka, whiskey, brandy and the like. He stressed the need for further studies to be done on cheaper products that the ordinary Filipino drinks.

Senator Cayetano stated that currently, the revenue share of fermented liquor, like beer, is at 74%, distilled spirits at 24%, and the rest spread out to other products like wine. She stated that under the proposed measure, the share of beer would be 67.9%, while distilled spirits would be 31%. She said that although there are no safe levels of drinking *per se*, the real concern to health is about binge drinking. She stated that the Committee would look into the recommendations of Senator Zubiri and the other Members, but in the end, she said, they should ensure the most equitable sharing of the different categories and consider the impact on the people.

Senator Zubiri then asked how much is the current tax rate on a liter of pale pilsen.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

*It was 6:18 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:21 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Sotto presiding.

Replying to the previous query, Senator Cayetano said that the suggested retail price (SRP) of a 330 ml bottle of San Miguel Pale Pilsen is P42.88, inclusive of 12% VAT, and since the excise tax is P26.43 per 1000 ml, the tax rate for a 330 ml bottle of beer is P9. She said that under the proposed measure, the SRP would be P49.74, or an increase of P6.86 based on a tax rate of P45 per liter which, if divided by three, would be P15.00. On the other hand, she said that the SRP for alcoholic drinks would be much higher.

Senator Cayetano posited that with the price increase, it would diminish a person's consumption of beer and alcoholic drinks, thus proving the law effective. She said that the proposed measure is trying to address binge drinking which has catastrophic effects.

Senator Zubiri said that the proposed measure is definitely a revenue measure for the universal health care program of the government which would be implemented in 2020. Noting that the current proposal provides for significant higher excise taxes compared to past increases, he asked on the possibility of a steeper decline in the consumption of alcoholic beverages which means reduced sales, as a consequence of which is reduced revenue for universal health care.

Senator Cayetano acknowledged that if the price of a product is increased, there would be a decrease in demand at some point. She said that based on some studies, sin products are the most inelastic products, that even if their prices are increased, people would still buy them; if prices are increased minimally, there would be no effect on the lives of people since they would still find ways to smoke and drink.

Senator Cayetano stated that the proposed bill could be made an effective measure when the price increase is substantial enough for people to think twice before deciding whether or not to purchase the product. To illustrate, she said that the bill could not

be so effective when it comes to the consumption of beer which has an increase of only P6.00, which is only a fraction of the whole price of one bottle, but might have an effect on the budget of the drinker. Thus, she said that if the budget is only P300 and it is divided by P42, which is the price per bottle of beer, the purchase would only be for seven bottles, while if the budget is P300 divided by P50 per bottle, it would only be for six bottles; thus, binge drinking is lessened, precisely the desired effect of the proposal.

As regards revenue collection, Senator Cayetano acknowledged that there might be a decline given that from seven bottles, it went down to six. However, she said that the growth in the economy should also be taken into account since the country has a rapidly growing economy which is fast transitioning into a strong middle-income economy which would, in turn, translate into a strong purchasing power. She disclosed that based on the Committee's number crunching, the revenue collection would still continue to go up, adding that in 2013, there was even an increase in the revenue of the alcohol industry.

On whether there is a contradiction in that if the revenue would go up and still the volume would also go up, negating, in the process, the objective of decreasing the sales of sin products, Senator Cayetano replied that revenue collection is a product of the price and the volume; individually, the price goes up but the volume would not go up; but collectively, if the volume did not go up but the price goes up, collection would still be higher. She explained that there may still be a bigger volume because even if they were successful in bringing down the volume of consumption, there would still be bigger consumption because the population increases.

Senator Zubiri asked whether the DOF or the Committee has figures on alcohol sales, particularly on its percentage increase or decrease when Republic Act No. 10351, or the Sin Tax Reform Act of 2012, was passed, and whether the people mind the taxes, and if there was a change of their spending patterns. Senator Cayetano replied that despite the reform act, historical data would show that the higher excise tax did not hurt the economy because the alcohol firms continued to grow. She noted that based on records, key companies, particularly San Miguel Corporation, had the most upward trajectory, while the other companies had a fairly steady trajectory and no evident decline in their sales.

Senator Zubiri stated that since he was not a member of the Senate when the Sin Tax Reform Act of 2012 was passed, he was interested to find out whether there was a dent in the number of people actually consuming alcohol drinks, particularly beer and spirited alcohol, and rum and whisky because of the sin taxes. He said that if there was a decline in consumption, then more people are healthier; however, if more people actually bought the sin products because of their high-spending capacity, then it defeats the purpose and the government just increased its revenues.

Senator Cayetano recalled that when Senator Drilon was defending the sin tax reform bill a few years ago, the health advocates were adamant in pushing for higher rates because, according to them, the health impact of a low rate would not last long because the growth of the economy and the purchasing power of the people would overtake the tax rate. That assumption, she said, was confirmed by the chart provided by the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) on the production and release of products, particularly by the beer industry, of fermented liquor, which showed the following: in 2013, it was at 1.4 billion liters; in 2014, still at 1.4 billion liters; in 2015, still at 1.4 billion liters; and in 2016, 2017 and 2018, it increased to 1.6 billion liters, 1.8 billion liters and 2.0 billion liters, respectively. She said that for three years from the time the law was passed, the consumption stayed despite the growth in population, but on the fourth year, the production and consumption started to increase.

To Senator Zubiri's observation that there was indeed an increase in consumption, Senator Cayetano replied that it only increased after three years, which was what the health advocates precisely predicted. She said that the impact of a lower tax rate was not long-lasting. Thus, she said that there is a need to keep increasing the rate, which is why the proposed measure adopted an indexation of 10% to precisely take into account the inflation and the income increase and basically the purchasing power. She said that she wanted to be sure that over time, the impact that needs to be created would stay the same over the years.

At this juncture, Senator Drilon confirmed that, indeed, the health advocates at the time that the measure was sponsored on the floor were really pushing for a higher tax because it was predicted that at a certain point, the effect of the taxes to suppress consumption would wane and would no longer be valid. He clarified that the health advocates were more interested in raising the tax rate on

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cigarette because it was considered as the main reason why there is so much public expense on health; but insofar as the alcohol products like beer and other fermented drinks were concerned, the sin tax law was purely a revenue measure.

Senator Cayetano added that many were of the impression that cigarettes were extremely undertaxed at that time. She said that the resource persons who appeared in the committee hearings were also equally supportive of the tax measures on e-cigarettes. She confirmed that there was sufficient data as regards the detrimental effects of cigarettes. She said that in her discussion with the WHO, she learned that while other countries are regulating advertisements on alcohol, it is not so in the Philippines.

Senator Zubiri expressed his appreciation for the information provided by Senator Drilon. However, he said that when it comes to alcohol, the issue is highly debatable because the effect is relative: the higher the alcohol content is, the more it is dangerous, and vice versa. But he clarified that he has no problem with imposing higher tax on products with high alcohol content. He said that the first-year projected incremental revenue of the DOF from the fermented liquor industry, which currently makes up about 70% of the excise tax collections, is at P10 billion under House Bill No. 1026, or about P32 per liter and P25 billion pesos under Senate Bill No. 383, which is P40 per liter under the measure proposed by Senator Pacquiao, while P34 billion is projected under Senate Bill No. 1074 or about P45 per liter. He assumed that from the projected incremental revenues, it can be computed that the volume used by the DOF in such assumptions was approximately about 240 million cases, which is approximately the same volume of the beer industry in 2017.

Asked whether it was correct to assume that the sales volumes and volume of removals of the alcoholic beverage companies would not go down despite the increase in excise taxes, Senator Cayetano replied that in terms of revenue collection, the effect of the tax, hopefully, would result in a slight decrease in volume. However, she reiterated that the purchasing power, the growth of the economy, and the increased take-home pay of the people particularly those in the upper-middle income sector, would offset the increase. She noted that and as shown in the elasticity tables used, it is very far from a decline in revenue collection.

Senator Zubiri also raised the possible losses of employment if the industry shrinks, pointing out

the effect of Republic Act No. 10351 in 2013 on the beer industry which saw the loss of about 20 million cases equivalent to one manufacturing facility.

To Senator Zubiri's concern that more plants would close if the rates were increased, Senator Cayetano replied that the best source of information would be the evidence when sin tax was increased in 2012 which, accordingly, saw a decrease in the employment of those in the distilled spirits industry, a decrease in employment from 2013 to 2014. But she pointed out that employment rose again in 2014 to 2015. She also noted that there was no decrease in sales of fermented beers as it continued to go up.

On the projected annual rate of increase of excise taxes on alcohol up to 2023, the target of which is 10% under Senate Bill Nos. 383 and 1074 while under Republic Act No. 11346, the annual rate increase for tobacco was only at 5%, Senator Zubiri asked whether it was fair that the increase in tobacco taxes was only 5% but for fermented product like beer, the target was 10%, and whether the scenario could be reversed. Senator Cayetano replied that she has no problem making it equal or even reverse it as she explained that the Committee proposed a 10% indexation for alcohol as records would show that 10% is necessary to keep up with the population growth, the inflation and the buying power. She added that the indexation rate for e-cigarettes was kept at a conservative 5% and as a health advocate herself, she would recommend 10%. However, she said that she always tried to temper her desire for health outcomes with what is reasonable for the economy, the reason why there is a difference between the two. She said that if the Chamber would find it acceptable to make that increase at 10%, then she would consider it.

Senator Zubiri stated that if one product is over-taxed, people may buy bootlegged and unregulated products. He said that he supports the revenue measure for the Universal Health Care Law but the efforts should not result in the killing of an industry by over-taxing a particular product. He said that at the proper time, he would introduce amendments, particularly in the matter of fermented products. He believed that there is a need to be fair both to the industry as well as to the people and, definitely, there is a need to raise revenue for the implementation of Universal Health Care.

Senator Cayetano thanked Senator Zubiri as it gave her the opportunity to explain the bases for the

committee report that she recommended to the Body. She gave assurance that the concerns raised during the interpellations would be considered, adding that she would always respond based on the information available. If there is no information, she said she would also candidly say so to help the Body come up with the conclusion. As regards the concern of Senator Zubiri on fermented products, she said that she has already taken the 5% imposed on the fermented industry and basically transferred it to the distilled industry primarily because the effects on health of distilled products are very significant and the health concern would be addressed by such kind of a tax measure.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1074**

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

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

*It was 6:57 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 6:58 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### **REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

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

#### **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 the following House Joint Resolution/House Bills in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Joint Resolution No. 19, 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**

**To the Committee on Finance**

House Bill No. 4696, entitled

**AN ACT MANDATING THE INTEGRA-  
TION OF THE NATIONAL BUILD-  
ING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES  
UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6541  
ENTITLED "AN ACT TO ORDAIN  
AND INSTITUTE A NATIONAL  
BUILDING CODE OF THE PHILIP-  
PINES," AS A MAJOR SUBJECT IN  
THE CURRICULUM OF THE  
BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE  
PROGRAMS IN CIVIL ENGINEER-  
ING, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING,  
ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, SANI-  
TARY ENGINEERING, ELECTRONICS  
ENGINEERING, AND ARCHITECTURE,  
AND ITS INCLUSION AS A TOPIC  
IN THE LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS  
FOR THESE PROFESSIONS**

**To the Committees on Higher, Technical  
and Vocational Education; and Civil Service,  
Government Reorganization and Professional  
Regulation**

House Bill No. 4750, entitled

**AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY  
TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY  
SOUTH SIGNAL VILLAGE IN THE  
CITY OF TAGUIG**

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

House Bill No. 4751, entitled

**AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO  
BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY LA  
MEDALLA IN THE MUNICIPALITY**

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OF PIODURAN, PROVINCE OF  
ALBAY

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

House Bill No. 4752, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO  
BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY  
CENTRAL BICUTAN IN THE CITY  
OF TAGUIG

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

House Bill No. 4753, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY  
TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY  
NORTH SIGNAL VILLAGE IN THE  
CITY OF TAGUIG

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

House Bill No. 4754, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO  
BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY  
TANYAG IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG

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

House Bill No. 4774, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO  
BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY  
KATUPARAN IN THE CITY OF  
TAGUIG

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

House Bill No. 4775, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY  
TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY  
CENTRAL SIGNAL VILLAGE IN  
THE CITY OF TAGUIG

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

House Bill No. 1531, entitled

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF  
PAG-ASA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
IN BARANGAY RAWIS, CITY OF  
LEGAZPI, PROVINCE OF ALBAY,  
TO LEGAZPI CITY NATIONAL  
HIGH SCHOOL

**To the Committee on Basic Education,  
Arts and Culture**

House Bill No. 1533, entitled

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF  
ILAWOD NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL  
IN BARANGAY ILAWOD, MUNICI-  
PALITY OF CAMALIG, PROVINCE  
OF ALBAY, TO CAMALIG NATIONAL  
HIGH SCHOOL

**To the Committee on Basic Education,  
Arts and Culture**

House Bill No. 1611, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND  
TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO)  
EXTENSION OFFICE LOCATED IN  
MANDALUYONG CITY INTO A  
REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

**To the Committees on Public Services; and  
Finance**

House Bill No. 2106, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE SATELLITE  
OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANS-  
PORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE  
SECOND DISTRICT OF THE PRO-  
VINCE OF BOHOL INTO A  
REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

**To the Committees on Public Services; and  
Finance**

House Bill No. 2590, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTEN-

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SION OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD IN PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance**

House Bill No. 2659, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALICIA, PROVINCE OF ISABELA

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance**

House Bill No. 2998, entitled

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE CAPITAL AND SEAT OF GOVERNMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL FROM THE CITY OF PASIG, METRO MANILA TO THE CITY OF ANTIPOLLO, PROVINCE OF RIZAL

**To the Committee on Local Government**

House Bill No. 3133, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) DISTRICT OFFICE IN MANOLO FORTICH, BUKIDNON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance**

House Bill No. 3286, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT BRANCH OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE CITY OF LA CARLOTA IN THE FOURTH DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance**

House Bill No. 4560, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY BOARD (LTFRB) IN THE CITY OF BACOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance**

House Bill No. 4597, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE REGION VI OF ILOILO CITY INTO A REGULAR LICENSING CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE ILOILO CITY LICENSING CENTER, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance**

House Bill No. 4610, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE IN THE 1ST DISTRICT OF ILOCOS SUR IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ILDEFONSO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance**

House Bill No. 4938, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) EXTENSION OFFICE AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF SIGMA, PROVINCE OF CAPIZ INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE TO BE RELOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DUMALAG, CAPIZ AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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**To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance**

House Bill No. 4940, entitled

AN ACT RENAMING THE J. H. CERILLES STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MIGUEL, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR, AS THE ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR STATE COLLEGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9159, ENTITLED "AN ACT CONVERTING THE J. H. CERILLES POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MIGUEL, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE J. H. CERILLES STATE COLLEGE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

**To the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education**

House Bill No. 4951, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING CERTAIN LANDS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BANTAYAN, MADRIDEJOS, AND STA. FE, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU, AS AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL OR OTHER PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 2151, "DECLARING CERTAIN ISLANDS AND/OR PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AS WILDERNESS AREAS"

**To the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change**

House Bill No. 4954, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MAGANHAN, BAYBAY CITY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE

KNOWN AS MAGANHAN JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committees on Basic Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance**

House Bill No. 4955, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PUNTA, BAYBAY CITY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS PUNTA JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committees on Basic Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance**

House Bill No. 4956, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALCOY, IN THE SECOND DISTRICT OF CEBU, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance**

House Bill No. 4957, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 4958, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

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House Bill No. 4959, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE DULAG SATELLITE CAMPUS OF THE EASTERN VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY (EVSU) LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DULAG, PROVINCE OF LEYTE, INTO A REGULAR CAMPUS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9311, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 4960, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE EASTERN VISAYAS REGION TO BE KNOWN AS THE "YOLANDA COMMEMORATION DAY"

**To the Committee on Local Government**

House Bill No. 4961, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY H-2 IN THE CITY OF DASMARIÑAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE

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

House Bill No. 4982, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY SOUTH DAANG HARI IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG

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

and House Bill No. 4983, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE SITIO OF LOWER DADO FROM BARANGAY DADO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALAMADA, PROVINCE OF NORTH COTABATO AND CONSTITUTING IT INTO A DISTINCT AND INDEPEN-

DENT BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY LOWER DADO

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

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

**BILLS ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 1140, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE TEACHING OF DISASTER AWARENESS AND DISASTER MITIGATION AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

**To the Committees on Basic Education, Arts and Culture; National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1141, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NATIONWIDE LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION PROGRAM AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lapid

**To the Committees on Basic Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1142, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING SHORT-TERM RESIDENTIAL RENTAL AND ESTABLISHING A REGISTRY FOR SUCH PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Lapid

**To the Committees on Tourism; and Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 1143, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE NAVY FORWARD

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OPERATING BASES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

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

Senate Bill No. 1144, entitled

AN ACT REDEFINING THE DOMINANT MAJORITY AND MINORITY PARTIES DURING NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS, "AN ACT FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Introduced by Senator De Lima

To the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

Senate Bill No. 1145, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING HUMAN RIGHTS AS A SEPARATE AND SPECIALIZED SUBJECT IN BOTH BASIC AND HIGHER EDUCATION

Introduced by Senator De Lima

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

Senate Bill No. 1146, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MEDICAL PAROLE TO QUALIFIED PERSONS DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY AND SETTING RULES ON THE GRANT THEREOF

Introduced by Senator De Lima

To The Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1147, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS OF MEMBERS OF THE RESERVE FORCE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1148, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 58 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE REFORM AND REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1998", APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator De Lima

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Senate Bill No. 1149, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE ARBITRATION COMMISSION AND INSTITUTIONALIZING COMPULSORY ARBITRATION FOR SPECIFIC AREAS OF DISPUTE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1150, entitled

AN ACT INCORPORATING A SYSTEM OF SPECIAL EDUCATION IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BUREAU

*Handwritten initials*

OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, CREATING THE IMPLEMENTING MACHINERY THEREOF, PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER INCENTIVES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committees on Basic Education, Arts and Culture; Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; Ways and Means; and Finance

### RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 198, entitled

A RESOLUTION POSTHUMOUSLY HONORING MR. HENRY S. SY SR. FOR HIS PHILANTHROPY AND CONTRIBUTIONS IN NATION-BUILDING

Introduced by Senator Drilon

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 199, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING CARLOS EDREIL YULO FOR WINNING GOLD MEDAL IN THE ARTISTIC GYMNASTICS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Introduced by Senator De Lima

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 200, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING NESTHY PETECIO FOR WINNING A GOLD MEDAL IN THE WORLD BOXING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Introduced by Senator De Lima

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 201, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CONTINUED PROLIFERATION AND RISING INCIDENCE OF CHILD CYBERSEX ABUSE IN THE PHILIPPINES, DESPITE EXISTING LAWS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT THE WELFARE OF THE FILIPINO YOUTH AND CHILDREN ARE PROTECTED THROUGH POSSIBLE LEGISLATION INCREASING OUR CAPABILITY TO DETECT AND TRACK OFFENDERS, IMPROVING OUR COORDINATION EFFORTS WITH FOREIGN LAW ENFORCEMENT, AND HELPING IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS IN AREAS THAT ARE MOST VULNERABLE TO CHILD CYBERSEX ABUSE

Introduced by Senator De Lima

To the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 202, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONDEMNING THE PROLIFERATION OF ON-LINE SLAVE MARKET APPS IN THE GULF ENSLAVING FOREIGN DOMESTIC WORKERS INCLUDING FILIPINOS AND CALLING FOR AN ENTIRE GOVERNMENT APPROACH HEADED BY THE DFA AND THE DOLE FOR A FAST AND RESOLUTE ACTION TO STOP AND PREVENT FILIPINO DOMESTIC WORKERS FROM BECOMING MODERN-DAY SLAVES IN THE MIDDLE EAST REINFORCING AND STRENGTHENING THE EDUCATION AND AWARENESS CAMPAIGN OF OUR OFWS ESPECIALLY THOSE THAT DO NOT FOLLOW RULES MEANT TO PROTECT THEM

Introduced by Senator Gordon

To the Committee on Rules

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Proposed Senate Resolution No. 203, entitled

**RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) THROUGH THE BUREAU OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES (BFAR), THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS OF PULUPANDAN & BAGO CITY, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, TO URGENTLY PROTECT THE LAST REMAINING IRRAWADDY DOLPHINS IN GUIMARAS STRAIT BY IMMEDIATELY DECLARING THEIR HABITAT AS A MARINE PROTECTED AREA (MPA)**

Introduced by Senator Angara

**To the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 204, entitled

**RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE SWIMMING AS A SUBJECT IN THE CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO REDUCE THE INCIDENTS OF DEATH DUE TO DROWNING**

Introduced by Senator Angara

**To the Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 205, entitled

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RISING INCIDENCE OF CHILD AND TEEN-AGE PREGNANCIES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10354, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE RESPONSIBLE PARENTHOOD AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT OF 2012"**

Introduced by Senator Angara

**To the Committees on Women, Children,**

**Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Health and Demography**

## COMMUNICATIONS

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

Circular Letter Nos. CL-2019-071, 072, 073, 074, 075, 076, 077 and 078 dated 7, 3, 9, 10 and 18 October 2019;

Circular Nos. 1052 (corrected copy), 1053, 1054, 1055 and 1056 dated 2, 7, 11, 17 and 22 October 2019; and

Memorandum No. M-2019-025 dated 10 October 2019.

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

Letter from the Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers' Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, submitting to the Senate its Mid-Year 2019 "Report to Congress on Assistance to Nationals" in digital format, pursuant to Section 33 of Republic Act No. 8042, otherwise known as the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995, as amended by Republic Act No. 10022.

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

## SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1151, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE FREIGHT SERVICES IN THE TRANSPORTATION OF RELIEF GOODS TO CALAMITY-STRICKEN AREAS**

Introduced by Senator Lapid

**To the Committee on Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 1152, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING INSURANCE COVERAGE TO PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO ARE COMPETING IN ANY INTERNATIONAL PROFESSIONAL SPORTS COMPETITION OR IN OTHER EQUALLY PRESTIGIOUS INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Sports; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1153, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 65 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11260, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF FISCAL YEAR 2019

Introduced by Senator Angara

To the Committee on Finance

**THIRD ADDITIONAL  
REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Report No. 18, submitted by the Committee on Finance, on House Bill No. 4228, introduced by Representative Ungab, *et. al.*, entitled

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsors: Senators Angara, Villar, Lacson, Cayetano, Gatchalian, Go, Gordon, Hontiveros, Marcos, Villanueva and all members of the Senate Committee on Finance

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

**FOURTH ADDITIONAL  
REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 208, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCESSANT DEATHS OF BILIBID INMATES DUE TO LACK OF BASIC NECESSITIES AND PROPER MEDICAL TREATMENT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING THE ACCOUNTABILITY MECHANISMS APPLIED TO BUREAU OF CORRECTION (BUCOR) OFFICIALS AND STAFF, ADDRESSING POSSIBLE CORRUPT PRACTICES IN THE BUCOR AND INSTITUTING CORRECTIVE LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO ENSURE FULL RESPECT FOR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY THE RIGHT TO LIFE”

Introduced by Senator De Lima

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 209, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A CENTRALIZED SYSTEM OF PROCUREMENT OF GOVERNMENT MOTOR VEHICLES UNDER ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 14 AND DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) CIRCULAR 2019-03, WITH THE END VIEW OF DETERMINING ITS FEASIBILITY, IMPACT TO GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY AND THE NECESSARY SAFEGUARDS TO PROTECT THE SYSTEM FROM CORRUPTION

Introduced by Senator De Lima

To the Committee on Finance

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Proposed Senate Resolution No. 210, entitled

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.**

Introduced by Senator Gordon

**To the Committee on Rules**

**PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 210**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 210, entitled

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES ON THE DEATH OF REPRESENTATIVE RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.**

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

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Gordon for his sponsorship.

**SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR GORDON**

Senator Gordon expressed his profound sympathy and sincere condolences on behalf of the Senate on the death of Rep. Rodolfo B. Albano, Jr., a distinguished public servant and legislator who served the country for more than three decades.

Representative Albano, he said, has also raised his children to become leaders in the House of Representatives such as his son, Rodito Albano, the governor of Isabela after serving several terms in the House of Representatives; his other son, Tonypet Albano who is currently a member of the House of Representatives; and his daughter-in-law, Millet Albano who also became a member of the House of Representatives and a former mayor of Cabagan, Isabela.

Despite the many positions he served, Senator Gordon said that Representative Albano should be honored for his effectiveness, his legislative capability and his friendliness to people and how he made easier for laws to be filed.

Senator Gordon informed the Body that the remains of Representative Albano would be sent to Isabela in a couple of days, and he hoped that his resolution would help the family of Representative Albano realize that he has lots of friends in the Senate who revere him and cherish his memories.

**COAUTHORS**

Senator Zubiri manifested that all senators would be made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 210.

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 210**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 210 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of the Monday, November 11, 2019.

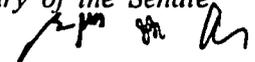
*It was 7:19 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.



**ATTY. MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA**

*Secretary of the Senate*



Approved on November 11, 2019