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SESSION NO. 61
Wednesday, March 4, 2020

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Vicente C. Sotto III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Grace Poe led the prayer, to wit:

Panginoon, protektahan Mo po ang aming bansa laban sa coronavirus at iba pang karamdaman, laban sa mga karamdaman ng lipunan, at laban sa mga puwersang nagbabanta sa aming mga kalayaan at karapatan.

Ngayong Buwan ng Kababaihan, nawa ay gabayan Mo po ang mga ina at pagpalain po Ninyo ang mga babae, lalung-lalo na kaming iilan dito sa Senado.

Tulungan Mo po kaming itaguyod ang karapatan at kapakanan ng aming mga kabaro, itaas ang kalagayan ng mga kababaihan, at gumawa ng mas mabuting Pilipinas para sa mga Pilipina.

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.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Dela Rosa, R. B. M.	Poe, G.
Drilon, F. M.	Recto, R. G.
Gatchalian, W.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Go, C. L. T.	Sotto III, V. C.
Gordon, R. J.	Tolentino, F. T. N.
Hontiveros, R.	Villanueva, J.
Lacson, P. M.	Villar, C. A.
Lapid, M. L. M.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

With 22 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Pimentel arrived after the roll call.

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



APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body deferred the consideration of the Journal of Session No. 60 (March 3, 2020) to a later hour.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Director Vivencio Mamaril, Vera Ysabel dela Cruz, Geeza Pahinaga, Bernadette San Juan, McAlter Lanzon, and Pedro Santos of the Department of Agriculture;
- Iori Kato, the United Nations Population Fund (UN-FPA) country director; and
- Representatives of Girl Defenders Alliance, Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD), Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation, United Youth of the Philippines-Women (UNYPHIL-Women), Philippine Business for Social Progress-OXFAM (PBSP-OXFAM) Forum, SheDecides, World Vision, and advocates from Barangay Culiati.

Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

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 March 2, 2020, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 656, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER 22 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROSARIO,

PROVINCE OF CAVITE IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY;

House Bill No. 1497, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 20 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY GUINAYANGAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY; and

House Bill No. 5944, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 28 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA TO COMMEMORATE THE DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF DOÑA AURORA ARAGON-QUEZON.

To the Committee on Local Government

House Bill No. 5890, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE ILIGAN CITY DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5891, entitled

AN ACT RECONSTITUTING THE LANA DEL NORTE DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE INTO TWO (2) SEPARATE DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

House Bill No. 5892, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A NEW DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE IN THE FOURTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

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House Bill No. 5919, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALIAGA, CUYAPO, LICAB, NAMPICUAN, QUEZON, AND STO. DOMINGO, IN THE PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5920, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAVAL, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN, TO BE KNOWN AS THE NAVAL, BILIRAN TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 5921, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ALABAT, GUINAYANGAN, GUMACA, AND TAGKAWAYAN IN THE PROVINCE OF QUEZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6030, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LLDA), MUNICIPALITY OF CALAUAN, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, TO BE KNOWN AS THE TESDA-LLDA CALAUAN, LAGUNA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 6087, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN MINDANAO (USM), LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KABACAN, PROVINCE OF COTABATO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE USM-KABACAN, COTABATO TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

House Bill No. 6088, entitled

AN ACT AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER IN THE CITY OF CALBAYOG, PROVINCE OF SAMAR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CALBAYOG CITY, SAMAR TESDA TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

House Bill No. 6035, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE WESTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER IN MANDURRIO, ILOILO CITY FROM FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (425) BEDS TO SEVEN HUNDRED (700) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 6036, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE LAS PIÑAS GENERAL HOSPITAL AND SATELLITE TRAUMA CENTER IN LAS PIÑAS CITY, METRO MANILA

FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

House Bill No. 6144, entitled

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

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

and House Bill No. 5955, entitled

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE PROVINCIAL AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICE OF LANA DEL NORTE FROM ILIGAN CITY TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUBOD, LANA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1392, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MARCOS, MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS SANTA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1393, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY

DON JUSTO ABALOS, MUNICIPALITY OF UMINGAN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN TO BE KNOWN AS DON JUSTO ABALOS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUND THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

To the Committee on Rules

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 341, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT A FULL ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATURAL FIBER INDUSTRY AND THE ROLE WHICH THE PHILIPPINE FIBER INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (PHILFIDA) PLAYS IN PROMOTING THE NATURAL FIBER INDUSTRY

Introduced by Senator Villar

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 342, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED URGENT CALL FOR GOVERNMENT ACTION OF THE MASUNGI GEORESERVED FOUNDATION, AFTER A SECTION OF THE REFORESTATION SITE HAD BEEN BLOCKED BY A QUARRY COMPANY

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 343, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO

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CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF LIQUIDATION AND WINDING DOWN OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES — RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION BENEFIT SYSTEM (AFB-RSBS), WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT ADEQUATE FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO REFUND ITS MEMBERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

It was 3:09 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:14 p.m., the session was resumed.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON SENATE BILL NO. 1224 AND HOUSE BILL NO. 5829

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body considered the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1244, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING COMPREHENSIVE VALUES EDUCATION IN THE K TO 12 CURRICULUM AS A CORE SUBJECT INCLUDING GOOD MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

and House Bill No. 5829, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING VALUES EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM BY INCORPORATING "GOOD MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT" AS A SUBJECT IN KINDERGARTEN UP TO GRADE 3 LEVEL.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Gatchalian to sponsor the report.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR GATCHALIAN

Senator Gatchalian, on behalf of the Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture, submitted for the consideration of the Body the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1224 and House Bill No. 5829, also known as the GMRC and Values Education Act, a measure that on its face value, may appear to be merely legislating that the subjects of GMRC and Values Education be taught in the K to 12 Curriculum, but actually, he pointed out, its core is to create a space in every school day of every learner in K to 12 to be taught on, and to learn GMRC and Values Education with the same amount of time that they are taught Math, Science, English, and other core subjects.

He underscored the importance of good manners and right conduct and values education in the life of every young learner, at the very early age when they can be easily swayed and influenced by what they see around them, especially in social media, which could lead them to the wrong path because they lack proper guidance and enlightenment. He believed that if the children are taught GMRC and Values Education as core subjects in school, they will learn not only good manners but on how to become well-mannered individuals.

He then expressed his gratitude to his colleagues and principal authors — Senator Zubiri, Senator Villanueva, and Senator Lacson — who made it their advocacy to mandate the institutionalization of GMRC and Values Education in the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum, to Senator Hontiveros for her invaluable contribution as a conferee, as well as to Senators Gordon and Binay for their invaluable support and contribution to the bill.

JOINT EXPLANATION OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Acting on the request of Senator Gatchalian, upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion of the Joint Explanatory Statement of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate

Bill No. 1224 and House Bill No. 5829 into the Journal and Record of the Senate.

Following is the full text of the Joint Explanation:

1. The conferees agreed to use the Senate version as the working draft;
2. The conferees agreed to consolidate Section 1 of Senate Bill No. 1224 and Section 1 of House Bill No. 5829 which shall read as:

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “GMRC and Values Education Act.”

3. Section 2 of the Senate version was adopted to be Section 2 (Declaration of Policies) of the Reconciled Bill while inserting the word “modern-day” between the phrases “role of” and “and national heroes” to read as:

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policies. – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and promotes and protects their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. The State also recognizes the fundamental role of all educational institutions in the inculcation of patriotism and nationalism, fostering of love of humanity, respect of human rights, appreciation of the role of modern-day and national heroes in the historical development of the country, teaching the rights and duties of citizenship, strengthening ethical and spiritual values, developing moral character and personal discipline, encouraging critical and creative thinking, broadening scientific and technological knowledge, and promoting vocational efficiency.

Towards these ends, the State shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs. The State shall also give priority to education, science and technology, arts, culture, and sports to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress, and promote total human liberation and development.

4. Both Sections 3 of the Senate and the House versions were consolidated, modified, and adopted as Section 3 of the Reconciled Bill, by deleting sub-section (c) defining K to 12 Curriculum and sub-section (d) defining K to 12 Program of the Senate version, and which shall read as:

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

- (a) Human Dignity refers to the unique and inherent value or worth of human persons. It is intrinsic, hence, innate, inviolable, inalienable, and universal.
- (b) Values Education refers to:
 - i. The process that provides young people internalization of values which aims at student’s grasp of underlying principles, together with the ability to act on those principles, and the settled disposition to do so;
 - ii. Different pedagogies, methods or programs that teachers and/or educators use to create learning experiences for students when it comes to valuing processes, value positions, and value judgment; and
 - iii. Learning about self and wisdom of life in a self-exploratory, systematic, and scientific way.
- (c) Good Manners and Right Conduct (GMRC) refers to certain and particular universally accepted basic social values and etiquette and/or proper modes of behavior that convey respect to those whom one interacts with.
- (d) Character Building Activities shall mean actual and authentic learning activities wherein the character of the learners is formed, shaped, and/or built-up.
5. Both Sections 4 of the Senate and the House versions were consolidated, modified, and adopted as Section 4 of the Reconciled Bill which shall read as:

SEC. 4. Institutionalization of Good Manners and Right Conduct and Values Education in the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum. – Good Manners and Right Conduct (GMRC) and Values Education shall replace the existing *Edukasyon sa Pagpapakatao* curriculum and be institutionalized as follows:

- (a) GMRC shall be taught from Grades 1 to 6 as a separate subject with the same time allotment as the other core subjects, and shall be integrated in the daily learning activities in the kindergarten level. The Department of Education (DepEd) shall introduce GMRC through clear, distinct, specific, and concrete character building activities, such as role playing in the classroom, community immersion activities, teacher-parent

collaborative learning activities, school-initiated values formation activities, simulated activities, and other forms of experiential learning. GMRC shall inculcate among the students the concepts of human dignity, respect for oneself, and giving oneself to others in the spirit of community, for the effective and holistic development of the decision-making skills of the child. The curriculum shall also focus on the basic tenets of GMRC, such as caring for oneself, giving concern for others, according proper respect to people, upholding discipline and order, cultivating sincerity, honesty, obedience, and above all, love for country.

- (b) Values Education shall be taught from Grades 7 to 10 as a separate subject with the same time allotment as the other core subjects. The subject shall also be delivered using clear, distinct, specific, and concrete character building activities as prescribed in the immediately preceding subparagraph. At these grade levels, GMRC shall remain integrated in the teaching of Values Education.
 - (c) Values Education shall be integrated in the teaching of the subjects in Grades 11 and 12 under the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum.
6. Section 5 of the Senate version was modified and adopted as Section 5 of the Reconciled Bill which shall read as:

SEC. 5. Coverage of Values Education. – It is hereby mandated that Values Education shall be an integral and essential part of the DepEd’s K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum. Values Education as herein provided shall encompass universal human, ethical, and moral values, among others. It shall inculcate among our students the basic tenets of the observance of respect for oneself, others, and our elders, intercultural diversity, gender equity, ecology and integrity of creation, peace and justice, obedience to the law, nationalism and global citizenship, as well as the values of patience, perseverance, industry, honesty and integrity, and good faith in dealing with other human beings along with all other universal values.
 7. Section 6 of the Senate version was deleted and the succeeding sections were renumbered accordingly;
 8. Section 7 of the Senate version and Section 5 of the House version were consolidated as

Section 6 of the Reconciled Bill with some modifications which shall read as:

SEC. 6. Teaching Qualification and Capacity Building for Teachers. – Teachers with diploma, certification, and/or training in the field of Values Education or other allied disciplines shall be given preference in the teaching of this core subject.

The DepEd shall carry out the appropriate training for teachers and educators on GMRC and Values Education, as well as provide them with adequate and relevant instructional materials, in order to develop and enhance their capacity to teach the subject.

9. Section 8 of the Senate version was modified and adopted as Section 7 (Whole School Approach) of the Reconciled Bill by inserting the words “GMRC and” after the words “teaching of”, to read as follows:

SEC. 7. Whole School Approach. – For the effective institutionalization and teaching of GMRC and Values Education as a core subject, a whole school approach shall be adopted. This shall facilitate collaborative action in and by the school community and other stakeholders to foster parental involvement and develop home and school partnerships for an inclusive values education framework.
10. Section 9 of the Senate version was deleted and the succeeding sections were renumbered accordingly;
11. Section 10 of the Senate version was adopted to be Section 8 (Annual Review and Assessment) of the Reconciled Bill with some modifications to read as follows:

SEC. 8. Annual Review and Assessment. – The DepEd shall conduct an annual review of the institutionalization of GMRC and Values Education in the K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum to ensure its proper implementation and assess student learning outcomes for the purpose of determining its efficacy.

The report shall be submitted to the Committees on Basic Education of both houses of Congress within thirty (30) days from the termination of the period of review and assessment.
12. Section 11 of the Senate version was adopted as Section 9 (Implementing Agency) of the Reconciled Bill;
13. Section 12 of the Senate version was adopted as Section 10 (Appropriations) of the Reconciled Bill;

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14. Section 13 of the Senate version was adopted as Section 11 (Implementing Rules and Regulations) of the Reconciled Bill;
15. Section 14 of the Senate version was adopted as Section 12 (Separability Clause) of the Reconciled Bill;
16. Section 15 of the Senate version was adopted as Section 13 (Repealing Clause) of the Reconciled Bill;
17. Section 10 of the House version was adopted as Section 14 (Effectivity) of the Reconciled Bill;
18. For the title of the Reconciled Bill, the title of the Senate version was consolidated with the title of the House version which shall read as:

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING GOOD
MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT
AND VALUES EDUCATION IN THE K
TO 12 CURRICULUM, APPROPRIAT-
ING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

In case of conflict between the statements/ amendments stated in this Joint Explanation and that of the provisions of the consolidated bill in the accompanying Conference Committee Report, the provisions of the latter shall prevail.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva made the following manifestation to express his deep gratitude for the overwhelming support on the bill which he coauthored:

No matter how advanced civilization is – with the technological advances that have made our lives sophisticated and, in turn, have prompted schools to give priority to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – we will always go back to the basics: values, character, good manner, and social etiquette. No wonder, and I must say, that the “Fifth Industrial Revolution” is coming — and it is about values.

The process of crafting this measure provided us with the opportunity to ask, “What do we really care about? What is the most important thing right now? And more importantly, what is the role of our schools in educating our young people?”

The answer we found is in the 1987 Constitution’s citations on the importance of education, and it is obvious that it sees education primarily as values formation.

That is why we laud the bicameral panel for the inclusion of a proviso under Section 5 that says, “It is hereby mandated that Values Education shall be an integral and essential part of the DepEd’s K to 12 Basic Education Curriculum.” Clearly, this means that values education should be at the core of the K to 12 curriculum.

We believe that values education should be an integral and essential part of the K-12 curriculum across all grade levels, from K to 12. This is the reason why we originally proposed a “comprehensive” values education bill.

I wish to thank our seatmate and chairman of the Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture, Senator Win Gatchalian, for his teacher-like style of ironing out the disagreeing provisions of the House of Representatives and Senate versions and for his full support to our provision that the K to 12 Curriculum is incomplete without values education.

Once this bill becomes a law, the DepEd will have the legal basis to consciously and purposefully integrate values education across all subjects from K to 12. Needless to say, this would require enhancing our teachers’ capacity which this bill also provides.

Lastly, the inclusion of a whole-school approach is so important that it should not be left unnoticed — values formation cuts through the total education community. In which case, even the GMRC subject will become part of this “comprehensive” values education approach. *Dito po mas klaro ang kasabihang* “It takes a village to educate a child.”

Alam ko pong nagsunog tayo ng kilay, lalo na ang ating chairman, Senator Win Gatchalian, kasama ang ating mga coauthors para matiyak na mapag-isa ang magkakaibang probisyon ng iba’t ibang panukala dito sa Senado at Kongreso.

Higit kailanman, ngayon po natin kailangan ang panukalang batas na ito dahil tatagos po ito hanggang sa trabaho ng ating mga kababayan at sa kinabukasan ng ating bayan.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri thanked Senator Gatchalian for prioritizing the measure, of which he was the principal author along with Senators Villanueva, Binay, Gordon, and Honteviros.

He believed that more than ever, the measure is very important especially at this time when the

youth have become more focused on education and technology, forgetting good manners and right conduct. He said that the country's system could take inspiration from the success story of Japan where children are taught the subject for one hour every day, one part of which is cleanliness.

Senator Zubiri hoped that the bill would push the school children to follow good manners and right conduct.

REMARKS OF SENATOR CAYETANO

Regarding her Japan experience, Senator Cayetano expressed her fascination on how clean the surroundings there despite not having a lot of trash cans on the streets. She said that she found out later that the Japanese have been trained to not only pick up the trash but also to bring it home and dispose it there. She hoped that it could be emulated in the Senate in the attempt to attain to become zero-waste as an institution.

Senator Zubiri mentioned that after the New Year celebration in Luneta Park, the city government of Manila had to clean up almost 20 tons of trash. He hoped that with the new legislation, the future generation would be trained to have good manners and right conduct.

APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1224 and House Bill No. 5829 was approved and ratified by the Body.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

At this juncture, upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate read the following resolutions which the Chair referred to the Committee on Rules:

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS TO ALLOW ABS-CBN BROADCASTING CORPORATION AND SKY CABLE CORPORATION TO OPERATE PENDING THE FINAL DETERMINA-

TION OF THE RENEWAL OF THEIR RESPECTIVE FRANCHISES BY THE EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF THE APPROPRIATE PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY BY THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Introduced by Senators Lapid, Gatchalian, Villanueva, Binay, Zubiri, Angara, Recto, Poe and Pacquiao

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 344, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC) TO ISSUE A PROVISIONAL AUTHORITY TO ABS-CBN CORPORATION, ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND/OR AFFILIATES ABS-CBN CONVERGENCE, INC., SKY CABLE CORPORATION, AND AMCARA BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., UNDER SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS THE NTC MAY DEEM NECESSARY, UNTIL CONGRESS' FINAL DISPOSITION OF THE FRANCHISE RENEWAL BILLS

Introduced by Senators Cayetano, Dela Rosa, Go, Marcos, Revilla, Jr., Tolentino, Villar, Zubiri, Pacquiao, Angara, Villanueva, Gatchalian and Binay

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body considered Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT ABS-CBN CORPORATION SHOULD CONTINUE TO OPERATE PENDING FINAL DETERMINATION OF THE RENEWAL OF ITS FRANCHISE BY THE 18TH CONGRESS,

taking into consideration Senate Concurrent Resolution Nos. 7 and 8, and Proposed Senate Resolution No. 344.

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

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri stated that during the period of amendments, Concurrent Resolution No. 8 could be merged, subject to style, with Concurrent Resolution Nos. 7 and 8 and Proposed Senate Resolution No. 344 since they included ABS-CBN Corporation's affiliates and/or subsidiaries—ABS-CBN Convergence, Inc., Sky Cable Corporation, and AMCARA Broadcasting Network, Inc.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT SOTTO

At the outset, Senate President Sotto stated that he supports and will support his colleagues, as well as the existence of ABS-CBN. He then made the following disclosure: he worked with ABS-CBN for a number of years, even during the time when he became a senator in 1992, and that his wife was currently doing a *teleserye* or *telenovela* for the station.

Senate President Sotto asked why the NTC has time and again been asking Congress to pass a resolution so it would be able to issue a provisional authority to ABS-CBN to operate when it could do so even without a congressional resolution as it, in fact, did in the past.

Senator Drilon confirmed that in the past, as earlier stated by Senator Poe, the operation of a broadcast organization can continue pending the consideration of the renewal of its franchise. He surmised that the reason the Senate has to adopt a congressional resolution was the statement of Justice Secretary Guevarra during a hearing of the Committee on Public Services that the broadcast organization should be allowed to continue broadcasting even if the franchise has expired while Congress is deliberating on the renewal on grounds of equity, and that it would provide some degree of legal stability if Congress can request the NTC to issue a provisional authority.

Senate President Sotto noted that the NTC request was something new as he then enumerated the number of times the NTC issued provisional authorities to different franchises in the past: in 2015, 338 times;

in 2016, 471; in 2017, 259 times; in 2018, 155; and in 2019, 300 times. He stated that among those issued with provisional authorities were Smart Communications; the CBCP; the International Communications Corporation; GMA Network; DXRZ Broadcasting Station in Zamboanga City when there was a controversy; the station in Dumaguete; TV stations in Zamboanga City, PT&T; and a number of other controversial franchises. In those instances, he stressed, the NTC never asked for a congressional resolution.

Senate President Sotto stated that while he agreed with the intent of the resolutions being considered, he did not agree with the means or vehicle, as he insisted that the NTC could well issue an authority to operate without a Senate resolution, as it had done hundreds of times before.

Senate President Sotto maintained that ABS-CBN, like any other TV or radio station giving service to the public, deserves an authority to operate while its franchise approval is pending. So, during the voting on the resolution, he said that he would register his vote as a "critical yes."

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ANGARA

As an author of one of the resolutions, Senator Angara disclosed that his wife is working with ABS-CBN.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR REVILLA

At the outset, Senator Revilla stated that he filed Senate Bill No. 1374 to extend the franchise of ABS-CBN until the end of the year to give time for Congress to act accordingly and ease the apprehensions of its thousands of employees over the possibility of a shutdown, and he believed that only a law could amend or grant a franchise.

On the whether the concurrent resolution, upon approval of the Senate, would extend the franchise of ABS-CBN and whether it would have the same effect as a law, Senator Drilon replied that he, in fact, filed Senate Joint Resolution No. 11 which would also extend the franchise of ABS-CBN for three years; however, as agreed upon earlier, the Committee on Public Services could hear the proposed measure but would not act on it until the Senate receives the version from the House of Representatives because of the origination clause in the Constitution.

He said that he filed Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 because of the statement of the Justice Secretary that when there is a gap in the law, equity comes in to fill the gap. Moreover, he mentioned Senate President Sotto's statement that in the past, a concurrent resolution was not needed to direct the National Telecommunications Commission to provide a provisional authority for a network to operate.

To avoid any debate, Senator Drilon explained that he filed the proposed concurrent resolution so that as admitted by the NTC, they would have some basis to issue a provisional authority even if they have been doing this for years without any congressional resolution. He stated that Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 would not technically extend the franchise, but would allow the NTC to issue a provisional authority while the Congress debates on the extension of the franchise so that the broadcast company can continue to operate similar to the privileges enjoyed by other franchises in the past.

On whether the concurrent resolution would, in effect, extend for a certain period the franchise of ABS-CBN and authorize the NTC to provide provisional authority to operate, Senator Drilon clarified that the resolution does not seek to extend the franchise; it is merely reiterates what had been done in the past. In fact, he noted that the Senate did not do anything in the past and still the NTC allowed the franchise holders – whose franchise had expired – to continue operating while Congress was debating on the renewal of the franchise. He said that if no renewal is approved by Congress at the end of Congress, the NTC would no longer have authority to issue a provisional authority because the premise is that the franchise renewal is being debated upon in Congress.

On whether the actions of the Senate would stand in court in case someone questions ABS-CBN operations beyond May 4, 2020, Senator Drilon said that he could not devine what others would do if they want to go to the court and stop ABS-CBN. He stressed that the court's decision is a matter that would be left to the judiciary as the final arbiter on such legal issue. He reiterated that there have been precedents of the same nature wherein other franchises continued to operate without question.

Senator Revilla stated that he only wanted to make sure that the franchise would not be compromised and that if the Senate was to pass a measure, it should act immediately. He supposed that

the Body could appeal to the House of Representatives to pass the franchise measure for the sake of the 11,000 employees of ABS-CBN.

Senator Drilon stated that the concurrent resolution was filed on the ground of equity as asserted by Secretary Guevarra and upheld by the Supreme Court in several cases. He said that the resolution would hopefully prompt the NTC to issue a provisional authority for ABS-CBN to continue to operate until its franchise could be acted upon. He opined that if the House of Representatives rejects the franchise application or would allow the 18th Congress to go out of existence without acting on the franchise renewal, ABS-CBN would be in deep trouble if it continues to operate.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

Initially, Senator Pimentel asked what would be the final product of the deliberations since there were four measures – three concurrent resolutions and one proposed resolution – related to the ABS-CBN franchise.

Senator Zubiri explained that the discussions would consider all four measures, namely, Senate Concurrent Resolution Nos. 6, 7 and 8; and Proposed Senate Resolution No. 344, but at the proper time, he would request to have the resolutions merged.

As to which resolution would be used in the period of amendments, Senator Zubiri replied that it would be Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 as it has been a tradition that the first measure filed would be the main document used.

Asked to differentiate a Senate resolution from a concurrent resolution and which would be more advantageous to pass, Senator Drilon cited the "resolved" clause of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, to wit: "Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring, to express the sense of the Congress that ABS-CBN Corporation should be allowed to operate under the terms of its existing franchise pending final determination of the renewal of its franchise by the 18th Congress and for the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) to issue ABS-CBN Corporation the appropriate provisional authority."

To the observation that the concurrent resolution would need the concurring action of the House of

Representatives, Senator Drilon said that he had been informed that the House of Representatives had already authorized the NTC to issue the provisional authority in the form of a letter.

Asked why a concurrent resolution and not a joint resolution was being used considering that a concurrent resolution would also need the action of the House of Representatives, Senator Drilon stated that he had, in fact, filed Joint Resolution No. 11 extending the franchise to three years, but he recognized that the Senate could not take it up because of the origination clause in the Constitution. He explained that under the Senate Rules, a joint resolution, which has the force and effect of law, goes through three readings and must be signed and approved by the President, while a concurrent resolution simply expresses the sense of Congress and does not need the signature of the President.

Asked if the concurrent resolution would merely ask the NTC to issue a provisional authority to various ABS-CBN-related broadcasting companies, Senator Drilon stated that the resolution simply "expresses the sense of Congress that the National Telecommunication Commission issue the appropriate provisional authority" to the ABS-CBN Corporation. He recalled that in the past, the franchise holders were allowed to continue to exist and operate and as mentioned earlier by the Senate President, the NTC never sought a resolution of Congress when it granted them provisional authority. He said that if the Senate were to follow the usual practice, the concurrent resolution would no longer be necessary, but it was made necessary because the Secretary of Justice expressed an opinion that a resolution of Congress would provide a more stable legal environment.

Senator Zubiri recalled that when he was chairperson of the House Committee on Legislative Franchises in the 12th and 13th Congress, it has been a common practice for the NTC, as the regulatory body, to grant provisional authority to several franchises with pending applications. He cited the Panay Electric Company, Inc. (PECO) from the City of Iloilo which lost its franchise when another company was given the franchise to provide the needs for the city. He said that the Energy Regulatory Board (ERC) still gave the PECO a permit to operate so as not to disrupt the supply of electricity.

Asked what the legal basis would be for the NTC to issue a provisional authority to an entity with

a lapsed franchise, Senator Drilon stated that the resolution simply expresses the sense of Congress that the NTC should issue a provisional authority but that the issue on whether it would grant the provisional authority would be left to the judgment of the agency. He said that whether or not the NTC can issue a provisional authority when a franchise has lapsed is a matter that ultimately the courts may have to decide.

Senator Pimentel clarified that while he was for the renewal of the franchise, he wanted to make sure that the resolution would merely request that ABS-CBN be allowed to operate under the terms of its existing franchise, pending final determination.

Asked whether Congress has a solid, legal basis to ask the NTC for provisional authority considering that the franchise would lapse by May 4, 2020, Senator Drilon pointed out that Congress was merely expressing its sense that the NTC should grant provisional authority to ABS-CBN, and it was up to the NTC to determine whether there are legal issues that it has to confront if it grants a provisional authority. He clarified that the resolution was not making a decision for the NTC. He pointed out that the Supreme Court has ruled that laws and rules should not be interpreted and applied in a vacuum or in an isolated manner.

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri recalled that during a committee hearing of Senator Poe, the NTC asked permission from the House of Representatives and the Senate to allow them to grant provisional authority.

On whether the NTC stated the legal basis for the request, Senator Drilon replied that under the dispositive portion of the proposed resolution, the Senate was just expressing its sense; it was not asking the NTC to grant a provisional authority. Whether this is legal or not, he said that this must be left to the NTC to determine and should it grant the provisional authority, then it is left to any party to bring it to court. He added that it was immaterial if the NTC representative stated the legal basis during the committee hearing because the resolution was simply an expression of the sense of the Senate.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR LACSON

Senator Lacson suggested that the Body simply pass a simple resolution expressing the sense of the



Senate, instead of a concurrent resolution which still needs a similar or a counterpart resolution by the House of Representatives. He disclosed that he did not sign the concurrent resolution because like a simple resolution, it does not have the effect of a law.

Senator Drilon agreed to convert the concurrent resolution to a simple resolution.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO

Senator Cayetano noted that the resolution that the majority of the Members of the Body signed was Proposed Senate Resolution No. 344 a simple resolution that expresses the sense of the Senate.

As the author of Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, Senator Drilon said that he has no objection if it was amended to become simply as an expression of the sense of the Senate.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL (Continuation)

Senator Pimentel explained that he asked if there was a legal basis for the NTC in issuing a provisional authority to ABS-CBN to guide him in making his decision whether to vote in favor, against or abstain on the proposed resolution. Senator Drilon reiterated that the legality of a provisional authority is a matter that the NTC would decide because they are the principal agency.

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri recalled that during the hearing of Senator Poe, Justice Secretary Menardo Guevarra confirmed that it was legal for the NTC to issue a provisional authority if the Senate and Congress would request for an extension of the franchise of the ABS-CBN while its application for renewal is pending.

Senator Pimentel said that the essence of the resolution was that the Body was asking the NTC to issue the provisional authority without putting a time limit on it. Senator Drilon reiterated that they were not asking the NTC but just stating their sense to the agency, which would decide whether they would give substance or not to the matter addressed to them.

Asked on the proper terminology that the Senate is expressing for the NTC to issue, Senator Drilon replied that the Senate is expressing the sense that

the NTC “should issue” the provisional authority, and whether or not they would issue is a matter that is left to their discretion. Senator Pimentel added that the length of time of the provisional authority should also be left for the NTC to decide.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR TOLENTINO

Senator Tolentino informed the Body that he signed the resolution knowing that there two franchises involved: first was the franchise granted to the ABS-CBN Corporation, through the Corporation Law of the Philippines, that gave it a juridical personality, and second was the franchise that would lapse on May 4, 2020. He then asked if the expiration of the franchise would affect its registration as a corporation. Senator Drilon stated that the non-issuance of a provisional authority would not cause the termination of the corporate life of ABS-CBN. He said that under the Revised Corporation Code, the existence of a corporation is already perpetual.

Senator Tolentino explained that the primary purpose of the first license was for the establishment of a broadcasting corporation while the second license was for its franchise, which would soon expire. He asked whether the primary purpose of the corporation would still exist, given the expiration of its franchise soon. He recalled a shipping company whose license to operate was cancelled by MARINA due to several incidents at sea. He wondered what the purpose would be of the company if their vessels could not operate due to absence of a franchise.

Saying that with the lapse of the franchise the corporate life still subsists, Senator Tolentino then asked if through the resolution the Senate could express its sense to revive the primary purpose or to give life to the lapsed franchise. Senator Drilon replied that the Body was just expressing its sense that the NTC should issue a license for the continued operation of ABS-CBN and was not passing judgment as to whether or not it is a valid exercise of that executive discretion. He maintained that the discretion is with the NTC but the Senate was just expressing its sense in accordance with the opinion expressed by Justice Secretary Guevarra that ABS-CBN be allowed to continue to operate.

As regards the pending case before the Supreme Court filed by the Solicitor General, Senator Drilon replied that the case which was being litigated in the

Supreme Court was completely separate and distinct from the resolution of the Senate. He affirmed that the expression of the sense of the Senate would not in any manner influence the judiciary but that its sense is directed to the Executive branch.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR POE

Senator Poe said that it was no secret that her family has had and continues to have business and personal relationship with ABS-CBN, and she noted that what the Body has undertaken so far was not a vote yet on the actual franchise but an exercise of its oversight function in aid of legislation. This time, she said that the Body was simply expressing its sense with regard to extending the validity of the network's franchise so that it may be deliberated upon on the floor.

She said that the Senate is not supposed to abdicate its right to exercise its oversight function in aid of legislation; and that there must be a recognition that franchises are granted by Congress.

Senator Poe stated that her mother, Susan Roces, a talent of ABS-CBN, was still working with ABS-CBN, not because she needed to but because as a senior citizen, she was just happy doing a job. As regards her father's collection of movies, she said that there are other networks that could continue the contract entered into by the network with the FPJ Productions.

Senator Poe stated that her family would not stand to lose should the franchise of ABS-CBN be not renewed, but the nonrenewal would greatly affect thousands of small workers who may not be absorbed by other companies. She explained that her first committee hearing was simply an exercise of their oversight function and not about the granting of franchises; on the other hand, what the Body was now deliberating on was the resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the NTC should grant a provisional authority to whatever franchise, not just ABS-CBN, that may expire in the middle of the calendar of Congress. She then announced that should the House of Representatives take up and approve the franchise of ABS-CBN and transmit it to the Senate, she would inhibit herself from voting on the approval of the franchise because she was confident that the Senate would have the votes of her discerning colleagues.

She thanked the members of the Body for being open-minded during her committee hearing on the oversight. She also thanked Senator Dela Rosa who said he would study the matter, and Senator Go, who was honest enough to tell the sentiments of the President which further clarified the issues.

Senator Poe clarified that she was just one of those who would vote on the resolution. Although she would vote in favor of the measure, she said that it may not be adopted if the majority voted against it.

She again manifested that she would inhibit herself as one of the members of the Committee on Public Services only when it comes to the actual deliberations on the franchise of ABS-CBN.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva, as one of the authors of the resolution, commended the Body for once again proving that they are mindful of and sensitive with their decisions, being aware that delays could cause significant consequences. He said that he was more than willing to sign and support whatever form the resolution would be, be it concurrent, joint resolution, or simple resolution, because what worries him more are the 11,071 workers directly or indirectly working at ABS-CBN and who have been spending sleepless nights over the possibility of losing their jobs in case the network's franchise lapses and it would be forced to shut down.

With no assurance that the network's franchise would be renewed, he reiterated his support for the resolution to give peace of mind to the ABS-CBN workers. He commended the unity shown by the members of the Chamber despite having different political affiliations to protect their fellowmen.

At this juncture, Senate President Pro Tempore Recto relinquished the Chair to Senate President Sotto.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR GORDON

Senator Gordon stated that the Constitution is clear that a franchise bill must emanate from the House of Representatives and that he would not in a way preempt whatever action the House of Representatives would take. Nevertheless, he com-

mended the efforts of the members of the Body for showing their transparency, particularly Senator Poe whose family has a business with ABS-CBN, Senator Angara whose wife is an officer of the network, and Senator Lapid, among others.

He said that aside from recognizing the plight of the employees who would lose their jobs, he would vote for the renewal of the ABS-CBN's franchise because the debate is about a legal mandate from the Constitution.

He commended Senator Drilon for being careful by saying that it was just the "sense of the Senate" and that they were not trying to influence the National Telecommunications Commission, and he hoped that the resolution would not become a precedent later on for other stations to invoke when their respective franchise would expire.

In reply, Senator Drilon said that while all the issues that were raised by Senator Gordon were valid, he had already addressed such concerns in the course of his responses to the interpellation of Senator Pimentel.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR LACSON

Senator Lacson stated that earlier, Senator Drilon differentiated a concurrent resolution from a joint resolution — a joint resolution has the force and effect of a law, while a concurrent resolution does not. But he stated that reading the Supreme Court decision in the case of *Ang Nars Party List vs. Executive Secretary* under G.R. No. 21576, there is not much difference between the two anymore because even a joint resolution of Congress cannot repeal or amend a law. Thus, he opined that even if the Senate would decide in favor of a joint resolution, it could not repeal or amend RA 7966 or the ABS-CBN Franchise Law.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan stated that pursuant to Section 12, Article VI of the Constitution, "All members of the Senate and the House of Representatives shall, upon assumption of office, make a full disclosure of their financial and business interests. They shall notify the House concerned of a potential conflict of interest that may arise from the filing of a proposed legislation of which they are

authors." He placed on record that he was neither an author nor a sponsor of Senate Concurrent Resolution Nos. 6, 7, and 8 and Proposed Senate Resolution No. 344 which were all about the ABS-CBN franchise, and that although his wife, Sharon Cuneta, was also a contract artist of the network, he was confident that she would not be much affected if the network would be shut down. However, he believed that it would have a significant impact on the ordinary workers of the station and even on the millions of people struck by calamities, such as typhoons and volcanic eruptions, who rely on the network for relief. Moreover, he believed that aside from it bearing also an issue about the right to information as well as about freedom of the press, revoking the franchise of ABS-CBN would have an impact on the country as a whole.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PACQUIAO

Senator Pacquiao stated that more than the fact that ABS-CBN airs his MPBL, he was expressing his support to the network as thousands of their employees could possibly lose their jobs if it shuts down. He urged the Body to adopt the resolution to ease the agony of the workers of ABS-CBN who fear that the franchise of the network would not be renewed.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri revealed that in 2013, he had the same experience as President Duterte in 2015 when his political advertisement was not aired by ABS-CBN and that it took him quite a long time to get his refund. Nevertheless, he lauded the effort of the network's president, Carlo Katigbak, who personally reached out to him as he was upset about what happened. He disclosed that during their discussion, he poured his heart out to Mr. Katigbak and asked for the network's assurance that they would never let similar incidents happen again in the future.

Relative thereto, he suggested that when the ABS-CBN franchise bill is transmitted in the Senate, they could insert a provision in the bill that violations of such nature would be a violation of the term of their franchise.

Aside from those workers whose lives depend on ABS-CBN, Senator Zubiri stated that an ABS-CBN shutdown would have an impact on him as he always watches the station's Channels 26 and 27,

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especially *World Tonight* because he always wanted to be updated. He said that without ABS-CBN, he would have no choice but to just tune in to CNN International, BBC International or Al Jazeera.

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.

DRILON AMENDMENT

On the title of the bill, as proposed by Senator Drilon and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved, subject to style, to reword the title, to read as follows:

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE
OF THE SENATE THAT ABS-CBN COR-
PORATION AND ITS SUBSIDIARIES
AND ITS AFFILIATES SHOULD
CONTINUE TO OPERATE PENDING
FINAL RENEWAL OF ITS FRANCHISE.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

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

INQUIRY OF SENATE PRESIDENT SOTTO

At this juncture, Senate President Sotto asked whether there has been any member who has considered the possibility of going back to the old law to avoid all issues on political advertisements on television and radio.

Senator Marcos, chair of the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation, agreed to consider Senate President Sotto's proposal as part of the new hybrid election system that the committee was considering.

ADOPTION OF RESOLUTION

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, the Body adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6 as amended and converted into a simple resolution.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

It was 4:41 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:37 p.m., the session was resumed with President Pro Tempore Recto presiding.

SENATE CONFEREES

Upon motion by Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Chair designated the following to constitute the Senate panel in the bicameral conference committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1086 and House Bill No. 6312 (Philippine High School for Sports Act): Senator Gatchalian as chairperson, and Senators Angara, Cayetano, Go, Tolentino and Pangilinan as members.

PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS ON SENATOR PANGILINAN'S PRIVILEGE SPEECH

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed the period of interpellations on Senator Pangilinan's privilege speech.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLAR

Senator Villar stated that Republic Act No. 11203 or the Rice Tariffication Law created a P10-billion Rice Competitiveness Enhancement Fund (RCEF) totaling P100 billion to aid the farmers during the transition to rice tariffication. She informed the Body that last year, the farmers received the benefits of the law through seed distribution, credit and extension programs. She said that farm machineries were supposed to be distributed to rice-producing towns but the distribution was delayed due to the change of leadership in the Department of Agriculture from Sec. Emmanuel Piñol to Sec. William Dar. She pointed out that SARO-BMB-E-20-001084 in the amount of P5 billion for the 2019 rice mechanization fund in addition to another P5 billion for 2020 was already received by the agency and would be released soon.

Aside from the P10-billion rice fund, she said that Landbank and DA's Agricultural Credit Policy

Council also implemented the P4.8 billion Expanded Survival and Recovery Assistance Program (SURE Aid) which provided a one-time loan assistance of P15,000 at 0% interest for eight years, to help rice farmers with farms measuring one hectare and below and whose income were affected by the drop in the farm gate price of *palay*.

Senator Villar said that another benefit for the small farm holders is the P3-billion unconditional cash assistance funded by the Department of Finance to provide P5,000 each to 600,000 farmers, while another P7 billion was allocated to the National Food Authority to procure palay from local farmers, thus ensuring that the produce would be bought at a reasonable price. This, she said, was in addition to the P31-billion budget for rice subsidy under the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino* Program which was used to buy rice from local farmers for distribution to beneficiary households.

She said that the local farmers also received a P7-billion assistance under the National Rice Program which included provision for hybrid seeds, fertilizers, inbred seeds, irrigation support and rehabilitation, improvement of small scale irrigation projects, agriculture machineries, equipment and facilities support services, extension services, and research and development; furthermore, the farmers also received from the National Irrigation Administration an assistance fund worth P36 billion, with a P1 billion allocation for PhilMech/PhilRice, and farm-to-market road projects worth P9.9 billion.

Senator Villar said that the improvement of the country's credit rating was attributed to the enactment of the Rice Tariffication law as it allowed the government to save P35 billion in interest payments from its loans with other countries.

She asserted that since the local farmers' competitiveness is something that could not be done overnight, programs were rolled out to provide a ready market for local rice and to deter unscrupulous traders from taking advantage of the farmers in the initial phase of the law's implementation. She believed that the farm mechanization, once fully implemented, will bring down the production cost of *palay* from P4.80 per kilo to P1.20 per kilo, while inbred seeds will increase the harvest from four metric tons per hectare to six metric tons per hectare, thereby increasing the farmers' income by 50%.

Senator Villar stated that from 2019 to 2024, pursuant to Republic Act No. 11203, P5 billion would be provided for the procurement of farm equipment like tractors, tillers, planters, seeders, harvesters, threshers, and drying and milling machines, which would be given out by PhilMech to 947 rice-producing towns at a rate of P5 million per town, per year; P3 billion for the distribution and production of inbred seeds at P20 kilograms per hectare every planting season to be implemented by the Philippine Rice Research Institute; and P1 billion for cheap credits with a 2% interest per year to be implemented by the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines. Additionally, she stated that P1 billion would be used to fund training programs by the Agricultural Training Institute, Philippine Center for Post Harvest Development and Mechanization (PhilMech) and Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) at P100 million each per year, and through farm schools by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), at P700 million per year.


Senator Villar noted that according to the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS), the loss to farmers for 2019 was P8.22 billion and the gain to consumers was P4.9 billion. She explained that the P3 billion unconditional cash transfer to 600,000 farmers as well as the SURE Aid loan amounting to P2.5 billion, covered the P3.32 billion loss to farmers the past year.

She maintained that the Rice Tariffication Law is a pro-poor program that would be beneficial to the rice farmers and the consumers in the long run. In fact, she noted that because of the law, the country's credit rating was raised, enabling the government to realize additional P36 billion savings on interest from its loans, and the inflation rate of all food prices, which is 70% of the household expenses, declined.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan thanked Senator Villar for her manifestation, and thereafter requested that a committee hearing be held to validate the report of the Department of Agriculture.

Senator Villar confirmed that there was already a pending resolution on the matter so a hearing on the implementation of the RCEF would be conducted during the break.



REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Pangilinan and the manifestation of Senator Villar to the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform.

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 52 on Senate Bill No. 1373 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 52 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1373

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 1373 (Committee Report No. 52), entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING CHILDREN BY PROHIBITING AND DECLARING CHILD MARRIAGE AS ILLEGAL AND PROVIDING PROGRAMS AND PENALTIES THEREOF.

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

The Chair recognized Senator Hontiveros for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

Senator Hontiveros presented for plenary consideration Senate Bill No. 1373 under Committee Report No. 52, entitled "An Act Protecting Children by Prohibiting and Declaring Child Marriage as Illegal and Providing Programs and Penalties thereof," which seeks to promote the empowerment of women and girls, and protect them against discriminatory and unequal practices which abuse, degrade and demean their worth and dignity as children.

The full text of Senator Hontiveros' sponsorship speech follows:

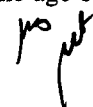
Let me begin by telling a sad story. Last year, *Rappler* ran an article about a girl whom they called "Fatima." Three days into the new year of 2019, Fatima woke up to what she thought was any other normal day spent doing household chores and taking care of her younger siblings. Little did she know that before the day would end, she would be married to a distant cousin eight years her senior, someone whom she did not know and has not met.

At 14 years old, she would become the wife of a total stranger. It was her uncle who sealed the marriage and made the arrangements, and no amount of pleading and bargaining by Fatima and her mother, who had been a child bride herself, could persuade him to undo the agreement. In justifying this decision, the girl's grandmother, the family matriarch, explained that marriage would lighten the burden of her widowed mother Isha who was left to feed 11 children, some of them adopted, like Fatima. The small *sari-sari* store she used to own was destroyed during the Marawi siege, and only the meager income from a small vegetable patch was what kept them barely afloat.

We all know that this is not a rare occurrence. According to a UNICEF report, 750 million women and girls alive today were married before they reached their 18th birthday, and 2% of this number was married before they even turned 15 years old. Also, the Philippines with 726,000 child brides, is the 12th highest in the world in terms of absolute numbers.

In a 2019 survey by the Oxfam-led—Improving Availability of Reproductive Health Services in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, or the ARCHES Project, 253 or 24% out of the 1,058 respondents coming from Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, and the Basulta region were cases of child marriage, and 97% of them were girls.

Thirty years ago, the Philippines ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child which clearly sets the minimum age of marriage at 18 years old. Almost a decade earlier, we also became a signatory to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which obligates states to ensure full, free, and informed consent of both parties to the marriage. In many an instance where issues concerning children are discussed, we always point to the fact that there are acts that children and young people below the age of



18 are prohibited from undertaking, among them being party to a legal contract, which is exactly what establishes the legitimacy of a marriage.

Our usual understanding of the world would point to poverty as the main motivation that drives families to marry off their children at a very young age. Not unlike the case of Fatima whose family was affected by armed conflict and was pushed deeper into poverty, many girls like her have suffered the same fate. Internal displacement brought about by armed conflicts and natural disasters has driven impoverished families to greater hardships that many of them seek to somehow be unburdened of mouths to feed, and hope that their young daughters would be better off married to someone who could better care for them.

Poverty may be among the drivers of child marriages but there is also a more subtle impulse behind this practice. Child marriage, as part of social norms in communities where it is common, is often the result of entrenched gender inequality. This gender inequality plays a key role in making girls disproportionately affected by this cultural practice.

Female children are falsely seen as contributing less to the household, and they are expected to eventually leave to join the families of their husband making them of less value than male children. In the baseline study on violence against women conducted by Oxfam International, it was revealed that among the respondents from Maguindanao, social pressure is the main reason why girls enter into marriage early, many of them between the ages of 14 years old to 17 years old.

At the time when we, together with the rest of the world, are slowly making headway in ensuring that young girls are protected and able to reach their full potential as human beings, the existence of child marriages in our country negates these efforts. Child brides are less likely to remain in school depriving them of economic prospects and other opportunities that an education affords. Girls who get married at a very young age are more likely to experience early childbearing, exposing them to higher pregnancy-related complications including childbirth-related deaths.

I would like to direct to the attention of our colleagues to this photo of three young girls and two baby boys from the Palaw'on community. To reach their village, one has to travel five hours by land from Puerto Princesa City in Palawan to the Municipality of Rizal, then another one and a half hours from Rizal to the Barangay Proper,

and finally, four to six hours uphill. And, if we think the baby boys in the care of the two girls are their siblings, I am sad to say that we are mistaken. They are their children. Children having children. All three of these girls ages 13, 12, and 9 were child brides. Distressful. Heartbreaking. Just by looking at them, one immediately realizes that this practice has to stop.

Medical evidence has also shown that the risk of infant mortality among children of very young mothers is 60% higher than among those born to mothers older than 19 years old. Girls who get married early are also vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections, domestic violence, abuse, and exploitation. These are but some of the implications arising from child marriages. If we continue to allow this to happen to our children, we are essentially robbing them of their right to a childhood.

It is with this in mind that the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality wishes to sponsor Senate Bill No. 1373 under Committee Report No. 52, entitled: "Prohibiting and Declaring Child Marriage as Illegal."

This bill considers the act of child marriage a public crime, and penalizes any person who facilitates and solemnizes this union. Being conscious of existing cultural practices, the bill introduces a culturally-appropriate program and services that will be responsive to the needs of those who will be affected by this law. The Department of Social Welfare and Development shall be the lead duty-bearer in the formulation of such program and services, and in the implementation of the law.

I realize that there might be some apprehension that the bill may be intruding into established and long-held cultural practices. In all humility, allow me to say that I fully understand this anxiety. May I invite our dear colleagues to watch a short but a heartening video of a young Muslim woman, Hanod Ebrahim who is an unwavering advocate of ending child-early forced marriage.

At this juncture, a video was presented before the Body.

As history has time and again demonstrated, any aspect of culture is not static, and neither is it monolithic. Culture can be considered not only as practice but also as process, a consequence of material and non-material conditions, and a bearer of values. As such, culture continues to evolve, to grow with us human beings who are

fully aware of present realities and necessities, accepting of new knowledge and belated realizations. And among the learnings that we are duty-bound to acknowledge is that our children are our future, and all that we do must be in their best interest.

Bago po ako magtapos, nais ko lamang kilalanin ang mga advocates, mga Girl Defenders na narito ngayon—mula pa sa malayo ang iba—na walang kapagurang itinatangyod ang pagpasa sa panukalang batas na ito: Oxfam; Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD); Al-Mujadilah Development Foundation, Inc. (AMDF)-Lanao del Sur; UnyPhil-Maguindanao; Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP); mga taga-Barangay Culiati; World Vision; Forum for Family Planning; SheDecides; at iba pang mga Girl Defenders.

Maraming pong salamat.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1373

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

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 35 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1318

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1318 (Committee Report No. 35), entitled

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 10068 OR THE ORGANIC
AGRICULTURE ACT OF 2010.**

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

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Villar, sponsor of the measure, and Senator Pangilinan for continuation of his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

(Continuation)

At the outset, Senator Pangilinan expressed support for the measure as he recognized the need

for greater support for organic agriculture in the country.

Asked whether the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS) which was being introduced in the bill, was not present in the existing law and that the present certification process which was limited to a third, second or first party certification setup has become a stumbling block that should be overcome to get more interest in local organic farming, Senator Villar agreed, adding that third party certification is expensive as it ranges from P100,000 to P150,000 a year. She explained that the PGS amendment would enable small farmers to have their certification at the price of between P600 to P2000.

Responding to the observation that the existing law only empowers the Bureau of Agriculture and Fisheries Standard (BAFS) to accredit the certification body while the power of certification is given to a first party, second party or third party system, Senator Villar clarified that the bill would give the BAFS, as well as three other groups, the authority to handle certification as well.

However, Senator Pangilinan expressed concern that there may come a time when a party whose application for certification from the BAFS is disapproved would then apply for certification from the organic certifying body (OCB). He believed that there should be separate groups handling such functions lest a conflict arise wherein the body in charge of accreditation is also the certifying authority. Senator Villar suggested that Senator Pangilinan propose an amendment that would identify BAFS as being in charge of accreditation while the three agencies would be handling certification. Senator Pangilinan stated that he would introduce the amendment at the appropriate time.

On whether there was a time period for accomplishing the tedious certification process, Senator Villar replied that the bill could be amended to state that it should not take longer than sixty (60) days.

Senator Pangilinan suggested that the one-year validity of the certification be extended to two years amid feedback that one year is too short considering that the lengthy certification process ends up eating into the period of validity. Senator Villar clarified that the validity period begins after the certification. She added that the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movement (IFOAM) has a general rule

that the certification should last for one year. This, she said, would ensure that the PGS groups would live up to IFOAM's standard.

On whether there is a template for a certification validity lasting longer than one year, Senator Villar replied in the negative. In any case, she noted that the certification is quite affordable as it costs between P600 to P2000. She believed that the one-year period would be an effective quality check that would encourage PGS groups to do what they are supposed to do.

In a related matter, Senator Pangilinan surmised that the expensive cost for certification is the reason why only 65 groups have been accredited and certified. Senator Villar agreed, adding that small farmers find it difficult to afford that kind of certification.

Senator Pangilinan said that the list of requirements was quite long, so his main concern was on the time and process. Senator Villar pointed out that the requirements are specified in the bill, but she agreed to consider amendments later on to make the process easier. Senator Pangilinan pointed out that the process of certification and accreditation is very tedious, so that during the period of amendments, he would look at how to shorten the process. He said that the farmers also need to be in their farms most of the time to take care of their crops.

Senator Villar stated that those who will certify — the core PGS group — are also part of the industry. Thus, she believed that they will not give their fellow farmers a hard time. She added that there is an association of LGUs in the Philippines for organic farming, and she surmised that they would want to certify as many farms as possible. Furthermore, she said that any private organization can be accredited to do the certification. Senator Pangilinan agreed that with the community and stakeholders involved, it would be to their best interests not to make the process slow. Senator Villar said that as part of the amendment, she would indicate where the budget should go that would help the organic farmers attain a certification.

On page 3, lines 19 to 24, Senator Pangilinan asked on the reason why the requirement on "compliance and no infraction for three years" which was not in the previous law, included in the bill. Senator Villar replied that based on the experience of other countries which implemented PGS, it shortened farm

certification by at least 15%. Since it would be implemented for the first time in the country, she said that the government should be very careful about it being abused and avoid certifying farms which are not following the rules as it would destroy the image of organic farming in the Philippines. She said that it could be indicated in the law that if successful, the BAFS would have the authority to make the process shorter and the certification's duration longer.

Senator Pangilinan pointed out that with the said requirement, it would mean that the farm should have been operating for three years already before they could be certified. For those who would want to immediately start a farm, he said that three years would be a long time to wait just to be able to apply for a certification. He suggested lowering the period to one year, or to allow the BAFS to decide on the matter, depending on other requirements that have been met. He feared that the three-year requirement might be a reason for farmers not to apply for certification. Senator Villar clarified that the provision refers to the core PGS group that wishes to be a certifying body — that the group would have to be a practitioner for three years, and that they have to prove their worth. For the farms to be certified, she said that the requirement does not apply; in the meantime, if they cannot yet be certified by BAFS because they do not have a record of three years, the BAFS would do the certification during the transition period.

Asked if there are groups with three or more years of experience that could be considered as an OCB once the bill is passed, Senator Villar answered in the affirmative. She said that one of the certifying bodies that could do certification is the local government, and the association of local governments practicing organic farming has been in existence for a long time already. She added that there are associations which have more than three years of experience.

Senator Pangilinan asked which body would confirm if the existing association or group has not committed any infraction in the past three years. Senator Villar replied that the BAFS has been inspecting such groups and has historical records. But Senator Pangilinan recalled that during the previous interpellation, it was revealed that their data was quite sketchy.

Senator Villar enumerated the number of existing practitioners nationwide—three national, eight provin-

cial, one city, 15 municipal and 14 barangays. She reiterated that the BAFS has audit records, thus, with the existing practitioners, it would be a matter of auditing how long they have been in existence. She also confirmed that the law would have a retroactive effect, thus, there would be no need to wait for three years to be accredited. Senator Pangilinan suggested that the language of the bill be clarified to reflect said intent and to avoid confusion. Senator Villar agreed, stating that the intent is to promote organic farming, so the law should not be a hindrance to that.

Regarding private groups and organizations, Senator Villar confirmed that those part of the value chain are included because they too would want to promote the marketing of organic products. Senator Pangilinan suggested that the bill indicate a time table for the accreditation process. Senator Villar agreed, noting that the standard duration is 60 days.

Asked on the staff complement of BAFS, Senator Villar replied that the BAFS only has 31 with plantilla positions and 10 with job orders, but since there would be other groups participating in the PGS, its capability in terms of personnel complement would be improved under law, aside from its P550 million budget that it could use. Senator Pangilinan pointed out that each municipality could have a PGS, so it would be a minimum of 1,500 PGS that need to be certified by BAFS, and with just 31 plantilla positions, he doubted if they would be able to accredit all the PGS. Senator Villar said that she would review the budget of the BAFS and find out how the agency could effectively use in the development of organic agriculture farming.

Senator Pangilinan asked where the PGS would get the budget to conduct inspection and certification activities, initiate key field trainings, and take action on default non-compliance. Senator Villar replied that that the PGS has an allotment in the National Organic Agriculture Program, which started in 2012 at P927 million; 2013, P888 million; 2014, P858 million; 2015, P622 million; 2016, P634 million; 2017, P817 million; 2018, P802 million; and 2019, P545 million. She said that she would review the budget and would consider an amendment on how the budget would be spent to promote PGS and organic agriculture.

Asked on the definition of small farmer/fisherfolk on page 5, Senator Villar pointed out that the definition was patterned after how Land Bank defined small

farmers. However, she said that she would welcome amendments on the matter. Senator Pangilinan said that a small farmer can have 50 to 100 pigs, but the bill limits it to only 30 pigs. Senator Villar said that a typical size of a backyard farm is one hectare and sometimes, farmers have both livestock and crops to have a self-sustaining farm.

Senator Pangilinan stated that one of the members of his staff had 60 heads of livestock but was disqualified from becoming part of the program. Senator Villa stated that it was due to the definition of the Landbank.

Senator Pangilinan said that at the proper time, he would propose to amend the section.

As regards Section 8, Senator Villar stated that the PGS is intended for the domestic market of small farmers and not for the international market which requires third-party certification. She, however, pointed out that if a small farm is certified as organic for five years in a row, it is entitled to a government subsidy so that it could get a third-party certification.

Asked why the PGS requires five years, Senator Villar stated that two years would not be enough to prove that the farm could last and it would take time for a small farm to become medium-sized and gain expertise in export.

Senator Pangilinan inquired if Gourmet Farms, a big organic company, has been accredited. Senator Villar replied that she was not aware if the farm is exporting processed produce because to her knowledge, only those exporting processed products are accredited.

As regards certification, Senator Pangilinan noted that the PGS has to be in the same city or municipality; thus, he suggested that the certifying body be located within the province. He cited Gourmet Farms which is located in Silang, Cavite and sells in Tagaytay and which would likely sell someday in nearby cities and towns other than Tagaytay. He said that at the proper time, he would propose to amend to include a province or an adjacent province as the location of a certifying body.

But Senator Villar stated that extending the PGS to an adjacent province is not feasible because the idea is for the community to watch and monitor each other whether one is following the rules or not.

Agreeing with Senator Villar, Senator Pangilinan stated that having to deal with two provinces might be difficult to the farmer. He then proposed that the certifier should at least be within the province.

Senator Villar said that at the proper time, the certification could be limited within adjacent towns of the province but not beyond it since it could be difficult to monitor. In addition, Senator Pangilinan opined that having the certification within the province could promote economies of scale.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 6:44 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

On the term "legal personality" found on page 10, line 31, Senator Pangilinan stated that the term has a legal meaning and has been used repeatedly in Supreme Court and lower court rulings. Concerned that the term could cause confusion, he said that at the proper time, he would amend the phrase "for whatever transaction it may enter into in the PGS." He explained that there is a legal definition of "legal personality" that may not necessarily be limited to PGS.

Thereafter, Senator Pangilinan ended his interpellation and thanked Senator Villar.

Senator Villar said that the Committee would welcome additional amendments from Senator Pangilinan as he sees fit during the course of his readings.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1318

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

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 51 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1365 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second

Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1365 (Committee Report No. 51), entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM IN BASIC EDUCATION FOR OUT-OF-SCHOOL YOUTH, ADULTS, AND CHILDREN IN SPECIAL EXTREME CASES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

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

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GATCHALIAN

Initially, Senator Gatchalian thanked the Body for giving him the opportunity to enlighten everyone on the concepts and rationale on why he was sponsoring and pushing for the measure. He then directed the attention of the Body to the monitor on the floor.

Senator Gatchalian informed that Body that in the course of the hearing conducted by the Committee on Basic Education, it was discovered that there are 24 million Filipinos, or 24% of the country's total population, who have not finished any basic education, or who have at least completed some form of basic education; 2.4 million children ages five to 14 are not in school or have quit school.

Senator Gatchalian noted that the numbers complement the bill on child marriage sponsored by Senator Hontiveros because a lot of the early marriages involve children who have stopped schooling. He believed that the ALS is a perfect mechanism to enable them to go back to school.

Senator Gatchalian likewise disclosed that despite the dropout rate constantly going down, there were still dropouts in elementary and secondary levels, most of them seeking employment due to economic reasons.

Senator Gatchalian lamented that the ALS program is an orphan because it does not have a definite home. Given the gravity of having 26 million Filipinos unable to finish any basic education, he emphasized the need to have certain policies to address this problem.

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At this juncture, Senator Gatchalian presented a chronology of events on how the ALS came into existence:

- In 1987, the Bureau of Non-Formal Education was created;
- In 2004, the Bureau of Non-Formal Education was renamed Bureau of Alternative Learning System;
- In 2015, the Bureau of Alternative Learning System was merged with other bureaus rendering its disappearance; and
- In 2019, the DepEd created a task force for the ALS which could be dissolved any time.

Senator Gatchalian said that under the proposed measure, the Alternative Learning System would be given a definite home — the Bureau of Alternative Learning System — which would address the problems of the 26 million Filipinos who have been denied basic education as well as the literacy problem of the country.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri expressed his appreciation to Senator Gatchalian for institutionalizing the ALS program. He said that he would support the proposed measure so that many of his constituents in Bukidnon and Northern Mindanao who did not finish high school, could avail of the ALS and continue their tertiary education.

Senator Gatchalian likewise lauded the efforts of Senator Zubiri for putting up tech-voc training centers in Bukidnon. However, he said that it was unfortunate that the youth or adults there who have quit basic education due to extreme poverty would not be accepted at tech-voc or tertiary schools unless they have gone through the ALS.

Senator Zubiri noted the dramatic 22% drop in Bukidnon's poverty rating from 53% to 31% due to the tech-voc training centers and the SUC's campus extensions there. He explained that he was trying to continue the downtrend by focusing on education.

Senator Gatchalian reiterated that the ALS program would not only afford a second chance for those who did not finish basic education but would also address extreme poverty in various provinces of the country.

Senator Zubiri then placed on record that Valenzuela City has one of the best educational centers in Metro Manila and the country. Senator Gatchalian said that he had to put a lot of effort into the ALS after learning that a lot of laborers who came from the provinces did not even finish secondary or elementary education. He said that ALS is a mechanism for them to finish high school and go back to college or even take up tech-voc education to enrich their talents. He believed that Senator Pacquiao, who graduated from the ALS in 2007, went on to college after getting his equivalency examination, and was currently taking up his masters degree, is the best model for the program.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

Senator Hontiveros thanked Senator Gatchalian for pointing out the overlap between the concerns for ALS and addressing some of the conditions that impact on it, such as child marriages. For instance, she noted that a full 37% of the young people who need the ALS are already living under the pressures of early child marriages or other family problems or challenging situations.

She noted how the bill would address the welfare of the adults since she was also promoting life-long learning in whatever stage in life, including children in special and extreme cases, such as the internally displaced children in evacuation centers out of the Marawi siege. She said that the lives of these children have been disrupted, making them susceptible to recruitment by the terrorists groups who keep them away from their families.

Senator Gatchalian commended Senator Hontiveros for mentioning the case in Marawi, where many children who were unable to continue their studies, could catch up through ALS. He said that the proposed measure actually addresses some of the issues of the most vulnerable, the internally displaced persons, and children in special and extreme cases. He also noted that Senator Hontiveros was a staunch advocate on preventing teenage pregnancies and that ALS is a way for them to go back to school.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1365

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

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 59 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4583

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of House Bill No. 4583 (Committee Report No. 59), entitled

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO BROADCAST ENTERPRISES AND AFFILIATED MEDIA, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8098 TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

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

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

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Poe, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments:

1. On page 4, delete lines 20 to 24; and
2. Renumber the subsequent sections accordingly.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

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

REVILLA AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Zubiri, on behalf of Senator Revilla and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the following individual amendments were approved by the Body, one after the other, subject to style:

1. Insert a new provision to read as follows:

PURSUANT TO RA 8370, THE GRANTEE SHALL ALLOT A MINIMUM OF FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF THE TOTAL DAILY AIR TIME OF EACH BROADCASTING NETWORK TO CHILD-FRIENDLY SHOW/S WITHIN ITS FIRST REGULAR PROGRAMMING;

2. On Section 3, on *Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission*, insert the following provisions:

IN CASE OF VIOLATION/S OF ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS FRANCHISE, THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC) SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND, AFTER DUE PROCESS, THE PERMITS, OR LICENSES ISSUED BY NTC PURSUANT TO THE FRANCHISE. NTC MAY RECOMMEND TO CONGRESS THE REVOCATION OF THE FRANCHISE IF THERE ARE ANY VIOLATION/S OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FRANCHISE.; and

3. Renumber the succeeding sections accordingly.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.


It was 7:04 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:04 p.m., the session was resumed.

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 HOUSE BILL NO. 4583 ON SECOND READING

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, House Bill No. 4583 was approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4583

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

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 60 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4584 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of House Bill No. 4584 (Committee Report No. 60), entitled

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CRUSADERS BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8091, ENTITLED AN ACT GRANTING THE CRUSADERS BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES.

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

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

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Poe, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments:

1. On page 4, delete lines 14 to 18; and
2. Renumber the subsequent sections accordingly.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

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

REVILLA AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Zubiri, on behalf of Senator Revilla, there being no objection, the following individual amendments were approved by the Body, one after the other, subject to style:

1. Insert a new provision to read as follows:

PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8370, THE GRANTEE SHALL ALLOT A MINIMUM OF FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF DAILY TOTAL AIRTIME OF EACH BROADCASTING NETWORK TO CHILD-FRIENDLY SHOWS WITHIN ITS REGULAR PROGRAMMING;

2. On Section 3, (*Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission*), insert the following provisions:

IN CASE OF VIOLATION/S OF ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS FRANCHISE, THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC) SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND, AFTER DUE PROCESS, THE PERMITS, OR LICENSES ISSUED BY NTC PURSUANT TO THE FRANCHISE. NTC MAY RECOMMEND TO CONGRESS THE REVOCATION OF THE FRANCHISE IF THERE ARE ANY VIOLATION/S OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FRANCHISE.; and

3. Renumber the succeeding sections accordingly.

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 HOUSE BILL NO. 4584 ON SECOND READING

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, House Bill No. 4584 was approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4584

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

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 61 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 5490 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of House Bill No. 5490 (Committee Report No. 61), entitled

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO BICOL BROADCASTING SYSTEMS, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8092. ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING THE BICOL BROADCASTING SYSTEMS, INC. (BBSI), A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN REGION V."

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

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

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

There being no interpellation, upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body

closed the period of interpellations and proceeded to the period of committee amendments.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

There being no committee amendment, upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of committee amendments and proceeded to the period of individual amendments.

REVILLA AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Zubiri, on behalf of Senator Revilla, there being no objection, the following individual amendments were approved by the Body, one after the other, subject to style:

1. Insert a new provision to read as follows:

PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8370, THE GRANTEE SHALL ALLOT A MINIMUM OF FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF DAILY TOTAL AIRTIME OF EACH BROADCASTING NETWORK TO CHILD-FRIENDLY SHOWS WITHIN ITS REGULAR PROGRAMMING;

2. On Section 3, (*Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission*), insert the following provisions:

IN CASE OF VIOLATION/S OF ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS FRANCHISE, THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC) SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND, AFTER DUE PROCESS, THE PERMITS, OR LICENSES ISSUED BY NTC PURSUANT TO THE FRANCHISE. NTC MAY RECOMMEND TO CONGRESS THE REVOCATION OF THE FRANCHISE IF THERE ARE ANY VIOLATION/S OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FRANCHISE.; and

3. Renumber the succeeding sections accordingly.

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 HOUSE BILL NO. 5490 ON SECOND READING

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection,

House Bill No. 5490 was approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5490

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

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 62 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4581 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of House Bill No. 4581 (Committee Report No. 62), entitled

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO GOLDEN BROADCAST PROFESSIONAL, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8025, ENTITLED AN ACT GRANTING THE GOLDEN BROADCAST PROFESSIONAL, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE A STATION FOR FM RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING IN THE ISLAND OF MINDANAO, AND EXPANDING ITS COVERAGE TO THE ENTIRE PHILIPPINES.

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

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

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Poe, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments:

1. On page 4, delete lines 14 to 18; and

2. Renumber the subsequent sections accordingly.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

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

REVILLA AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Zubiri, on behalf of Senator Revilla, there being no objection, the following individual amendments were approved by the Body, one after the other, subject to style:

1. Insert a new provision to read as follows:

PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8370, THE GRANTEE SHALL ALLOT A MINIMUM OF FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF DAILY TOTAL AIRTIME OF EACH BROADCASTING NETWORK TO CHILD-FRIENDLY SHOWS WITHIN ITS REGULAR PROGRAMMING;


2. On Section 3, (*Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission*), insert the following provisions:

IN CASE OF VIOLATION/S OF ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS FRANCHISE, THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC) SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND, AFTER DUE PROCESS, THE PERMITS, OR LICENSES ISSUED BY NTC PURSUANT TO THE FRANCHISE. NTC MAY RECOMMEND TO CONGRESS THE REVOCATION OF THE FRANCHISE IF THERE ARE ANY VIOLATION/S OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FRANCHISE.; and

3. Renumber the succeeding sections accordingly.

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 HOUSE BILL NO. 4581 ON SECOND READING

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, House Bill No. 4581 was approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4581

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

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 63 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4582

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of House Bill No. 4582 (Committee Report No. 63), entitled

AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO GOLD LABEL BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8087, ENTITLED AN ACT GRANTING TO THE GOLD LABEL BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN, AND OPERATE RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN DUMAGUETE CITY AND OTHER AREAS IN THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO WHERE FREQUENCIES AND/OR CHANNELS ARE STILL AVAILABLE FOR RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING.

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

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

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Poe, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments:

1. On page 4, delete lines 22 to 26; and
2. Renumber the subsequent sections accordingly.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

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

REVILLA AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Zubiri, on behalf of Senator Revilla, there being no objection, the following individual amendments were approved by the Body, one after the other, subject to style:

1. Insert a new provision to read as follows:

PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8370, THE GRANTEE SHALL ALLOT A MINIMUM OF FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF DAILY TOTAL AIRTIME OF EACH BROADCASTING NETWORK TO CHILD-FRIENDLY SHOWS WITHIN ITS REGULAR PROGRAMMING;

2. On Section 3, (*Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission*), insert the following provisions:

IN CASE OF VIOLATION/S OF ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS FRANCHISE, THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (NTC) SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND, AFTER DUE PROCESS, THE PERMITS, OR LICENSES ISSUED BY NTC PURSUANT TO THE FRANCHISE. NTC MAY RECOMMEND TO CONGRESS THE REVOCATION OF THE FRANCHISE IF THERE ARE ANY VIOLATION/S OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FRANCHISE.; and

3. Renumber the succeeding sections accordingly.

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 HOUSE BILL NO. 4582 ON SECOND READING

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, House Bill No. 4582 was approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4582

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

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 64 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4463 *(Continuation)*

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of House Bill No. 4463 (Committee Report No. 64), entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FIRST UNITED BROADCASTING CORPORATION, PRESENTLY KNOWN AS GLOBAL SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY SERVICES INC., AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8079, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING THE FIRST UNITED BROADCASTING CORPORATION (FUBC) A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS ANYWHERE IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

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

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Poe, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments:

1. On page 4, delete lines 10 to 14; and
2. Renumber the subsequent sections accordingly.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

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

REVILLA AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Revilla and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments, subject to style:

- Insert a new provision, to read as follows:
"PURSUANT TO R.A. NO. 8370, THE GRANTEE SHALL ALLOT A MINIMUM OF FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF THE DAILY TOTAL AIR TIME OF EACH BROADCASTING NETWORK TO CHILD-FRIENDLY SHOW/S WITHIN ITS REGULAR PROGRAMMING;"
- On Section 3, insert a new provision, to read as follows:
"IN CASE OF VIOLATION/S OF ANY OF THE PROVISIONS OF THIS FRANCHISE, THE NTC SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND, AFTER DUE PROCESS, THE PERMITS OR LICENSES ISSUED BY NTC PURSUANT TO THE FRANCHISE. NTC MAY RECOMMEND TO CONGRESS THE REVOCATION OF THE FRANCHISE IF THERE ARE ANY VIOLATION/S OF THE PROVISIONS OF THE FRANCHISE;" and
- Renumber the sections accordingly.

**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 HOUSE BILL NO. 4463
ON SECOND READING**

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, House Bill No. 4463 was approved on Second reading.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4463**

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

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR POE

Senator Poe thanked Senator Zubiri for his persuasiveness in ensuring that her work on the franchises be submitted on time. She also thanked Senator Drilon for his understanding on the time constraints, saying that she was not only looking into the franchise of ABS-CBN but also of other franchises. Aside from the big franchises, she said that the Committee was also looking into the small franchises in provinces that also provide job opportunities to many of the Filipinos. She then thanked Senator Recto, Senator Gatchalian, and Senator Hontiveros for their cooperation.

**MOTION TO TRANSFER
COMMITTEE REFERRAL**

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri submitted to the Body a request for the transfer of the committee referral of Senate Bill Nos. 66, 319, 332 and 948, or the Sustainable Transport Act, from the Committee of Public Services to the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals Innovation and Future Thinking.

Asked by Senator Drilon whether the transfer was consistent with the Rules, Senator Zubiri replied that what transpired was that Senator Cayetano requested Senator Poe that the referral of the bills be transferred so that the former could sponsor the measure. He said that Senator Poe graciously agreed because of her workload.

Senator Drilon cautioned against transferring the jurisdiction over a measure pending in the Senate on the basis of agreements between two senators. He stressed that the Rules very clearly defined the jurisdiction of each committee; hence, it is not on the agreement of any two senators that the jurisdiction over a bill is moved around the different committees because that would cause confusion. He then presented two options: retain the original referral or refer the issue of transfer to the Committee on Rules.

Senator Zubiri agreed, saying that transferring the referral to the Committee on Rules would give them time to study the measure and to present a rationale on the said transfer of referral.

**REFERRAL OF MOTION TO TRANSFER
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the request to transfer the referral of Senate Bill Nos. 66, 319, 332, and 948 from the Committee on Public Services was referred to the Committee on Rules.

SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIRMANSHIP

Senator Zubiri manifested for the record his designation by Senator Tolentino, chairman of the Committee on Local Government, as chair of the Subcommittee on Potable Water Supply System Act.

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 Monday, March 9, 2020.

It was 7:23 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


ATTY. MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA

Secretary of the Senate

Approved on March 9, 2020