



**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**Senate**  
**Pasay City**

# **Journal**

**SESSION NO. 27**  
Monday, November 7, 2022

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

Prepared by the  
LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL SERVICE  
Senate of the Philippines

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**SESSION NO. 27**  
Monday, November 7, 2022

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:00 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

Sen. Ma. Lourdes Nancy S. Binay led the prayer, to wit:

*In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

*Panginoon naming Diyos, Amang makapangyarihan sa lahat, patuloy po naming inilalapit sa Inyo ang aming mga kababayang malubhang naapektuhan ng mga nakaraang bagyo.*

*Gawaran Mo po kami ng Iyong kalakasan upang kami ay makabangong muli mula sa mga pinsalang aming naranasan.*

*Nananampalataya po kami nang lubos na hindi Ninyo kami pababayaan at na Kayo ay mananatiling aming tunay na kanlungan at matatag na silungan sa panahon ng unos at sakuna.*

Our Heavenly Father, we also humbly come before You today to ask for Your presence and guidance as we resume our regular session.

*Dalangin po namin na kami ay Inyong patuloy na patnubayan, upang magampanan namin ang aming mga tungkulin at responsibilidad sa bayan lalong lalo na sa paghimay ng pambansang budget para sa susunod na taon.*

Move and inspire us by Your presence so that we may be united in spirit and in purpose. Guide our hearts, minds, and hands so that we may go about our duties as stewards according to Your word.

We lift up to You our nation's fate and trust that You will not lead us astray.

All these we ask in the Name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

The Body sang the national anthem.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Renato N. Bantug Jr., called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Legarda, L.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Marcos, I. R.
Cayetano, P. S.	Padilla, R. C.
Dela Rosa, R. B. M.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Tolentino, F. T. N.
Estrada, J.	Tulfo, R. T.
Gatchalian, W.	Villanueva, J.
Go, C. L. T.	Villar, C. A.
Hontiveros, R.	Villar, M. A.
Lapid, M. L. M.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

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

Senator Cayetano (A) arrived after the roll call.

Senator Poe was on official business abroad as indicated in the November 4, 2022 letter of the senator's chief legislative officer.

**APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 26 (September 28, 2022) and considered it approved.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

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

- Former Cong. Rene Velarde;
- Mayor Rolando G. Ubatay and Vice Mayor Belen B. Raga of Lumban, Laguna; and
- Mayor Bebot R. Miravalles of Valladolid, Negros Occidental.

Senate President Zubiri welcomed the guests to the Senate.

**REMARK OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI**

Senate President Zubiri informed the Body that the Senate had sent a delegation, headed by Senators Dela Rosa and Tolentino, to the 30th Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) in Bangkok, Thailand. He stated that the Philippines would be hosting the 31<sup>st</sup> APPF in 2023, and thanked Senator Dela Rosa for receiving the APPF flag on his behalf.

**REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Atty. Edwin B. Bellen, read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:



**BILLS ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 1353, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE MARITIME ZONES UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committees on Foreign Relations; and National Defense and Security, Peace,  
Unification and Reconciliation**

Senate Bill No. 1354, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING DEATH BENEFITS FOR COMMUNITY DISASTER  
PERSONNEL DEPLOYED DURING DISASTER

Introduced by Senator Villar (M)

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

Senate Bill No. 1355, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARMONA IN THE PROVINCE  
OF CAVITE INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF  
CARMONA

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1356, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING  
HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAWIT, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, IN  
COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committee on Rules**

Senate Bill No. 1357, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO JUVENAL SANSONO

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committee on Rules**

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Senate Bill No. 1358, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR WORKERS, ENTERPRISES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY AND INSTITUTIONALIZING MECHANISMS FOR RECOGNITION, INTEGRATION, AND TRANSITION TO THE FORMAL ECONOMY, FOR IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1361, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Padilla

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1362, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A REGIONAL KIDNEY AND TRANSPLANT INSTITUTE IN EACH OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Padilla

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1363, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY

Introduced by Senator Padilla

**To the Committees on Science and Technology; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1364, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 37, 38, 39, 42, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 73, 108, 121, 122, 123, 174, 176, 179, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, AND 199; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 127, 175, 177, 178, 180, 192, AND 193; ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Estrada

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1365, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEE CREATED UNDER EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 95 (S. 2019), RENAMING IT TO NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY COUNCIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1366, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE SECRETARIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AND DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, TO APPEAR SEMI-ANNUALLY BEFORE CONGRESS TO REPORT ON THE STATUS AND DIRECTIONS OF THE FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES OF THE STATE

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committees on Economic Affairs; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1367, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10173, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2012," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committee on Science and Technology**

Senate Bill No. 1368, entitled

AN ACT ENHANCING ADMINISTRATIVE FEASIBILITY AND EQUITABILITY OF THE TAX SYSTEM AND RATIONALIZING THE IMPOSITION OF THE VALUE-ADDED TAX TO ADDRESS INTERGENERATIONAL POVERTY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1369, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING BROADER AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ITS MANDATE TO COMBAT DECEPTIVE, UNFAIR AND UNCONSCIONABLE SALES ACTS OR PRACTICES, THEREBY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES"

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Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship**

Senate Bill No. 1370, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAYOYAO, PROVINCE OF IFUGAO, A LEVEL II GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE EASTERN CORDILLERA REGIONAL HOSPITAL, INTEGRATING THEREWITH THE MAJOR FERDINAND EDRALIN MARCOS EMERGENCY HOSPITAL IN BARANGAY PANOPDOPAN, MUNICIPALITY OF LAMUT, IFUGAO, RETAINING ITS NAME AS SUCH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committee on Rules**

Senate Bill No. 1371, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BATAAN CROP RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER ON THE CAMPUS OF THE BATAAN PENINSULA STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ABUCAY, PROVINCE OF BATAAN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1372, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE CEBU PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF DANAOG, PROVINCE OF CEBU INTO A LEVEL II GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE NORTH CEBU MEDICAL CENTER, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committee on Rules**

Senate Bill No. 1373, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING WORK MEDIATED, ORGANIZED, OR ALLOCATED THROUGH ONLINE PLATFORMS FOR THE PROTECTION OF PHILIPPINE WORKERS IN THE GIG ECONOMY

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship**

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Senate Bill No. 1374, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE AGRICULTURE INFORMATION SYSTEM IN ALL PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 1375, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE MUNICIPALITY, CITY, PROVINCIAL AND NATIONAL FEDERATIONS OF SANGGUNANG BARANGAY MEMBERS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 508 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991'

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committee on Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 1376, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING SAN PABLO CHURCH, LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN PABLO, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AND ITS ADJACENT ENVIRONS, A TOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Tourism; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1377, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE ADJACENT ENVIRONS OF THE SAINT MATTHIAS PARISH CHURCH LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUMAUNI, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, A TOURISM DESTINATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Tourism; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1378, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING AN INCREASE AND AN AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT MECHANISM IN THE PERSONNEL ECONOMIC RELIEF ALLOWANCE (PERA) GRANTED TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

Introduced by Senator Villar (M)

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



Senate Bill No. 1379, entitled

AN ACT TO PROCLAIM THE 3RD WEEK OF JUNE AS DEAF-BLIND  
AWARENESS WEEK

Introduced by Senator Villar (M)

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 1380, entitled

AN ACT ENCOURAGING AND PROMOTING THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT  
OF SATELLITE-BASED TECHNOLOGIES FOR INTERNET CONNECTIVITY

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

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

Senate Bill No. 1381, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES AND  
INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDERS TO INCREASE SERVICE COVERAGE  
AND DELIVER A MINIMUM STANDARD FOR INTERNET CONNECTION  
SPEED

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committee on Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 1382, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING CRITICAL INFORMATION INFRASTRUCTURE INSTITU-  
TIONS TO ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT ADEQUATE MEASURES TO PROTECT  
THEIR INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)  
SYSTEMS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1383, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING OPEN ACCESS IN INTERNET SERVICES AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 1384, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS BY INCREASING  
THE MANPOWER COMPLEMENT IN ITS FIELD OFFICES, PROVIDING

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OFFICE SPACES SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT FROM LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES"

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 250, entitled

RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN  
IN THE NATION'S SERVICE (TOWNS) 2022 AWARDEES

Introduced by Senator Binay

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 251, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE BAYANIHAN  
PHILIPPINE DANCE COMPANY FOR WINNING THE GRAND PRIZE AT  
THE CHEONAN WORLD DANCE FESTIVAL 2022

Introduced by Senator Binay

**To the Committees on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 252, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING  
WOMEN IN THE NATION'S SERVICE (TOWNS) 2022 FOR THEIR POSITIVE  
CONTRIBUTION AND DEDICATION IN STRENGTHENING NATION  
BUILDING

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 253, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE  
TO UNDERTAKE AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO DETERMINE  
AND MAINTAIN THE INTEGRITY AND TRUSTWORTHINESS OF THE  
PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO) LOTTO GAMES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committee on Games and Amusement**



Proposed Senate Resolution No. 254, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE POWER SITUATION IN THE PROVINCE OF ALBAY TO ENSURE THE CONTINUOUS SUPPLY OF ELECTRICITY TO CONSUMERS

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committee on Energy**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 255, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON UNLOCKING THE OIL AND GAS POTENTIAL IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA TOWARDS IMPROVING EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT, AND UTILIZATION WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ACHIEVING ENERGY SECURITY AND SELFSUFFICIENCY

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committee on Energy**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 256, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING EUMIR FELIX MARCIAL FOR HIS THIRD STRAIGHT PROFESSIONAL BOXING VICTORY AT A MIDDLEWEIGHT BOXING MATCH AGAINST STEVEN PICHARDO IN CALIFORNIA, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

**To the Committees on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 257, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY PUBLIC POLICY CENTER'S FINDINGS THAT ELEMENTARY TEXTBOOKS CONTAIN FACTUAL INACCURACIES

Introduced by Senator Binay

**To the Committee on Basic Education**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 258, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION AND IN THE EXERCISE OF THE SENATE'S OVERSIGHT POWERS, ON THE ATTEMPTED ESCAPE OF THREE DETAINEES AND THE SUBSEQUENT HOSTAGE-TAKING INCIDENT INSIDE THE CUSTODIAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINE



NATIONAL POLICE IN CAMP CRAME, QUEZON CITY, WITH THE END VIEW OF ENSURING THE ENFORCEMENT OF ADEQUATE SECURITY AND SAFETY MEASURES INSIDE THE PNP DETENTION FACILITIES AND THE PREVENTION OF ANY UNTOWARD AND VIOLENT INCIDENTS WITHIN THEIR PREMISES

Introduced by Senator Estrada

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 259, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED WARNING ISSUED BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) OVER INDIAMADE COUGH SYRUPS AFTER DEATHS IN THE GAMBIA WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF REVIEWING THE EXISTING MEASURES ON THE PROCUREMENT OF MEDICINES IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Binay

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. No. 260, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING EUGENIO "EUGENE" TORRE, ASIA'S FIRST CHESS GRANDMASTER, FOR BEING THE FIRST ASIAN MALE TO BE INDUCTED IN THE WORLD CHESS HALL OF FAME OF THE WORLD CHESS FEDERATION

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committee on Rules**

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Reports Committee Report No. 6, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Basic Education, on Senate Bill No. 1359, with Senators Revilla, Jr., Dela Rosa, Villar (C), Zubiri, Escudero and Gatchalian as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF A "NO PERMIT, NO EXAM" POLICY, OR ANY POLICY THAT PREVENTS STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FROM TAKING EXAMINATIONS OR ANY FORM OF EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR REASONS OF OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL OR PROPERTY OBLIGATIONS, SUCH AS UNPAID TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES,"

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 507, 524 and 787.

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

**To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

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Committee Report No. 7, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1360, with Senators Revilla, Jr., Estrada, Escudero and Angara as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE TERTIARY EDUCATION SUBSIDY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10931, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT,"

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 29 and 279.

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

**To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

#### **ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

##### **MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Letter from the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 28 September 2022, the House of Representatives passed House Bill No. 4488, entitled

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

in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate.

**To the Committee on Finance**

##### **BILLS ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 1385, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING MEASURES TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN DELIVERY SERVICES

Introduced by Senator Padilla

**To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship**

Senate Bill No. 1386, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PROMOTION OF INTEGRATED URBAN AGRICULTURE AND OTHER EMERGING INNOVATIVE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION PRACTICES AND TECHNOLOGIES IN CITIES AND OTHER STRATEGIC AREAS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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



Senate Bill No. 1387, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A CACAO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER,  
AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 1388, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR RULES ON THE DUTY TO RENDER ASSISTANCE  
AT SEA IN ACCORDANCE WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL CONVEN-  
TIONS TO WHICH THE PHILIPPINES IS A STATE PARTY AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

**To the Committees on Foreign Relations; and Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 1389, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A MANDATORY POSITION FOR A HUMAN RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT OFFICER IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 443, 454 AND 463 OF REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERN-  
MENT CODE OF 1991"

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1390, entitled

AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE CAPABILITY AND STREAMLINE ORGANIZA-  
TIONAL ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AND ITS  
BUREAUS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1391, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE SUBSIDY  
PROGRAM UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR



Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1392, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A RESULTS-BASED NATIONAL EVALUATION  
POLICY

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Economic Affairs; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1393, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH  
WORKERS IN BARANGAYS, AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR DUTIES AND  
RESPONSIBILITIES, COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; Local Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1394, entitled

AN ACT MODERNIZING THE NATIONAL MEASUREMENT SYSTEM (NMS) OF  
THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

**To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1395, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

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

Senate Bill No. 1396, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING POLICIES FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF  
CAREGIVERS IN THE PRACTICE OF THEIR PROFESSION

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

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



Senate Bill No. 1397, entitled

AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

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

Senate Bill No. 1398, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE PROPER INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF OVERHEAD ELECTRIC SUPPLY, COMMUNICATION LINES, AND STRUCTURE BY ALL ELECTRIC, CABLE AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES FOR PURPOSES OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement**

Senate Bill No. 1399, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committees on Cultural Communities and Muslim Affairs; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1400, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AND ENHANCING THE ROLE OF PARENT-TEACHER AND COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS IN PROMOTING THE WELFARE AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 603, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE CODE"

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Basic Education**

Senate Bill No. 1401, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 18 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY FOR ALL KASAMBAHAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY. THE ACT SHALL BE CALLED AS "NATIONAL KASAMBAHAY DAY" OR "ARAW NG KASAMBAHAY"

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

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

Senate Bill No. 1402, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE COMMUNITY-DRIVEN DEVELOPMENT APPROACH AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND SOCIAL PROTECTION, MANDATING ALL NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND DEPARTMENTS, INCLUDING THEIR ATTACHED AGENCIES, OFFICES AND BUREAUS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENTALITIES TO IMPLEMENT THEIR COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES, AND PROJECTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Local Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1403, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE YOUNG FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK CHALLENGE PROGRAM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE YOUNG FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK CHALLENGE COUNCIL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1404, entitled

AN ACT ADJUSTING THE MONTHLY PENSION AND DISABILITY BENEFITS OF RETIREES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

**To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Foreign Relations; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1405, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONDONATION OF ALL UNPAID PRINCIPAL, INTERESTS, PENALTIES OR SURCHARGES ON LOANS SECURED BY AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES UNDER THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform**

Senate Bill No. 1406, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING AN INCREASE IN THE PERSONNEL ECONOMIC RELIEF



ALLOWANCE (PERA) GRANTED TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES,  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1407, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING FREE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS TO THE UNDERPRIVILEGED PUBLIC SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATING STUDENTS AND GRADUATES BELONGING TO THE TOP FIFTEEN PERCENT (15%) OF THEIR GRADUATING CLASS FOR ADMISSION IN PRIVATE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1408, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING SENIOR CITIZENS FROM VIOLENCE, DEFINING ELDER ABUSE, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1409, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND GROWTH OF THE PHILIPPINE FILM INDUSTRY, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE FILM COMMISSION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; Ways and Means; and Finance**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 261, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) TO UNDERTAKE ANY AND ALL NECESSARY MEASURES TO GUARANTEE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF FORMER SENATOR LEILA DE LIMA, AND HENCEFORTH KEEP THE SENATE DULY INFORMED ON SECURITY ACTIONS TAKEN ON HER BEHALF



Introduced by Senators Pimentel III and Hontiveros

**To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 262, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PALPABLE AND EMERGING EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF FILIPINOS AMIDST THE THREATS AND DANGERS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE INCREASING FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF NATURAL DISASTERS AND CALAMITIES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT SYSTEMS AND POLICIES THAT WILL UPHOLD SAFETY AND RESILIENCY ARE INSTITUTIONALIZED”

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 263, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE TRANSFERS OF CONTROLLING INTERESTS OF THE MEMBERS OF THE MALAMPAYA CONSORTIUM, WITH A SPECIFIC FOCUS ON THE RECENTLY APPROVED TRANSFER OF SHELL PETROLEUM N.V.’S OWNERSHIP OF SHELL PHILIPPINES EXPLORATION B.V. TO PRIME INFRASTRUCTURE CAPITAL, TO ASCERTAIN THEIR LEGAL, TECHNICAL, AND FINANCIAL QUALIFICATIONS, THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH THE SERVICE CONTRACT, AND THE STATUS OF THE OPERATIONS OF MALAMPAYA TOWARDS ENSURING CONTINUOUS ENERGY SUPPLY IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committee on Energy**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 264, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED CLAIMS THAT THE ORDER TO KILL VETERAN JOURNALIST AND RADIO COMMENTATOR PERCIVAL “PERCY LAPID” MABASA ORIGINATED AND WAS PLANNED INSIDE THE NEW BILIBID PRISON, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 265, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO



CONDUCT A MANDATORY REVIEW OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991 (LGC) IN COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 521 OF THE SAME, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FURTHER STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) AND PROVIDING A MORE RESPONSIVE, MODERN, DEMOCRATIC AND PARTICIPATORY LOCAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE FOR CITIZENS

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committee on Local Government**

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Report No. 8, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Cultural Communities and Muslim Affairs; and Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality, on Senate Bill No. 1410, with Senators Estrada, Padilla, and Hontiveros as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST DAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL HIJAB DAY,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 805 and 1272.

Sponsor: Senator Robinhood C. Padilla

**To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI**

Senate President Zubiri congratulated the team of senators headed by Senator Angara that went to the European Union to discuss the General Scheme of Preferences Plus (GSP+).

As to the delegation he headed that visited the French Parliament in Paris, Senate President Zubiri believed that the delegation was able to convey the message that the Philippines is back on track, as he invited the French government to reinvest in the country.

He also informed the Body that he had received feedback from the EU that it was about to sign a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with Indonesia in two weeks and with Thailand, and that it had already drafted FTAs with Vietnam and Singapore, putting pressure on the Philippines. He noted the need to push the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to act on it and to urge the French Senate and other EU parliamentarians to consider an FTA with the Philippines, and to open up opportunities, particularly in the manufacturing and agriculture sectors.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA**

Senator Villanueva stated that he would never forget the moment when the French Senate acknowledged the Philippine senators in its plenary session. He said he was grateful for being a part of the trip and he promised that the fruits of their labor would not be in vain.

In this connection, Senate President Zubiri recalled that in 2017, a delegation of senators headed by then-Senate President Pimentel visited the French Parliament; however, the delegation was not recognized in plenary because the Parliament was on recess. Nonetheless, he stated that the Philippine delegation had a successful meeting with its counterpart.

**MANIFESTATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE LEGARDA**

Senator Legarda joined Senate President Zubiri in congratulating the various delegations that traveled to Thailand, the EU, France, and Vietnam. She recalled that during the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress, the Senate unanimously ratified the Partnership Cooperation Agreement (PCA), which was the legal framework that established the body that would negotiate the FTA. She explained that without the PCA, the working committee would not be able to meet early that year to establish the legal framework for an FTA.

She believed that the PCA, which was presented to the DFA, signed, and transmitted to the Senate in 2017, should have been presented to the latter in 2012 during the Aquino administration. She stated that the Body unanimously concurred in the PCA during the tenure of then-Senate President Pimentel when she was the chairperson of the Committee on Finance.

She asserted that it was critical that the Senate exert pressure and remind the new DTI Secretary, as head of the PCA body, to push for the enactment of an FTA, as ASEAN neighbors such as Indonesia and Vietnam, which share the same population, problems, and vulnerability as the Philippines, had already been granted FTAs. She stated that during the DTI's budget deliberations, she would inquire about the department's efforts, strides, and accomplishments to ensure that the country does not fall behind Indonesia, Singapore, and Vietnam in terms of the FTA.

She believed that it was timely to provide the Body with a thorough report on the various delegations that went on several missions during the break, as there are regions in the country under a state of calamity as a result of the recent typhoons. She informed the Body that President Marcos was scheduled to visit her province in Panay Region the next day, but she would be unable to join him because, as vice chairperson of the Committee on Finance, she would be attending the plenary session for the sponsorship of the General Appropriations Bill (GAB).

She then urged the Executive department to help all provinces and local communities, including Antique, where roads continued to be inaccessible and bridges had collapsed. She noted that Senate President Zubiri also stated on social media that Mindanao, particularly the BARMM, had been severely affected by the recent typhoons.

However, she commended the DPWH Regional Office, which had been working round the clock with little resources other than the Quick Response Fund, as well as the private sector, for their efforts in rebuilding the collapsed bridges.

In this regard, she stated that during the deliberations on the DPWH budget, she would ask the agency for an accurate and detailed report on the bridges affected by typhoon Paeng, an assessment and monitoring of the same, and a timetable for reconstruction, as there were available budgets of more than P15 billion from the OP, QRF, and NDRRMC Fund.

**MANIFESTATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI**

Senate President Zubiri reminded Senator Marcos, chairperson of the Committee on Foreign Relations, about the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP). He noted that the Philippines is the only ASEAN member country that has yet to ratify the treaty. He asked that the treaty be sponsored on the floor for the Body's consideration.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senate President Zubiri acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the members of the Senate Spouses Foundation, Inc. (SSFI) headed by Mrs. Audrey Zubiri.



He reminded the Body that the session would be suspended at six o'clock in the evening that day for the lighting of the lanterns outside the building. He stated that the SSFI had requested the presence of the senators, their staff, and the Senate Secretariat to join the activity.

### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

*It was 3:39 p.m.*

### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:41 p.m., the session was resumed.

### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR TULFO

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Tulfo delivered the following speech:

*May mga nagsasabi na tuwing nagsasalita ako, I make them uncomfortable. I tend to be harsh. But, I have come to learn in the years that I have been a broadcaster that discomfort drives change. And that is why I stand before you today because it seems that we have become desensitized with regard to the plight of our laborers in the cases they file with the NLRC. Recently, there has been an increase in incidents of employees encountering difficulties in recovering their money claims or executing judgments that they fought so hard for.*

*Just last week, my attention was called regarding incidents involving cases that they brought before the NLRC. A heartbreaking example is the case of Tommy Flaviano at ang kanyang mga kasamahan na kahit nanalo na sila sa NLRC nahihirapan silang makasingil ng kanilang panalo. Nagsimula sila na bente sila na complainants at dahil sa tinagal at bagal ng proseso, siyam sa kanila ang namatay na. Labing-isa na lang ang natitira. Dinarasal ng natitirang 11 na ito na sana madatnan pa nila na sila ay mga buhay pa at matanggap ang kanilang ipinanalong pera. We will make sure that things like this should and will not ever happen again.*

*Ironically, the Constitution provides as a policy that "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare." But, if you go to the office of the NLRC and ask them if they feel that they are valued as a primary social economic force, I am quite sure they will either laugh at you or they will be clueless about what that means.*

*Indeed, the enforcement of rights through litigation is not the same for employers and employees. Iba ang pinagdadaanan ng abusadong employer at ng kaniyang kawawang manggagawa. Ang employer, 'pag nanalo, hindi mahirap para ipa-execute ang desisyon. Kadalasan, inaaprubahan lang ang pagtanggap ng empleyado. Pero pag nanalo ang empleyado, pahirapan. Parang treasure hunt ang paghahanap ng mananagot sa award ng korte.*

*Saan ba ang problema pagdating sa mga proseso sa NLRC? Based on interviews and research that we have conducted, the concerns arise at the very beginning when the parties go through the SENA, or Single-Entry Approach, where the parties appear before a mediation officer to possibly reach an amicable settlement. Even if these procedures provide that only the parties will attend, sometimes the employer-party sends their lawyer posing as their representatives to attend the conference. The employees are easily intimidated. I propose that only non-lawyers could represent parties before the SENA. Further, the SENA officers must be given guidelines by the NLRC on unreasonable settlements being proposed at the SENA level. The officers must be able to protect the employees against these kinds of agreements when their rights are really being violated.*

*When the parties do not reach a settlement before the SENA, they proceed to file the case before the labor arbiter. At this point, delays have been noted in the resolution of cases. During the hearing before the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development before our staunch labor defender Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, the NLRC admitted that the delay has been*



caused by the delay in the filing and service of pleadings and processes. But I would like to point out that during the pandemic, the courts, and even the NLRC, have resorted to electronic filing. I implore that the NLRC institutionalize the use of this digital technology in its filing and service. The Supreme Court has provided sufficient guidelines when it comes to electronic filing and service. The NLRC could follow suit.

But the biggest problem our employees have is execution. *Kumbaga, parati silang nganga matapos nila ilaban ang kaso nila.* True, the rules of the NLRC provide for a cash bond and a surety bond. But the problem is the cash bond and surety bond only arise when the case is appealed from the labor arbiter to the NLRC. Most employers who want to evade the payment of money claims would stop fighting their cases with their employees at the labor arbiter level. Because if they appeal to the Commission, they would have to file a cash bond or surety bond equivalent to the award. Thus, it is easier to simply hide. *Taguan na ng mga ari-arian.*

We have to do something about this because the rights that we provide in our laws become useless when the employees could not enforce them in the end; hence, resulting in just paper victory. *Nagpagod lang ang kawawang empleyado.*

I will file a proposal to provide a way to garnish the properties of the employers at the labor arbiter level. This will ensure that even while the case is pending, the employees will have something to run after to answer for a favorable judgment. And during execution, it seems that the sheriffs are always at a loss in running after corporate employers who either close down or empty the coffers of the corporate entity to avoid paying the judgment award. It is difficult to have to prove the piercing of corporate entities in executing judgments. I propose that if the employer-party fails to appear during the execution conference of labor money claims and could not provide for the settlement of the judgment claims, there would be a presumption that the piercing doctrine will apply and the officers and directors will be solitarily liable for the judgment award.

We provide our laborers with so much benefits, but when it is violated and we do not ensure its enforcement, our work here in the legislature becomes useless. I would like to end my speech with a quote from social activist Bryan Stevenson. He said that: "The opposite of poverty is not wealth; the opposite of poverty is justice." Social justice mandates us to give our less fortunate laborers a fighting chance with the laws that we implement. *Hindi basta bigay lang tayo nang bigay ng karapatan at benepisyo. Kailangan siguraduhin natin na ang mga ito ay maipapatupad.*

Thank you for indulging me with your time and attention.

## REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Tulfo to the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development.

## COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3

*(Continuation)*

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration of Committee Report No. 3 Re: PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATE PRESIDENT JUAN MIGUEL "MIGZ" ZUBIRI, ENTITLED "FIASCO SUGAR ORDER NO. 4," delivered on August 15, 2022.

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

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

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## TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

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

## COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

As submitted by Senator Tolentino, there being no objection, the Body approved the following committee amendments, one after the other:

1. On page 36, delete the paragraphs starting on line 15 to line 3 of page 37, and replace them with the following paragraphs:

**SEN. PIMENTEL.** CORRECT, SIR. KAYA NGA GANITO. IF YOU GO BACK TO THE BASIC ECONOMICS PRINCIPLE OF SUPPLY AND DEMAND, ARE YOU TELLING THIS COMMITTEE THAT THE P70 PER KILO IS AN ARTIFICIAL PRICE?

**MR. LOBREGAT.** YES.

**SEN. PIMENTEL.** SO, SOMEBODY IS ABSORBING A LOSS WHEN IT SELLS AT P70 PER KILO.


**MR. LOBREGAT.** NOT NECESSARILY A LOSS; AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MORE MONEY.

**SEN. PIMENTEL.** IYON, PRECISELY AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MORE MONEY. SO, AT P110 PER KILO, WHO IS HAVING THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A LOT OF MONEY?

**MR. LOBREGAT.** MR. SENATOR, I DO NOT WANT TO ACCUSE.

ELABORATING FURTHER ON A QUESTION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL AS TO WHO IS HAVING THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MORE MONEY, MR. LOBREGAT RESPONDED, TO WIT:

**MR. LOBREGAT.** MR. SENATOR, I JUST WANT TO MAKE A STATEMENT THAT THE SUGAR INDUSTRY IS THE MOST ORGANIZED AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT IN THE COUNTRY. WE DID NOT WANT THESE HIGH PRICES AND THIS IS WHY WE WERE PUSHING FOR IMPORTATION WHEN WE SAW THAT THERE WAS A NEED TO BALANCE THE SUPPLY AND DEMAND REQUIREMENT. BUT THERE WERE MANY OTHER THINGS THAT PREVENTED THIS. THAT WAS EXPLAINED VERY CLEARLY IN MY CONGRESSIONAL PRESENTATION, WHICH I THINK WE GAVE—IT'S ON YOUTUBE, BUT WE ALSO GAVE THIS TO THE SENATE. IT IS A VERY SHORT EXPLANATION, VERY SIMPLE TO UNDERSTAND. AND I CALLED IT "THE PERFECT STORM." WE GOT HIT BY A STORM WHICH PARALYZED NEGROS MOMENTARILY BUT IT DID HAVE LINGERING EFFECTS ON REFINED SUGAR PRODUCTION. THEN AN IMPORTATION PROGRAM WAS DELAYED. SUGAR ORDER NO. 3 WAS DELAYED BY A TRO. THE ELECTIONS HAPPENED, THERE WAS PARALYSIS IN THE GOVERNMENT FOR A WHILE—I MEAN "PARALYSIS", IN QUOTATION—UNTIL THE NEW ADMINISTRATION TOOK OVER. AND THIS IS WHY PRICES WERE ALARMINGLY HIGH. AND WE WERE TRYING TO STOP THIS BY BRINGING IN AN IMPORTATION PROGRAM. WE WERE SAYING FROM THE VERY BEGINNING, THERE IS GOING TO BE A BIG DEFICIT. AND IF IT IS NOT CORRECTED, THEN PRICES ARE JUST GOING TO GO UP BECAUSE WHEN THERE IS A BIG DEMAND AND THERE IS A VERY SMALL SUPPLY—IF I GAVE FIVE PIECES OF SUGAR TO SELL AND ONCE ONE STARTS BIDDING, A BUYER STARTS OUTBIDDING THE OTHER, WHAT AM I GOING TO DO, RIGHT? I WILL SELL IT TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER. HERE, I HAVE NO ONE. WHO WANTS IT?;



2. On page 57, line 1, insert the following sentence: EXCEPT FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL SERVICES, THOSE DESIGNATED AS OFFICER IN CHARGE IN ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS, SHALL HAVE A LIMITED NON-EXTENDIBLE TENURE OF NOT MORE THAN SIXTY (60) DAYS.
3. On page 75, delete lines 5 to 11 and replace it with the following sentence: LET A COPY OF THIS COMMITTEE REPORT BE FURNISHED THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT, THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, AND THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION AND DEPORTATION FOR THEIR INFORMATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION, INCLUDING BUT LIMITED TO THE CONDUCT OF NECESSARY PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION, SECTORAL PERFORMANCE AUDIT, AND THE POSSIBLE ISSUANCE OF IMMIGRATION LOOKOUT BULLETIN AGAINST THE RESPONDENTS, IF THE CASE WARRANTS; and
4. On the same page, after line 11, insert the following sentence: THE MINORITY VIEW OR THE MINORITY REPORT SHALL BE APPENDED AND MADE PART OF THE COMMITTEE REPORT FOR PURPOSES OF TRANSMITTAL TO OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND TO THE PUBLIC.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

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

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL**

Senator Pimentel manifested that the members of the Minority would no longer be proposing individual amendments since the Minority report that they have filed, which was already appended to the committee report, would already suffice.

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

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

#### **APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3 AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection. Committee Report No. 3, as well as the recommendations contained therein, was approved by the Body.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA**

Senator Villanueva congratulated Senator Tolentino for his hard work as the chairperson of the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations.

Senate President Zubiri also praised Senator Tolentino for obtaining his third Master of Laws degree from Columbia University.



**MANIFESTATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT ZUBIRI**

Senate President Zubiri requested the Members of the Senate to attend the "Light a Lantern" Ceremony at the Senate grounds to start the Christmas festivities. He said that Jose Mari Chan would be singing during the ceremony.

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, November 8, 2022.

It was 5:58 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

Approved on November 8, 2022

Atty. **RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.**  
*Secretary of the Senate*

