



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 35
Monday, November 25, 2019

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson led the prayer, to wit:

God of all blessings, source and protector of all life, may the light of Your word come unto us today as we undertake our duties for the greater glory of You, and for the service of our countrymen.

Help us, our Lord, to walk in Your ways of righteousness and to embrace the positivity of Your grace.

Keep the strength of spirit of the strong. Keep the faith of the faithful. Remove the weakness of the tempted so when You sound the call for those among us who will hear and heed that call, they will be ready to enter Your kingdom.

Continue to bless the souls of our departed colleagues. Tell them we, whom they left behind, continue to pray for them, but most of all, cherish the indelible mark

that they left in the service of this Chamber, our country, and people.

This we ask in the Name of Your Son, Jesus.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Senate Choir led the singing of the national anthem.

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

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With 21 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Gordon and Recto arrived after the roll call.

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

DEFERMENT OF THE APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body deferred the consideration and approval of the Journal of Session No. 34 (November 11, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19 and 20, 2019) at a later hour, as it was still being finalized.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Sen. Yusmadi Yusoff from the Parliament of Malaysia;
- Exec. Dir. Marlene Agmata Tucker of the International Air Services Commission of Australia;
- Master in Management Studies students of Leyte Normal University; and
- Leaders of sugar-producing provinces of the Philippines, namely, from *Negros Occidental*: Gov. Eugenio Jose “Bong” Lacson, Mayors Evelio “Bing” Leonardia, Jomar Alonso, Jilson Tubillara, Enrique Miravalles, Rene Y. Gustilo, Rhumyla “Mhai-Mhai” Nicor-Mangilimutan, Salvador “Bading” Escalante, Laurence Marxlen J. Dela Cruz, Francis Frederick “Wantan” Palanca, Irene Montilla, Manolet Escalante, Richard Jaojoco, Nicholas “Nico” Yulo, Magdaleno M. Peña, the ABC president for the province, Jojo Jalandoni, Vice Mayor Anthony Gerard Suatengco, and several board members Raymond Tongson and Valentino Miguel Alonso; from *Cagayan Valley* headed by former Vice Governor Odie Fausto of Cagayan; from *Batangas* headed by the president of Sugarcane Planters Group Mayor Peter Oliver M. Palacio of Calatagan; LuzonFed President Cornelio Toreja; Batangas Planters Cooperative head, Mr. Restituto Andal; the planters association heads of *Pampanga*, *Tarlac*, and other provinces

of Luzon; and the planters and millers from *Bukidnon*; leaders of Victoria Milling Company, Inc. (VMC) headed by its chairman, Wilson Young; Central Azucarera de La Carlota, Inc., Mr. Jose Manuel Mapa; the Binalbagan-Isabela Sugar Company (BISCOM) headed by Jose Antonio Chan; Pabulum Lobregat of Crystal Sugar Mill; former SRA Administrator Annie Paner; SRA Board Members Dino Yulo and Rolly Beltran; leaders of the Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries (ARBs) in the provinces, the Agrarian Reform Communities (ARCs) and Sugar Labor.

Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

At the outset, Senator Zubiri stated that the leaders of sugar-producing provinces would like to extend their appreciation and gratitude to the Senate for the help and assistance that were given to them through a formal statement which, with the permission of the Body, he read, as follows:

The Tatak Kalamay from all over the Philippines, along with representatives of our local government units, come together today to express our heartfelt thanks to the Members of the Senate for unanimously supporting our plea to scrap the proposed liberalization of the sugar industry.

We, Tatak Kalamay, birthed out of necessity in order to protect our livelihood, and growing in number and strength all over the 28 sugar-producing provinces which are farmer groups from Negros Island, Batangas, Tarlac, Cagayan Province, Bukidnon, Isabela, and others who joined us here today.

We are five million strong, our blood, sweat and tears responsible for what has always been among the major drivers of our nation's growth and development—the sugar industry.

We are here to thank you for your overwhelming support. If not for your timely intervention, the death of the sugar industry would have been imminent. The economic benefits from the sugar industry would be weakened. And more importantly, the thrust of our dear Pres. Rodrigo Duterte in achieving full food self-sufficiency would have been for naught.

You have always stood by us when we needed you the most during the massive entry of the High Fructose Corn Syrup which plunged



sugar prices, you were there for us! When the Sugar Industry Development Act (SIDA) funds were slashed, you were there, again, for us! And now that our ultimate demise is certain, you have once again stood by us!

From an eternally grateful sugar industry, we express our utmost and heartfelt gratitude!

More power to the Senate! *Mabuhay kayong lahat! Mabuhay ang industriya sang Kalamay! Mabuhay tayong lahat!*

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri also acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the Majority Leader of the Bangsamoro Transition Authority Parliament of the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM), Atty. Lanang T. Ali Jr. with Ismael Razul, Member of the Parliament, and their staff.

Senate President Sotto again welcomed the guests to the Senate.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR GO

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Go cited news reports about apparent inefficiencies hounding the country's hosting of the 2019 Southeast Asian Games that have inconvenienced some foreign athletes.

Following is the full text of his speech:

There have been news reports on apparent inefficiencies that have been hounding our hosting of the 2019 Southeast Asian Games. These have caused our Southeast Asian brothers from Cambodia, Myanmar, Timor-Leste, and Thailand inconveniences which they must not have experienced so close to the start of the games. Some of the alleged problems consist of transportation, accommodation, and travel issues.

Meanwhile, our very own women's football team has expressed frustration over logistical issues. *Ang sabi nila dati* ay almost ready and complete *na ang* preparation, venues, and everything that will be used for the games.

As of October 30, 2019, Phisgoc stated that preparations are 90% complete. *Bakit nangyari ang mga ganito?*

Hindi apology ang kailangan natin ngayon. Hindi ito madadaan sa apology lamang. Ang kailangan ay gisingin lahat. Huwag papatay-patay.

Anim na araw na lamang po at opening na ng SEA Games at may ilang laro na nagsimula na. May ilang bisita at manlalaro na ang nagsisidating kaya dapat maayos na ito.

Noong naghahanda tayo for Southeast Asian Games, may kanya-kanyang mandato ang gobyerno. Ang Office of the President, Senate, at Congress ay nagbigay ng lahat na kakailanganing pondo at suporta para sa hosting kung kaya walang rason para sabihing hindi tayo handa.

At kahit may iba't ibang responsibilidad na nakatoka sa Phisgoc, sa PSC, at sa POC, hindi ibig sabihin nito na wala na tayong pakialam sa isa't isa. Huwag tayong magkanya-kanya!

The PSC, along with the DBM-Procurement Service, is the main implementor of the funding and public procurement aspect of the games. On the other hand, Phisgoc is primarily responsible for the planning and actual preparations, organization, management, and execution of the hosting of the 30th Southeast Asian Games; while the POC takes charge of running the technical aspects of all sporting events. To all parties, *tandaan ninyo: Ang kapalpakan ng isa ay kapalpakan nating lahat.* Let me remind everyone that you will be answerable to the President, and most especially to the Filipino people.

Kaya sobrang nakakalungkot po na sa mga panahong ito may ilan sa mga kababayan natin na pumapalakpak sa maling rason—pumalakpak dahil gusto nila tayong pumalakpak.

Ganitong pag-uugali ba ang gusto nating ipakita sa ating mga bisita at karatig bayan? Ganitong pag-uugali ba ang gusto nating ipamana sa ating mga kabataan?

Hindi po dapat ganyan ang maging attitude natin ngayon. Magtulungan po tayo bilang suporta sa bawat Pilipinong manlalaro at para magtagumpay ang hosting natin ng SEA Games.

Mataas ang expectation ng buong mundo sa atin bilang host ng Southeast Asian Games. The reputation of the country is at stake. Hindi ito burden ng isang grupo lamang. Hindi lamang ang gobyerno, hindi lamang ang PSC, POC, o Phisgoc. Bilang Pilipino, lahat tayo ay host dito sa Southeast Asian Games kung kaya't ito ang oras na dapat magtulungan, hindi magsisihan.



Ngayon, dapat naka-focus po tayo dito.

Target natin na manalo ang ating mga atleta pero bigyan din natin ng importansya na maalagaan at maipamahagi sa ating mga bisita ang kagandahan ng ating bansa at ang warm hospitality nating mga Pilipino.

Gaya po ng sinabi ko nitong nakaraang linggo, hindi lamang po medalya at karangalan ng ating mga atleta ang nakasalalay sa darating na Southeast Asian Games. Ang reputasyon at pangalan din ng ating bansa ang nakataya rito.

I am therefore delivering this privilege speech to urge PSC, POC, PHISGOC, and all Filipinos, *huwag po nating hayaan na pumalak ito.* There is a right time for everything. *Huwag tayong magturuan ngayon.* But after the games, *papanagutin natin ang dapat na managot.*

As the chairman of the Committee on Sports and a member of the Blue Ribbon Committee, *handa po tayo na mag-imbestiga sa mga kapalpakan na mangyayari sa hosting natin sa Southeast Asian Games. Pero sa ngayon,* let us work as one in order to win as one.

To all our hardworking athletes, coaches, delegates, and all those who have sacrificed much to bring glory to our nation, we are all behind you. The government and all its resources are all behind you.

We wish you nothing but the best and we will cheer hard for every victory, every defeat, every sacrifice made for the glory of our people. We win as one.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUEST

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri acknowledged the presence in the gallery of Councilor Carl Lizares from Negros Occidental.

Senate President Sotto welcomed Councilor Lizares to the Senate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended for an all-senators caucus requested by Senator Cayetano, chair of the Committee on Ways and Means.

It was 3:18 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:16 p.m., the session was resumed.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri informed the Body that the House of Representatives passed its version of the Malasakit Center bill which was exactly the same as the Senate version; thus, a bicameral conference would no longer be necessary.

Thereafter, upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Secretariat was directed to enroll the bill.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1175, entitled

**AN ACT AUGMENTING THE BENEFITS
OF THE SOLICITORS OF THE
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR
GENERAL, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

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

Senate Bill No. 1176, entitled

**AN ACT INSTITUTING THE CITIZEN
SERVICE TRAINING COURSE,
ESTABLISHING THE CITIZEN
SERVICE CORPS, CREATING THE
CITIZEN SERVICE MOBILIZATION
COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

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

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Senate Bill No. 1177, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING SUPPORT FOR THE SURVIVING HEIRS OF SLAIN JUSTICES AND JUDGES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 910, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

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

Senate Bill No. 1178, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION TWO OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016"

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

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

Senate Bill No. 1179, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE AUTHORITY TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE ISSUED TO PRIESTS, MINISTERS OR RABBIS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE NINETY-FIVE OF THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6514 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

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

Senate Bill No. 1180, entitled

AN ACT AUGMENTING THE EMPLOYEE BENEFITS FOR THE SOLICITORS OF THE OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL BY PROVIDING RETIREMENT, DEATH AND SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1181, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE MARSHAL SERVICE UNDER THE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gordon

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1182, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE MANDATORY ESTABLISHMENT OF A POPULATION OFFICE IN ALL PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 488 (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 1183, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE, SALE, MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, TRADE, IMPORTATION, AND MARKETING OF ELECTRONIC NICOTINE OR ELECTRONIC NON-NICOTINE DELIVERY SYSTEMS (ENDS/ENNDs) IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPLYING THE PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Tolentino

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Bill No. 217, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO LOOK INTO THE REGULATION OF HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES IN FERTILIZERS AND THE INTENSIFICATION OF THE USE OF ORGANIC FERTILIZER IN THE COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURAL SECTOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

To the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; and Health and Demography

Proposed Senate Bill No. 218, entitled

RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING THE OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN THE NATION'S SERVICE (TOWNS) 2019 AWARDEES

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committee on Rules

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report No. 24, submitted by the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; and Ways and Means, on Senate Bill No. 810, introduced by Senator Marcos, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED EXPENSES OF CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED, "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,"

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Marcos

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**BILLS ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 1184, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1185, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE INCLUSION OF GOOD MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT CURRICULUM STARTING FROM KINDERGARTEN TO GRADE 3

Introduced by Senator Lacson

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

RESOLUTION

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 219, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL TRANSMISSION GRID BY THE NATIONAL GRID CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES TO DETERMINE COMPLIANCE WITH THE OBLIGATIONS UNDER ITS FRANCHISE AND TO SAFEGUARD THE GRID TO ENSURE CONTINUOUS ELECTRICITY SUPPLY IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

To the Committees on Public Services; and Energy

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COMMUNICATIONS

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

Memorandum No. M-2019-026 dated 25 October 2019; and

Circular Letter No. CL-2019-079, 080, 081 and 082, dated 31 October, 4 and 7 November 2019.

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri requested the Members to be prepared the following day as the Body would be tackling very important measures and defense of bills that had been sponsored for Second Reading.

REMARKS OF SENATE PRESIDENT SOTTO

To further clarify the earlier manifestation of Senator Zubiri, Senate President Sotto stated that the Senate was merely taking note of the passage by the House of Representatives of its version of the Malasakit Center bill which was exactly the same

as Senate Bill No. 1076 which was passed last November 11, 2019. He explained that since there was no disagreement with the Senate version, the House of Representatives was deemed to have concurred with Senate Bill No. 1076.

Senator Zubiri affirmed that the House was deemed to have adopted the Senate version and as such, the Secretariat was being directed to prepare the enrolled copy.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

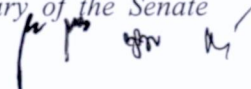
It was 5:24 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.



ATTY. MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA

Secretary of the Senate



Approved on November 26, 2019