



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal 1

SESSION NO. 29
Tuesday, October 4, 2016

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:21 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Franklin M. Drilon led the prayer, to wit:

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank You for this new day, as we, Your servants, gather once again and work together in the service of our countrymen.

Dear Lord, grant us Your light and understanding to know Your will, to make it our own, and to live it in our lives.

Lead us by Your wisdom; strengthen us by Your power; and guide us by the abiding presence of Your Holy Spirit as we fulfill our mandate as elected leaders of this country. Help us to remain faithful to our sworn duty of upholding the Constitution in promoting the common good of all.

O gracious God, give us the courage to always be fair in our decisions and do what is morally right. Enable us to uphold the rights of everyone. Do not allow us to be

misled by ignorance or corrupted by fear or favor. May You serve as our greatest reminder that our compassion should not only be for a chosen few, but for all who are in need.

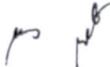
All these we ask in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Lutgardo B. Barbo, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Lacson, P. M.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Legarda, L.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Pacquiao, E. M. D.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Pangilinan, F. N.
De Lima, L. M.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Drilon, F. M.	Poe, G.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Recto, R. G.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Sotto III, V. C.
Gatchalian, W.	Villanueva, J.
Honasan, G. B.	Villar, C. A.
Hontiveros, R.	Zubiri, J. M. F.



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

Senators Gordon and Trillanes arrived after the roll call.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 28 (October 3, 2016) and considered it approved.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests:

- Constitutional law students from the Philippine Law School, headed by their class president, Eva Villaruel;
- Students in the Masteral program of the Asian Social Institute, headed by Ms. Zinnia Cariasa-Arcinue, vice president for Academe-Research and Academic Dean;
- Barangay officials from Nagcarlan, Laguna, guests of Senator Aquino;
- Philippine contingent for The Ship of Southeast Asian and Japanese Youth Program led by national leader, Atty. Kahil Lamigo, guests of Senator Hontiveros; and
- Mayor Ronaldo Golez of Dumangas, Iloilo, guest of Senator Gatchalian.

Senate President Pimentel 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:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1173, entitled

**AN ACT REQUIRING OWNERS AND
OR OPERATORS OF MALLS,
DEPARTMENT STORES, STALLS**

AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS TO GRANT AND ALLOW THEIR WOMEN EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED IN SALES 15-MINUTE RESTS EVERY TWO HOURS OF CONTINUOUS AND UNINTERRUPTED SALES AND STORE OPERATION ASSIGNMENTS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 132(A), CHAPTER 1, TITLE III, OF THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 1174, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS FREE ADMISSION TO ALL PUBLIC MUSEUMS AND NATIONAL HISTORICAL SHRINES AND LANDMARKS

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 1175, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND PROVIDING FOR FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION IN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 1176, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY

AND SECURITY OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY FROM INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL THREATS, THEREBY CREATING A CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE FOR THIS PURPOSE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Senate Bill No. 1177, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE “BALANGAY” AS THE NATIONAL BOAT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 174, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE APPARENT MISMANAGEMENT AND/OR INCOMPETENCE OF THE NATIONAL BILIBID PRISON BY THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE LEADING TO A BRAWL THAT CAUSED THE DEATH OF A HIGH PROFILE INMATE AND SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURIES TO OTHERS, AND THE ALLEGED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED AGAINST OTHER INMATES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION THAT WOULD PREVENT RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS

Introduced by Senators Leila M. De Lima and Trillanes IV

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 175, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING JESLYN SANTOS FOR BEING CROWNED AS THE MISS UNITED CONTINENTS 2016

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 176, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING ARTHUR VILLANUEVA FOR SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDING THE WBO ASIA PACIFIC BANTAMWEIGHT BELT IN CARSON, CALIFORNIA

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 177, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING PERLAS PILIPINAS FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL DURING THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP IN MALACCA, MALAYSIA

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 178, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING JANELLE MAE FRAYNA FOR BEING GRANTED THE TITLE OF CHESS GRANDMASTER IN THE 42ND WORLD CHESS OLYMPIAD HELD AT BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 180, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING

AND COMMENDING EXECUTIVE
MINISTER EDUARDO V. MANALO
FOR SEVEN YEARS OF DYNAMIC
AND SUCCESSFUL LEADERSHIP
OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO (INC)

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Rules

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Circular Letter Nos. CL-2016-075 and 076 dated 5 and 8 September 2016;

Circular Nos. 924 and 925 dated 7 and 13 September 2016; and

Memorandum No. M-2016-012 dated 8 September 2016.

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Atty. Edwin B. Bellen, 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 28 September 2016, the House of Representatives adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 8, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION GRANTING CONSENT TO SENATOR FRANKLIN M. DRILON TO ACCEPT THE GRAND CORDON OF ORDER OF THE RISING SUN TO BE CONFERRED UPON HIM BY THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN,

in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate.

To the Committee on Rules

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1178, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

To the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

Senate Bill No. 1179, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF R.A. NO. 8239 ALSO KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Foreign Relations

Senate Bill No. 1180, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING A ONE-TIME AMNESTY FOR UNPAID SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM CONTRIBUTIONS, INCLUSIVE OF FEES, FINES, PENALTIES, INTEREST AND OTHER ADDITIONS THERETO, BY EMPLOYERS OF HOUSEHELPERS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7655, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM WAGE OF HOUSEHELPERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 143 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED," AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10361, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT INSTITUTING POLICIES FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF

DOMESTIC WORKERS," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 183, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON URBAN PLANNING, HOUSING AND RESETTLEMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE YOLANDA REHABILITATION AND RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM SPECIFICALLY ON THE RESETTLEMENT PROGRAM WITH THE END VIEW OF CRAFTING LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR AN EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT HOUSING PROGRAMS FOR VICTIMS OF DISASTER

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184, entitled

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PROPOSAL TO SHOW THE ALLEGED "SEX VIDEO" ATTRIBUTED TO SEN. LEILA DE LIMA IS ILLEGAL, VIOLATIVE OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COURTESY AND DECENCY, AND AN AFFRONT TO WOMEN'S DIGNITY

Introduced by Senators Risa Hontiveros, Cynthia A. Villar, Grace Poe, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay and Legarda

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 185, entitled

RESOLUTION EXTOLLING THE HEROISM AND VIRTUES OF

WORLD WAR II MARTYR WENCESLAO Q. VINZONS ON OCCASION OF HIS 106TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Introduced by Senator Pangilinan

To the Committee on Rules

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

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

- Guests of Senator Zubiri — Maryland State Congresswoman Kris Valderrama; California State Congressman Rob Volta; Tony Olaez, the CEO of the Filipino School in San Diego; Juanito Amor Jr., the Registrar of Voters of San Diego County; Mr. Audie De Castro, San Diego Honorary Consul; and Al Talajuro;
- Guests of Senator Legarda from the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples – Chairperson Leonor Quintayo; Commissioners Basilio Wandag, Norberto Navarro, Ramsey Astoveza, Roy Dabuit and Dominador Gomez; and Executive Director Lee Arroyo.

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS**

Senator Hontiveros, chairperson of the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality, availed of the privilege hour to speak on the need to penetrate what seemed to be impenetrable, the "Old Boy's Club," and to urge the Senate to express its sense that the proposal to show the alleged "sex video" attributed to Senator De Lima is illegal, violative of inter-parliamentary courtesy and decency, and an affront to women's dignity.

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

Last Thursday, during the committee hearing for the budget of the Commission on Human Rights, I was jolted by news of the passing of Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Senator Miriam was many things to many people. To those with whom she crossed swords, they would likely remember her sharp unrelenting tongue. To her family and close friends, she was

a loving wife and mother. To the millennials of this country, her biting wit and pick-up lines are the stuff legends are made of. To her supporters from various generations, she was “the best President we never had.”

To me, I choose to remember her as an ally and fellow traveler in our long struggle for reproductive health. In her, I saw the tenacity required to shepherd important and historic legislation into fruition. And with her, as well as the legions of women advocates, I saw the importance of the women’s voice in pushing policy.

Because love her or hate her, one thing is certain: Miriam Defensor Santiago is a woman who made sure her voice was heard. She paved the way for women like me who believed that there was a glass ceiling that needed to be broken, an old boy’s club that needed to be penetrated because this club sought to make decisions about our bodies, our health, our lives and our futures without our consent. In this club, women are either outsiders who must request to get in, objects of spectacle whose existence and agency are defined according to the men in their lives, or recipients of tokenist favors.

Buhay na buhay pa din ang Old Boy’s Club sa gobyerno. This Old Boy’s Club phenomenon is alive and kicking. At its most benign, it can manifest itself in statements like, “Of course, I will yield to the beautiful senator.” Then it can progress to catcalling and rape jokes.

Sabagay, hindi lang ito sa Pilipinas. In America, their male presidential candidate just called a woman “Miss Piggy.” At its worst and ugliest, this Old Boy’s Club in the Philippines seeks to shame a woman senator into silence by threatening the release of a video purported to capture her in a sexual act.

Now, the Justice Secretary says, “We are not going to present anything about the sex video. We are not in possession of any video.”

We have yet to hear from the House of Representatives if they indeed will cease and desist from this threatened assault on a fellow legislator. The victory will be of the netizens, women writers, women representatives, women senators who said: “Enough!”

Whether we think the video is fake or not is of no moment. What we think of the drug-related allegations levelled against her is of no moment. *Isang usapin lamang po ang inilalatag ko sa inyong harapan ngayon:* Will we allow the House of Representatives to show the sex video allegedly showing Senator Leila de Lima?

In the first place, the release of the video would be illegal. It is in violation of R.A. No. 9995, or the Anti-Photo or Video Voyeurism Act of 2009, which requires the consent of the person in the video before its release or distribution. The House Speakership and the Committee on Justice would be party to the commission of a crime under RA 9995. It would be, for all intents and purposes, a sex crime. Do we allow our colleagues in the House to be party to a sex crime? Do we allow a fellow senator to be the victim of a sex crime?

But the legality or illegality of it is not the core issue that I want to get to: it is the systemic and structural machismo that pervades our political culture; the double standards that are so ingrained in our life that they become invisible tools of oppression.

Sa paggiit ng opinyon: Pag lalaki, assertive and decisive. Sinasabi ng lipunan, take a bow. Pag babae, hysterical and shrill. Sinasabi ng lipunan, take a break.

Sa pag-abante ng career: pag lalaki, go-getter. Pag babae, bad mother.

Kaya naman: Pag ang lalaki may sex video, macho, matinik. Pag babae, malaswa, malandi.

We could still be about to cross the rubicon. If we stand by in silence while our colleagues in the House perpetrate this indignity against a fellow senator, we would have chosen vulgarity over civility, misogyny over basic respect and decency.

We would be telling our daughters that they can be shamed for their sexuality, in ways that that their brothers or husbands will never be. We would be telling our little girls that their sexual choices are fair game and that their bodies can be policed.

Sino ang susunod? Sino ang susunod na gagawan ng pekeng sex video? Sino ang susunod na hihiyain sa madla? Ako? Si Senator Nancy, si Senator Grace, si Senator Cynthia o si Senator Loren? O ang babaeng iniwan ang nambubugbog na partner at bilang ganti ay in-upload ang sex video nila? Kasi pwede na. Sabi ng Kongreso, pwede.

Senator Leila has her political battles and many of you might disagree with her positions. So be it. But on the singular issue of the sex video, the battle is bigger than Senator Leila. It is about respect and decency between institutions. It is about chipping away at the structural misogyny that pervades our culture. Most of all, it is about raising little girls who

believe that they can define themselves with no fear of shame, and who believe that their bodies and their lives are theirs and theirs alone.

This is not just about Senator Leila. This is about every woman.

Salamat po.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

With the permission of the Body, the session was suspended.

It was 3:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR AQUINO

At the outset, Senator Aquino stated that he was pleased with the speech of Senator Hontiveros and that, in fact, a number of senators had voiced their concern and objection to the playing of the supposed sex video in the hearing at the House of Representatives.

Asked by Senator Aquino why the hashtag "#everywoman" was used, Senator Hontiveros explained that the hashtag symbolized the battle cry of the netizens which started the previous week, their way of expressing "*Sobra na, tama na, tigilan na ito!*" She said that initially, it was only the women who aired their views against sexism and misogyny; later men joined in using the hashtag "#everyman," followed by other netizens who used the hashtag "#everyhuman."

Senator Hontiveros stressed that the issue of an alleged video was not only about a single legislator, it has at its very core a human dignity and rights issue, it has something to do with the dignity of every woman who tries to speak the truth and to seek justice on issues that are important to everyone. She maintained that the advocacy against sexism and misogyny is not owned by a certain individual, it is eminently a human struggle.

Asked whether the use of the word "every" meant that anyone can be a victim of misogyny which is a form of violence, Senator Hontiveros replied that it is truly a form of violence under the Women in Nation-Building Act and other national laws, as well as international instruments to which

the Philippines is a party in the community of nations.

Senator Aquino stated that the use of sex videos or sexual information to oppress or to take revenge is not unique to the Philippines because it is done in many societies. Senator Hontiveros said that, indeed, such kind of assault from the platform of sexism and misogyny is not unique to the Philippines so much so that Congress saw it fit to pass various laws to protect women and all persons from such forms of psychological violence, such as Republic Act No. 9995 or the Anti-Photo or Voyeurism Act, the Revised Penal Code, the Magna Carta of Women, and city ordinances in different parts of the country which categorize such an act and even threat of an act as psychological violence and violation of the rights of women.

To Senator Aquino's observation that although such threats are not unique to Philippine society, they seem to be unique to women, Senator Hontiveros lamented that it is unfortunate that in all cases of violence that are classified under different Philippine laws, an overwhelming majority of the victims are women.

Asked why women are the focus of such violence, Senator Hontiveros replied that the sexism and misogyny still persist in Philippine society despite many advances borne out of the struggles of women's movements, including support from some men at different stages of history. She said that if there is such kind of built-in inequality as expressed in the country's culture which comes out in different institutions of society, even in government, it is no surprise that there is still a high incidence of violence against women.

Senator Aquino noted that the day's headlines indicated that the House of Representatives would not push through with the showing of the alleged sex video, definitely a good news to a number of people – individuals, groups who crossed party lines and women's groups that came out to express their objection to the plan.

Responding thereto, Senator Hontiveros stated that Justice Secretary Vitaliano Aguirre was heard saying that they do not have in their possession the alleged video and that it would not be shown. She said that she has yet to hear from the House of Representatives if they will, in fact, cease and desist from showing the video.

mt/b

As regards her resolution, Senator Hontiveros informed the Body all the five women senators had signed the document opposing the showing of the alleged video as it would violate the Anti-Photo or Video Voyeurism Act, the long-standing and cherished tradition of extending inter-parliamentary courtesy to each Chamber, and that it would undermine the life-long struggle to uphold and uplift the dignity of women. She explained that the resolution calls upon the Chamber to strongly oppose and condemn the proposal to show an alleged video attributed to a fellow legislator.

Senator Aquino commended the women legislators for taking the lead in the resolution. He stated that he would place his support to the resolution at the proper time.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR DRILON

At the outset, Senator Drilon stated that in his 19 years in the Senate, it would be the first time that the Congress is confronted with the situation described by Senator Hontiveros. He pointed out that under the Constitution, investigations in Congress are done in aid of legislation, and that witnesses appear not as an accused, but as resource persons in order to clarify certain issues and in order to aid the legislators in crafting laws for the common good, or for purposes of finding out how else it could amend certain laws that are in the books.

Asked what legislation could be enacted by showing the alleged sex video, Senator Hontiveros replied that she did not know of any apparent or express subject in the law that is supposed to be examined in the exercise of oversight functions by the House of Representatives.

On whether in the course of her six years as a Member of the House Representatives there was ever an instance when she was confronted with the situation where the Justice Secretary, the chair of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, and the Speaker of the House would in unison call for the showing of the video, Senator Hontiveros replied in the negative, saying that she has never seen a secretary conducting hearings in the House of Representatives. She said that she was shocked to hear the circumstances surrounding the call for the showing of the sex video.

Asked if she sees any relation whatsoever between any pretended legislation and the purported

sex video to be necessary in order to come up with any legislation, Senator Hontiveros replied that the only express intent that she heard was for the investigation as a whole to look into certain allegations regarding activities in the New Bilibid Prison. She believed that nothing would be impacted by showing the alleged sex video.

As to her view on the purpose of showing the video, Senator Hontiveros believed that the only purpose of threatening to show the alleged video was to shame and humiliate Senator De Lima. She observed that in the past months, Senator De Lima has been battered into silence by her fellow legislators who intend to show the video which is in violation of her duties as a legislator. She opined that the move is not in aid of legislation and certainly not how it is done in the highest traditions of both houses of Congress.

Asked what the Senate should do under such circumstances, Senator Hontiveros stated that the five lady senators crossed party lines, putting front and center their sisterhood and solidarity to appeal to the Body to oppose and strongly condemn any move by the House of Representatives to show the alleged sex video.

At this juncture, Senator Drilon asked to which committee Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184 was referred. Senate President Pimentel replied that it was referred to the Committee on Rules.

Concurring with Senate President Pimentel, Senator Sotto informed the Body that before Senator Hontiveros stood up to deliver her speech, he already discussed with Senate President Pimentel his proposal to consider the resolution after Senator Hontiveros had delivered her speech.

Thereafter, Senator Drilon terminated his interpellation to allow Senator Sotto to manifest the proper motion.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

With the permission of the Body, the session was suspended.

It was 4:00 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:00 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Pro Tempore Drilon presiding.

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INTERPELLATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT PIMENTEL

At the outset, Senate President Pimentel noted that Senator Hontiveros' privilege speech was about Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184 which was just referred to the Committee on Rules. He assumed that some of the Members have not had the chance to read the text of the resolution.

Senate President Pimentel stated that Senator Hontiveros cited three main reasons why the Senate should express its sense that the alleged sex video should not be shown in the investigation at the House of Representatives, namely (a) it was illegal, (b) it was violative of inter-parliamentary courtesy and decency, and (c) it was an affront to women's dignity.

Adverting to Republic Act No. 9995, Senate President Pimentel asked what specific provisions of the law was the resolution referring to Senator Hontiveros cited Section 4(d) of R. A. No. 9995. Senate President Pimentel suggested that Section 7 be also added as another ground to argue for the illegality of the contemplated act of the House of Representatives. Senator Hontiveros expressed appreciation to the Senate President.

Asked why the plan of the Lower House was violative of inter-parliamentary courtesy, Senator Hontiveros stated that when she was a member of the House of Representatives, she learned that there is institutional courtesy among the Members of both Houses which is to work in harmony or to differ in principled disagreement with each other in order to craft a policy framework that will advance the common good, including human dignity, equality, and gender. She contended, however, that the planned act of the House of Representatives sprang from sexism and misogyny which would undermine the efforts to uplift the dignity of women and promote equality among women and men of different sexual orientations and gender identities. Further, she added that such action would totally oppose the values enshrined in the Constitution.

Asked whether the resolution would also not violate inter-parliamentary courtesy because it questioned the motive of the committee in the Lower House, Senator Hontiveros expressed willingness to be corrected but she stressed that she would still fight for and demand courtesy for a colleague because the

Lower House owes not only her fellow senator but also the other women in the Lower House.

Senate President Pimentel said that it would be best for the Senate to accept the declaration of a committee of the House that their investigation is in aid of legislation.

Senator Hontiveros said that she was willing to accept the declaration if the House of Representatives could point out that the video showing in the course of their investigation would be in aid of legislation. At this juncture, she cited Section 93 of Rule XXXIV (*Unparliamentary Acts And Languages*) of the Rules of the Senate, to wit:

“Acts and language which offend a Senator or any public institution shall be deemed unparliamentary.”

Senator Hontiveros maintained that the resolution reminding the House of Representatives not to engage in such acts and language offensive to a senator or any public institution would still be within the rights of the Senate as one of the houses of the Congress of the Philippines.

For his part, Senate President Pimentel believed that there was no sex video as he disclosed that he was shown a sex video which, however, does not involve any Member of the Senate. He said that the Committee on Rules could immediately act on the proposed resolution because he was also in favor of expressing the sense of the Senate that showing the alleged sex video would be illegal. He also informed the Body that no less than the Speaker of the House has categorically stated that no sex video would be shown in the hearing; thus, passing the resolution would already be moot and academic. Nonetheless, he said he would leave it to the Body to act on the resolution as it could also serve as a guide in future issues concerning showing alleged sex videos. He reiterated his belief that there was no sex video.

Senator Hontiveros stated that it would be well if indeed no sex video existed as she also cited the Justice Secretary who was supposed to have said “We are not in possession of any such sex video. We will not show any such video.” She recalled how glad she was when she heard the Senate President saying that there would be a political price to pay if the alleged video would be shown. She said that she

pmt/p

was proud to associate herself with that statement and as a member of the Senate under Senate President Pimentel.

Senator Hontiveros maintained that the threat of showing the video to silence a fellow legislator was already inherently unparliamentary and deserves a word from the Senate to the House of Representatives. She also expressed her appreciation to the Senate President for associating himself with the issues of legality that the women senators raised in the resolution. She believed that the issue can never be moot and academic because at any time, sexism or misogyny could rear its ugly head against any Filipino woman.

She said that those in power should be reminded that sexism and misogyny have no place in a society especially to the men and women who were trying to liberate themselves from such terrible aspect of the society.

Senate President Pimentel stated that as head of the PDP Laban, he has directed his partymates in the House to vote against the showing of the sex video. He also encouraged the Body to further study the concept of inter-parliamentary courtesy to better understand it and when it could be properly invoked.

Senator Hontiveros said that the threat of violence is just as damaging as the actual violence.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR EJERCITO

Senator Ejercito expressed his opposition to the showing of the alleged sex video of Senator De Lima in the ongoing investigation at the House of Representatives, saying it would be in violation of the Anti-Photo and Video Voyeurism Act of 2009. But more than the violation of the law, he believed that inter-parliamentary courtesy and fairness dictate that the rights and dignity of people, especially the women, should be respected. He added that the guilt of Senator De Lima has yet to be proven in the investigation. Thus, he urged his colleagues in the Lower House to heed the call of the Senate for inter-parliamentary courtesy and be respectful at all times in the quest for truth and justice. He also urged the Senate to remain as the steward of decency, reason, empathy, compassion and everything that the senators have sworn to do and protect to make humanity thrive. He said that the government was waging a war against drugs and criminality and not against women and especially not against humanity.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri stated that he, together with Senators Gatchalian, Villanueva, Angara and Ejercito has agreed to write an open letter to the House of Representatives appealing to their former colleagues to show parliamentary courtesy, decency and civility for all women of the world. He said that he has a daughter and he does not want to show that the Senate would condone such act of uncivilized behavior. He said that he was elated upon hearing the Speaker of the House that there would be no showing of the video. However, he said that in the spirit of solidarity with the women legislators, they would still support the women of the Philippines and the world in their fight for dignity and civility.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan informed the Body that the members of the Liberal Party in the Senate had already issued a statement opposing the showing of the video, as it was illegal, contrary to law and to the basic principles of parliamentary courtesy, among others.

He said that he was elated that the effort has become a multi-partisan commitment, and he expressed his appreciation to his colleagues for standing by what they believed as necessary, not only to protect a fellow Member, but to uphold parliamentary courtesy as a hallowed tradition in Congress, as well as for expressing their concern and respect for women, in general.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto, for his part, stated that before Senator Hontiveros could deliver her privilege speech, he had already informed the Senate President and the other members of the Committees on Rules of his desire to submit for the adoption of the Body Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184. He said that he was brought up well because his mother was one of the founders of the Women's Rights Movement in the Philippines and was also president Emerita of *Kababaihang Rizalista*.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 184

With the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Sotto, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184, entitled

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A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PROPOSAL TO SHOW THE ALLEGED “SEX VIDEO” ATTRIBUTED TO SEN. LEILA DE LIMA IS ILLEGAL, VIOLATIVE OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY COURTESY AND DECENCY, AND AN AFFRONT TO WOMEN’S DIGNITY.

Upon the request of Senator Drilon, upon motion of Senator Sotto, the Secretary of the Senate read the text of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184, to wit:

WHEREAS, Sen. Leila De Lima is the subject of a House investigation on her alleged involvement in drug-related activities at the Bilibid Penitentiary;

WHEREAS, some members of the House of Representatives are pushing for the showing of a video allegedly depicting the Senator in acts of a sexual nature;

WHEREAS, showing this video violates Republic Act 9995, or the Anti-Photo or Video Voyeurism Act of 2009, and Republic Act 4200, or the Anti-Wiretapping Law;

WHEREAS, it also violates the time-honored principle of inter-parliamentary courtesy, given that Senator De Lima is a sitting senator and should therefore not be subjected to the ridicule and ignominy of a purported sex video;

WHEREAS, most importantly, it is a blow to our collective struggle to uplift the dignity of the woman, respect her agency and her autonomy over her own body, and is a form of slut-shaming that will not set a good example for the country.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT, RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, To express the sense of the Senate to condemn and oppose in the strongest possible terms the proposal to show the alleged sex video in the Congressional probe at the House of Representatives.

COAUTHORS

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, all senators were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184.

STATEMENT OF SENATOR DE LIMA

Senator De Lima expressed her sincere and profound appreciation for the gesture shown by her colleagues.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 184

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 184 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR ANGARA

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Angara spoke on the role of the Senate and of legislative inquiries.

Following is the full text of Senator Angara's speech:

I rise today in response to what has been going on in and out of the halls of the Senate. In my 12 years as a legislator, I do not recall ever rising to respond to current events. *Maraming beses po tayo tumayo para mag-sponsor ng panukalang batas o ng committee report o ng resolusyon. Pero ngayon lang po tayo tumayo para magkomento sa mga kasalukuyang pangayari sa labas pati na rin sa loob ng Senado, partikular na sa loob ng Committee on Justice and Human Rights.*

Role of the Senate

The Senate is not an institution of our own invention. *Mula noong panahon ng mga ninuno natin meron na pong Senado. Noong panahon ng ancient Rome at Greece, ang Senado ay dapat tumayong konseho ng mga dalubhasa, mga nakakaalam, mga eksperto, o ang tina-tawag na Council of Wise Men.*

As we celebrate the Senate’s 100th year tomorrow, may we remember that the people have traditionally looked up to the Senate in times of difficulty, as a check on dictatorial tendencies, as a prober of anomalies in government, as a voice for the unlearned and the oppressed who have nowhere to turn to for counsel.

The Senate has produced many of our country’s finest men and women. Men like Ninoy Aquino, father of our last President and uncle of our hardworking colleague, Sen. Bam Aquino; men like Jovito Salonga, Lorenzo Tañada and Jose Diokno who fought for democracy and for freedom; men who thought and planned big, men who dreamed big dreams, men who built institutions. Just the other week, we lost Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago.

Role of Legislative Inquiries

Deliberative bodies have existed practically since time immemorial and will no doubt continue

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to exist long after all of us here have turned to dust. Inherent in the power to legislate is the power to investigate. *Kaakibat ng ating mandato bilang Senado na magbalangkas ng batas ay ang kapangyarihang magpatawag ng mga pagdining para magabayan tayo sa paglikha ng mga makabuluhang batas.*

Legislative inquiries such as those before the justice committee to look into alleged extra-judicial killings no doubt serve a purpose, and to this Representation, that purpose can be only to:

First, find ways to improve law enforcement and our justice system. Senator Lacson, as a former police chief and having come from the ranks, said that he knows and understands the psyche of the police; he knows their frustrations over a flawed judicial system with unsympathetic, sometimes corrupt, prosecutors.

I was encouraged yesterday by the line of questioning of the Minority Leader, Sen. Ralph Recto, and my seatmate, Sen. Joel Villanueva, when they sought to elicit information regarding the weaknesses in law enforcement and the dispensation of justice and, more importantly perhaps, they sought to provide solutions.

One purpose of this investigation must be to strengthen the rule of law and respect for the law. A civilized country must train its law enforcers properly to have respect for basic rights and due process. I do suspect that there is a great temptation to exact swift justice on the part of our law enforcers given the difficulties encountered in securing convictions against known drug pushers or criminals.

The work of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights is of tremendous importance in today's society. We must dig deep to know what the weak links are in this system. Is it in the arrest stage? Is it in the investigation stage? Is it in the prosecutorial stage? *Saan po ba nakakalusot ang mga kriminal? Bakit po tumatagal nang husto ang mga kaso sa korte? Bakit maraming nakakalusot sa asunto? Nakakuha pa ba ng abogado ang mga mahihirap nating kababayan? Patas po ba ang laban, o dehado ang ating mga kapulisan? Paano mapapabilis ang takbo ng ating mga kaso?*

Institutional Deficiencies and Reforms

Throughout the conduct of the EJK hearings, many important realities and points were brought up particularly about the state of our law enforcement agencies.

We learned about delays in the issuances of search warrants. General Dela Rosa said that the time a judge issues a search warrant varies

greatly, ranging from three days to several months. This varying period hampers not just the PNP's anti-drug initiatives but, in fact, their operations in general.

We heard about the difficulties the PNP face with empowering their personnel. General Dela Rosa also cited the lack of PNP training facilities. The Commission on Audit reports that the PNP needs 3,000 more vehicles as those existing are either personally owned by the police or loaned from local government units. The PNP reportedly needs 18,000 short firearms and over 16,000 vehicles just to meet the ideal of 15 minute-response of the 911 emergency service.

We also learned that eight out of 10 cases filed in PDEA end up being dismissed and that it takes, at the very least, a decade to convict those who are charged for illegal drugs. We should look into Senator Pangilinan's suggestion to convene the JJELAC or the Joint Judiciary Executive Legislative Advisory Council to iron out issues and gaps to speed up and modernize the justice system. The Senate can lead but it cannot fight the battle alone.

The work of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights is bigger than you; it is bigger than me; it is bigger than the President or the chairman, or any other senator. It should not be reduced to a game of "my witness is better than your witness." Our work here should transcend our political affiliations because what we do here today and tomorrow, though they do not necessarily echo through eternity, will certainly have lasting effect on the public and on our institutions.

Tumitingala po ang taumbayan sa Senado para hanapan ng solusyon ang matitinding suliranin ng ating lipunan. A sad day indeed if our people lose faith in the people who seek to protect them and if our people do not wish to go through established institutions to seek redress.

Let us focus on making justice real for our people. *Yung ramdam talaga nila at ramdam din ng mga may masasamang balak na kung sila ay nagkasala, sila ay mapaparusahan.* Let us work in the coming weeks and months and years to move our justice system in the right direction, and to restore public trust in our institutions. Justice must be swift; it must be certain; it must be above suspicion.

I am confident that we can do it, *kaya po natin iyan.* I look around the room and I see two former secretaries of justice who once were both eminent law practitioners. I look at the current chairman of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, who labored for over 12 hours

yesterday leading the Committee and am reminded of his days as chairman of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, when discipline was all around Subic. *Simpleng bagay, nirerespeto ng taumbayan ang speed limit dahil alam nilang mahuhuli sila at kung mahuli, walang lusot doon sa police officer.* I often see him beside our hardworking co-chair, the gentleman from Cavite, a former head of the Philippine National Police, who is also known for his no-nonsense approach. Add to this the brilliant presiding officer of our institution, who also previously chaired the justice committee. As I said earlier, the gargantuan task of reforming our justice system cannot be accomplished by this Body alone. We will need the help of the other branches of government.

The collective experience and wisdom of the aforementioned individuals, coupled with the idealism and energy brought by our young colleagues – Senators Villanueva, Hontiveros, Gatchalian and Ejercito – is surely a great resource waiting to be tapped in the service of building better legal and judicial institutions.

We remember the words of the late Sen. Jose W. Diokno: “Yet justice must somehow be done or attempted to be done if society is to hold together. The alternative would be anarchy or dictatorship; and having experienced both, we Filipinos want neither. The question of what justice is, is more than theoretical; it is imminently practical and urgent. Somehow we must seek to answer it, however short of the perfection our answer may be.”

This is why I rose today, because every little action we take within view of our countrymen can either elicit respect for, or diminish trust in, the Republic’s hallowed institutions. I call on our colleagues, myself included, to exercise restraint, calmness, sobriety and mutual respect in all our dealings with each other. Cognizant of the great purpose we are called upon to serve, and to do justice to every Filipino.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Angara to the Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 166

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 166, entitled

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING DONNIE NIETES, MARK MAGSAYO AND ARTHUR VILLANUEVA FOR WINNING IN THE PINOY PRIDE 38 HELD ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2016 AT THE STUBHUB CENTER IN CARSON, CALIFORNIA,

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 176.

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

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR PACQUIAO

At the instance of Senator Pacquiao, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion into the record of the sponsorship speech of Senator Pacquiao congratulating Filipino boxers Donnie Nietes, Mark Magsayo and Arthur Villanueva.

Following is the sponsorship speech of Senator Pacquiao:

Once again, our Filipino boxers raised our flag to international dominance. They brought pride and honor to our country by winning in the Pinoy Pride 38 last September 25 at Carson, California.

With this, I filed Proposed Senate Resolution No. 166, a resolution commending and congratulating Donnie Nietes, Mark Magsayo, and Arthur Villanueva.

Donnie “Ahas” Nietes defeated former world champion Edgar Sosa in the Flyweight Division via unanimous decision. His exemplary performance paid off. It won him the world boxing organization international title, putting his win-loss record at 39-1-4 with 22 knockouts.

Mark Magsayo maintains his undefeated record by winning against Mexico’s Ramiro Robles via unanimous decision. The 21-year old pride of Tagbilaran City owned the match with all the judges scoring the bout in his favor.

And finally, Arthur Villanueva, who scored a knockout match against Juan Jimenez. Villanueva showcased his prowess and athletic precision. He delivered a solid right cross, sending his Mexican rival on the ground in the second round of the bout.

Our new breed of courageous and talented boxers outlasted their rivals inside the ring. These achievements show to the world our utmost commitment to excellence. With all the challenges that we are confronting as a nation, we turn to our world-class Filipino athletes as a source of inspiration and embodiment of national pride and honor.

Salamat sa ating mga atletang Pilipino. Salamat, Donnie, Mark, at Arthur. Thank you for making us proud with your hard-earned achievements. Mabuhay kayo at mabuhay ang sambayanang Pilipino!

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 166, Senator Villanueva delivered the following speech:

Isa pong napakalaking karanganan ang maghain ng resolusyon dito sa Senado para kilalanin ang isa na namang atletang Pilipinong nagwagayway ng bandila ng Pilipinas sa larangan ng boxing.

Ang boksingerong si King Arthur Villanueva mula sa Bacolod City, Negros Occidental ang kasalukuyang may hawak ng WBO Asia Pacific Bantamweight belt. Ito ay pagkatapos niyang mapatumba sa Round 2 ng kanilang rematch ang Mehikanong si Juan Jimenez noong September 24 sa StubHub Center sa Carson, California, USA.

Sa milyun-milyong mga manggagawang Pilipinong nakakalat sa iba't ibang bansa, lubhang kailangan natin ang mga Pilipinong kampeon sa iba't ibang larangan tulad ng boxing na isa sa pinakapaboritong sports sa buong mundo.

Ang tagumpay ni King Arthur Villanueva sa boxing ay muling nagpalutang sa pangalan ng Pilipinas at sa tapang at galing ng Pilipino sa entablado ng mundo. Nag-angat din ito sa dignidad ng ating mga overseas Filipino workers at nagpatibay ng respeto ng ibang lahi sa kakayahang ng ating mga manggagawa.

Ka-apelyido ko lang po si King Arthur Villanueva pero tiyak kong pareho kami ng paniniwala – “Kung magtitiwala sa sarili at magsisikap nang husto, magiging kampeon ka at mananalo ka sa buhay.”

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 166

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 166, taking

into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 176, was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 167

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 167, entitled

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING PERLAS PILIPINAS FOR WINNING GOLD IN THE 2016 SEABA WOMEN'S CHAMPIONSHIP IN MALACCA CITY IN MALAYSIA,

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 177 and 172.

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

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR PACQUIAO

At the instance of Senator Pacquiao, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion into the record of the sponsorship speech of Senator Pacquiao congratulating Perlas Pilipinas women's basketball team.

Following is the sponsorship speech of Senator Pacquiao:

Buong puso kong ipinagmamalaki sa inyong lahat na tayo ay binigyang-parangal ng ating mga kababayang atletang Pilipino na nagwagi ng gold sa 2016 SEABA Women's Championship. For this reason, I filed Proposed Senate Resolution No. 167, a resolution commending and congratulating Perlas Pilipinas for winning gold in the 2016 SEABA women's championship in Malacca City, Malaysia.

Perlas Pilipinas took home the gold medal for women's basketball after maintaining dominance on the hardcourt against Malaysia. In the midst of pressure, our lady athletes stood their ground. Our national team made history by finishing the tournament with victory.

Perlas Pilipinas, mabuhay kayo! Patuloy ninyong binibigyang inspirasyon at kanganan ang ating bansa. Nawa ay ipagpatuloy ninyo ang inyong paglaan ng talento para sa Pilipinas. You are truly God's gifts. You showed

immense talent and passion. Congratulations for a job well done!

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 167 and as author of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 177, Senator Villanueva delivered the following speech:

For a basketball enthusiast like myself, I am very much delighted to sponsor a resolution commending and congratulating Perlas Pilipinas, the Philippine National Women's Basketball Team, for winning the gold medal in the 2016 SEABA Women's Championship in Malacca City, Malaysia.

The Southeast Asia Basketball Association or SEABA is a subzone of FIBA Asia consisting of countries from the region. This is our second gold from SEABA Championship for Women; the first was in 2010 when the tournament was staged here in Manila.

These girls gave us reason why we should be proud as Filipinos and watch women's basketball more often. I could not agree more with their head coach, Patrick Aquino, that this win is a breakthrough for Philippines' women's basketball. This win is also a shining opportunity for women's basketball in the country to get the same attention that men's basketball gets.

Gusto ko rin pong sabihin, for the record, na noong 1994, iyong kauna-unahang Southeast Asian Basketball Association tournament held in Johor, Malaysia, this Representation actually represented our country in the first SEABA Basketball Tournament. Subalit hindi lamang po gintong medalya ang premyo na nais nating ipahiwatig. Ang totoong premyo po ay ang lalong pagtaas ng estado ng women's basketball sa Pilipinas.

Sa mga miyembro ng Perlas Pilipinas, alam kong ito ang laman ng puso ninyo na sana ay pumantay ang women's basketball sa men's basketball sa bansa at makakaasa kayong kasama ninyo kami dito sa Senado sa aspirasyong ito.

Ang totoong premyo ay ang inspirasyong hatid ninyo sa bawat kabataang babaeng Pilipino na huwag magbantulot na pasukin ang sports, humawak ng bola, at abutin ang kanilang mga pangarap.

Muli, salamat, kudos and more power sa Perlas Pilipinas.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 167

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 167, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 172 and 177, was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 170

With the consent of the Body, upon motion of Senator Sotto, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 170, entitled

A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES MADRIGAL SINGERS FOR WINNING THE GRAND PRIZE AND MULTIPLE AWARDS IN VARIOUS CATEGORIES OF THE 64TH INTERNATIONAL POLYPHONIC COMPETITION GUIDO D'AREZZO HELD LAST AUGUST 24-28, 2016, IN AREZZO, ITALY.

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

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR AQUINO

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 170, Senator Aquino delivered the following speech:

Yesterday, we were moved by the angelic voices of the world-renowned University of the Philippines Madrigal Singers.

Today, it is my honor to address you, my esteemed colleagues, to commend some of our most talented young Filipinos with Senate Resolution No. 170 (A Resolution Congratulating and Commending the University of the Philippines Madrigal Singers for Winning the Grand Prize and Multiple Awards in Various Categories of the 64th International Polyphonic Competition Guido D'Arezzo Held Last August 24 to 28, 2016 in Arrezo, Italy.)

Once again, Filipinos wowed the international community with our musical talent and ability.

Our homegrown Madrigal Singers from the UP sang with both skill and heart to win the second prize in Secular Music and the Special Listening Committee Awards in Folk Song, Pop and Renaissance Performances as well as the first prize in the Compulsory Program, Musica Sacra and Monographic Music Categories.

With their gift of music and their dedication to their craft, they won the grand prize of the 64th International Polyphonic Competition and now qualify to compete in the 2017 European Grand Prix for Choral Singing in Tolosa, Spain.

We would like to note that the UP Madrigal Singers previously won this competition in 1997 and 2007 and is one of only four choirs in the world to win this award twice.

We commend the UP Madrigal Singers in their recent victory and support them as they represent the Philippines next year.

As chairperson of the Senate Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, I am very happy to congratulate and commend these talented young Filipinos who continue to bring pride to our country.

Let us continue to encourage our youth to further develop their talents and be world class.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 170

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 170 was adopted by the Body.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 185

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 185, entitled

RESOLUTION EXTOLLING THE HEROISM AND VIRTUES OF WORLD WAR II MARTYR WENCESLAO Q. VINZONS ON OCCASION OF HIS 106TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY.

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

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Pangilinan to sponsor the resolution.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 185, Senator Pangilinan delivered the following speech:

One hundred six years ago last Thursday, September 28, Wenceslao Vinzons was born in Indan, Camarines Norte.

Wenceslao Vinzons was a high school class valedictorian. He took up law at the University of the Philippines and placed third in the bar examinations of 1933.

Wenceslao Vinzons was hailed as the "Father of Student Activism in the Philippines."

While studying at the University of the Philippines, he was elected student council president and he was also editor-in-chief of the *Philippine Collegian*.

Along with Narciso Alegre and future senator and Vice President Arturo Tolentino, he founded the "Young Philippines Party," a political party which advocated the grant of Philippine independence from American rule.

At the age of 24, he was the youngest delegate to the 1934 Constitutional Convention and he was instrumental in prescribing Filipino, then Tagalog, as the official language of the Philippines.

In 1940, he was elected the youngest governor of Camarines Norte and he also eventually became the province's representative to the National Assembly.

His service as a legislator was interrupted by the Japanese invasion of the Philippines in 1941.

During the war, he organized an armed resistance in the Bicol region against the invading Japanese army, commandeered all the rice warehouses in his province, ordered the confiscation of explosives and used the province's gold mines for use against the Japanese army.

He led a raid against a troop of Japanese soldiers in Basud, Camarines Norte and in May 1943, together with guerilla forces, he successfully led the liberation of the provincial capital of Daet.

Sometime, however, between 1941 and 1942, he was able to kill thousands, together with his guerilla unit, of Japanese soldiers. And he became the "most wanted man" in the Bicol region.

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Eventually, he was captured on July 8, 1942, together with his father. And despite being threatened with his death by Commander Major Tsuneoka Noburo, Wenceslao Vinzons refused to pledge allegiance to his captors and pinpoint the location of Filipino and American guerillas in the province and instead responded, "Nothing can make me happier than to die for my country, Major. You will die, too."

On July 15, 1942, the Japanese bayoneted him to death after his refusal to collaborate. Shortly thereafter, the Japanese also executed his father, his wife, his sister and two of his children.

To honor his memory, his hometown of Indian was renamed Vinzons. And in the University of the Philippines where I graduated, a number of edifices and buildings are named after him particularly the student activity center. Our Senate President is aware of this. The student activity center houses the University of the Philippines Student Council as well as the *Philippine Collegian* and the building is called "Wenceslao Vinzons" or Vinzons Hall.

Therefore, I appeal to our colleagues to support this resolution and to approve this resolution to remember, celebrate and extol the heroism and virtues of World War II martyr, youth and student leader Wenceslao Vinzons as a true paragon for the Filipino youth.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 185

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 185 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GORDON

At the outset, Senator Gordon said that he had always considered Senator Vinzons as his hero, with the former being the youngest delegate to the 1935 Constitutional Convention and he being the youngest delegate to the one held in 1971.

Having followed in the footsteps of his hero, Senator Gordon believed that Senator Vinzons was one of the very sparsely recognized heroes who died for what he believed was for the good of his country.

He pointed out that the young Wenceslao Vinzons was not only a student leader par excellance as he even debated with Marcos and Quezon, but he was

also among those who posited Maphilindo (Malaysia, Philippines and Indonesia) and who proposed Bahasa as the national language since the government could not agree on the national language at the time.

He believed that it is important to study the life of Vinzons because he was a hero who dared to dream. He also recalled that Wenceslao Vinzons not only became a delegate, congressman and governor, he also fought and recovered the province of Camarines Norte from the Japanese before eventually being captured because of a rumored betrayal by one of the top leaders of the country.

Even though many of Vinzons' contemporaries had switched loyalties and taken positions in the puppet government of the Japanese, Senator Gordon said that his hero refused to collaborate with the enemy and would even flip notes outside his prison cell encouraging the people with messages to continue fighting for independence, and after failing to convince him to join them, the Japanese beheaded him and murdered the rest of his family. He lamented the fact that nobody ever bothered to find out where Wenceslao Vinzons was buried.

Senator Gordon also agreed with Senator Pangilinan's observations that many people go in and out of Vinzons' Hall without knowing the person the building was named after. He hoped that his message would help wake up the country and fill people with a spirit of self-abnegation, selflessness and courage under fire.

He recalled trying to propose making September 28 a special day in the province of Camarines Norte in honor of Wenceslao Vinzons, a hero of modern vintage and among the many standout heroes of the National Heroes Day.

He thanked Senator Pangilinan for his speech and added that he would have wanted to have a bigger monument built for Wenceslao Vinzons at the entrance of the university so that this hero would not be faceless.

In a related matter, Senator Gordon also recalled that the day was also the first death anniversary of Sen. Joker Arroyo who quietly passed away in San Francisco, United States of America.

He said that he had thrown a party for the late senator at the new Red Cross Building in honor of

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his colleague's support for the organization, even going so far as presenting a donation of a modern ambulance to the Red Cross.

Senator Gordon said that the late Senator Arroyo was a lawyer par excellance, an Upsilonian who argued many cases against the Marcos regime. Moreover, he said that as a congressman and a senator, Mr. Arroyo commanded the attention of his fellow legislators as they would listen whenever he spoke up.

Although he was not privileged to see Senator Arroyo during his time as a prosecutor in the impeachment case of President Estrada, Senator Gordon recalled that Senator Arroyo consistently stood on a matter of principle as evidenced by his voting against the impeachment of the late Supreme Court chief justice Renato Corona. He pointed out that Sen. Joker Arroyo believed in following the Supreme Court's decision because he believed that the Supreme Court, as the last resort of the justice system, is the thread that unites all branches of government. He said that while it had not been easy for Senator Arroyo, along with other senators, to stand up for their principles, he did so nonetheless because he was that type of man.

Senator Gordon also remembered Senator Arroyo as a thoughtful man and one who had great humor. He said that Senator Arroyo was a man of humor, recalling the time when the latter reproved him for attending the Senate session wearing a coast guard uniform, to which he had replied that it was Senator Arroyo who was not wearing the complete uniform since he had no socks on.

Senator Gordon also recalled how they talked about important issues with the Wednesday Club, which included Senators Pangilinan, Manny Villar and Recto, as well as the time when Senator Arroyo invited him for dinner to meet his friend from Germany, Joseph Lederer.

Senator Gordon said that in behalf of the Philippine Red Cross, Senator Arroyo had solicited a Mercedes Benz ambulance from USEF, and also facilitated the ration of a plane load of relief goods for the victims of Typhoon *Haiyan* despite being out of office already. He said that his most treasured gift was the 25th Anniversary coin of the Philippine Red Cross given to him by Senator Arroyo.

Senator Gordon remembered Senator Arroyo as very thoughtful, always mindful of the advocacies of his friends, a great friend, and a teacher to many of his colleagues. In his family life, Senator Gordon said that Senator Arroyo was a great husband to his wife with whom he shared many intellectual and substantial exchanges, a great father to three accomplished daughters – one TOYM awardee for science, one fantastic and loving homemaker, and one equestrienne who had represented the country in countless international competitions and had graduated from Yale.

As a lawyer, Senator Gordon said that Senator Arroyo brought intelligence and acumen to both Houses of Congress by bringing quality debate and humor in discussions and had patiently endured the occasional stubborn colleagues without disrespecting them. He lauded Senator Arroyo for being respectful when he spoke – no bad comments about his colleagues but rather rile, *au naturel* remarks.

Senator Gordon also commended Senator Arroyo for emerging successful despite road blocks put in his way. He recalled that Senator Arroyo was the lawyer of Benigno Aquino and later on executive secretary of President Cory Aquino but when Senator Arroyo pushed for the creation of a district of Rizal, former President Noynoy Aquino, then senator, refused to accept it. Senator Gordon said he tried to talk to the latter by retelling the support of Senator Arroyo on former President Aquino III's parents but to no avail. He said that, nonetheless, Senator Arroyo was able to pass the bill but never gloated about it.

Senator Gordon further acclaimed Senator Arroyo for fighting for what he believed in, for being uncompromising in his integrity, and for being an honorable gentleman all throughout. He said that it was inevitable to be misunderstood by people when positions on certain issues are taken, but that the real man would stand by his principles no matter what.

Finally, Senator Gordon asked everyone to remember Senator Arroyo – a great patriot from the Province of Bicol, a freedom fighter, a champion of democracy, a friend, a brother, and a colleague in the Senate. He hoped that his memory would be an example to the succeeding legislators to do what is right for the people, against all odds and at any cost.

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**REFERRAL OF SENATOR GORDON'S
MANIFESTATION TO THE COMMITTEE
ON RULES**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred the manifestation of Senator Gordon regarding Senator Arroyo to the Committee on Rules for proper disposition.

COAUTHOR/COSPONSOR

Senator Sotto manifested that Senator Gordon is a coauthor and cosponsor of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 185.

OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Upon nomination by Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to represent the Senate in the joint congressional oversight committees hereafter indicated:

*Congressional Oversight Committee
on Clean Water Act (pursuant to
Section 33 of Republic Act No. 9275,
the Philippine Clean Water Act)*

Chairperson : Villar

Members :

Legarda	Cayetano
Ejercito	Paquiao

*Congressional Oversight Committee
on Chainsaw Act (pursuant to
Section 11 of Republic Act No. 9175,
the Chainsaw Act)*

Chairperson : Villar

Members :

Honasan	Trillanes
Gordon	Escudero
Pangilinan	

*Congressional Oversight Committee
on Ecological Solid Waste Management
Act (pursuant to Section 30 of
Republic Act No. 9003, the Ecological
Solid Waste Management Act)*

Chairperson : Villar

Members :

Legarda	Angara
Ejercito	Escudero

*Congressional Oversight Committee
on Clean Air Act (pursuant to
Section 53 of Republic Act No. 8749,
the Philippine Clean Air Act)*

Chairperson : Villar

Members :

Zubiri	Villanueva
Aquino	Binay

CHANGE OF REFERRAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the change of the referral of Senate Bill No. 812 (Teaching Supplies Allowance Act of 2016) from the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture to the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation as the primary committee, with the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture as the secondary committee.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

It was 5:09 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.



ATTY. LUTGARDO B. BARBO

*Secretary of the Senate
aue 1/5*

Approved on October 5, 2016