



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 17
Monday, September 5, 2016

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:17 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Grace Poe led the prayer, to wit:

Panalangin Para Sa Kapayapaan

*Panginoon, sa panahon ng pangamba,
Ikaw lamang ang aming tanggulan.*

Inilalapit namin sa Iyo ang mga kababayang naming nasawi at nasugatan sa pagpapasabog sa Davao noong Biyernes ng gabi.

Kalingain Mo po ang mga biktima at ang kanilang mga pamilya,

Paghilumin Mo ang sugat ng kanilang katawan at kalooban.

Bigyan Mo po ng katahimikan ang aming bayan.

Ipagkaloob Mo po sa amin ang kapanatagan ng isip at kalooban.

Tiyakin Mo po sa lahat ng oras ang aming kaligtasan.

*Sa panahong ito ng pagsubok,
dalangin namin ang Iyong patnubay.*

Bigkisín Mo po kami sa pagkakaisa.

Gabayán Mo kami sa paggapi sa karahasan.

Balutín Mo po ng ilaw ng Iyong pagmamahal ang aming mga pamilya at pamayanan.

Ipagkaloob mo, Panginoon, ang kapayapaan sa aming bayan.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Senate Choir led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song, entitled “Bayan Ko.”

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, 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.
De Lima, L. M.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Drilon, F. M.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Poe, G.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Recto, R. G.
Gatchalian, W.	Sotto III, V. C.
Gordon, R. J.	Villanueva, J.
Honasan, G. B.	Zubiri, J. M.
Hontiveros, R.	

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

Senator Villar was on official business as indicated in the September 5, 2016 letter of the senator's acting chief of staff.

Senators Cayetano and Trillanes were on official mission abroad.

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. 16 (August 31, 2016) and considered it approved.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- 31 officers from the Singapore Foreign Service and other Ministries of the Singapore Civil Service headed by Mr. Edgar Pang, Deputy Director of the Consular Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore;
- Her Excellency Kok Li Peng, Ambassador of Singapore to the Philippines;

Senator Sotto stated that the delegates from Singapore were visiting the Senate as part of their foreign service familiarization tour of the ASEAN Region.

- PLLO Secretary Adelino Sitoy, Presidential Adviser on Legislative Affairs and Head of the PLLO, and his Assistant Secretary Astravel P. Naik.

Senate President Pimentel welcomed the guests to the Senate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the session was suspended to enable the Members to greet Senator Poe who celebrated her birth anniversary a couple of days ago.

It was 3:25 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:27 p.m., the session was resumed.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1116, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING WORKERS' RIGHT TO SECURITY OF TENURE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 106-109 OF BOOK III AND ARTICLES 294 [279], 295 [280], 296 [281], 297 [282] AND 298 [283] OF BOOK VI OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 1117, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NEW REGISTRATION SCHEME FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 3 AND 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Public Services

RESOLUTION

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 123, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOP-

MENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ECONOMIC EFFECTS OF THE PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM (4Ps) WITH THE END VIEW OF REVIEWING, AMENDING OR REVISING THE CURRENT POVERTY ALLEVIATION PROGRAMS AND POLICIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from the Government Service Insurance System, submitting to the Senate the report on the GSIS Investment Portfolio as of December 31, 2015, in compliance with Section 36 of Republic Act No. 8291 or the GSIS Act of 1997.

To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Letter from the Pipol Broadband and Telecommunications Corporation, submitting to the Senate the Acceptance of Republic Act No. 10822 by Grantee, pursuant to Section 9 of Republic Act No. 10822.

To the Committee on Public Services

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-2016-035, 036, 037, 038, 045, 046 and 047 dated 4, 11, 13 May 2016;

and 6, 9, 10 June 2016; and

Memorandum No. M-2016-006 dated 17 May 2016.

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR AQUINO

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Aquino delivered the following speech to express his outrage and to strongly condemn the recent Davao City bombing which left 15 people dead and more than 70 wounded:

Today, I stand before you outraged by the cruel act of terror perpetrated in Davao City last Friday night.

Matindi po nating kinokondena ang nang-yaring pagbomba sa Davao City kung saan higit sa animnapu ang napinsala at labing-apat ang namatay.

At nakikiramay po tayo sa mga biktima at sa kanilang mga pamilya. Nagkakaisa po ang ating buong bayan sa mga Dabaweno.

In the halls of the Senate, our colleagues refer to me as the gentleman from Tarlac. But, the truth is, I may very well be called the gentleman from Davao as well.

Unbeknownst to many, my mother's family is from Davao. And unlike my father's side, which is a family of public servants, my mother's side is a family of educators.

My grandparents moved to Davao from Luzon after the Second World War to help start and develop the University of Mindanao.

Ang lolo ko po, si Segundo Aguirre, ay naging principal ng University of Mindanao. At ang lola ko na si Victoria Aguirre ay naging chairperson ng Filipino Department po doon.

Sa Davao po lumaki at nagtapos ang aking ina. Sa Davao rin po niya nakilala ang aking ama habang sila ay nagtatrabajo sa Davao branch ng SGV.

Davao po ang setting ng kanilang love story at Davao rin po sila kinasal.

Growing up, I spent summers in Davao with my grandparents. And to this day, we have loved ones living in the "Crown Jewel of Mindanao."

So you can imagine that when we heard of an explosion at the bustling night market, when we heard of injuries, when we heard of fatalities, our chests tightened and we were engulfed with worry.

For many of us with loved ones in Davao City, our gut reaction was to think about them and ask about their safety.

But when the dust settled and our loved ones were finally accounted for, worry turned to outrage and outrage turned to anger.

It breaks my heart that this orchestrated attack, a terrorist attack, was perpetrated by fellow Filipinos.

It infuriates me that these extremists attacked innocent civilians at the popular night market, where couples go on dates, friends meet up to get a massage after a tough week, and where families eat out and spend quality time together.

It enrages me that these agents of hate chose to attack innocent civilians at the night market on a Friday night, one of the busiest nights of the week, a night that could earn them the highest number of casualties.

This was a well-thought out, malevolent assault that hoped to kill and injure as many innocent Filipinos as possible.

And the final tally? Over 70 were injured and 15 of our countrymen are dead.

They were more than just numbers. They are Filipinos that have laughed, cried, loved, and lived.

They are brothers, sisters, mothers, and fathers.

They are people who brought pride and joy to their families. And now, their passing brings immeasurable grief.

One was a single mother, a former OFW working as one of the night market's therapists while waiting for another opportunity to work abroad. Her name was Ruth Merecido.

One was a senior education official of CHED in ARMM who strongly supported the Mindanao peace process. His name was Pipalawan Macacua.

One was a teacher, a wife of a pastor, and a mother. Another one was her 14-year old son. Their names are Melanie Faith and Deniel Josh Larida.

Those are only four out of 15. But these 15 are a loss to our nation.

And more than that, they are a loss to their families.

There are no words to describe the horror and the anguish one endures when a loved one, when a family member is taken in senseless violence.

And understandably, there are a variety of reactions to the blast, ranging from grief to anger, from fear to confusion.

There are roars of outrage and prayers to a higher power, there are flowers, there are hashtags, there are profile pictures, and there are candles.

It has been three days since the attack and, if I may, I wish to propose some ways we might move forward together as a nation.

The first is to build our strength.

We need to support our policemen and the military. We need to support them as they conduct investigations and arrests, find and convict these terrorists.

In a previous budget hearing, Senator Honasan whispered to me that we should stop asking the impossible from our Armed Forces and our police. We should stop asking them without the requisite resources that they need to be able to do the tasks that we ask of them.

These tasks and missions that we demand of our policemen and soldiers must be coupled with the appropriate resources.

So let us equip them with the necessary support so they may address crime and terrorism and deliver justice and safety for our fellowmen.

Second is vigilance. Now, more than ever, we need to be hyper-aware of our surroundings, of potential threats to our physical safety.

But, aside from physical safety, we also must be vigilant, not just of unattended bags and suspicious behavior, but also of the misinformation that has been going around the Internet and going around Philippine society.

Sadly, there are groups that are misinforming Filipinos and spreading conspiracy theories that seek to use this crisis to intensify our division.

With lives and our way of life at risk, we must be wary of the information we base our beliefs and actions on. We must be vigilant of misinformation and how it affects our judgment and our prejudices.

Let us make sure that we ourselves share only the information that comes from the authorities themselves.

And third, we must unite.

The objective of terrorism is to create an environment of terror —to make us suspicious

of each other, to make it difficult to trust, and to divide our beloved country. Terrorists have hit the hearts and homes of too many nations around the world.

In November of last year, gunmen and suicide bombers attacked a sports stadium and a packed concert hall in Paris.

In March of this year, Brussels was attacked with bombs targeting the airport and a train station.

In July, there were attacks in Germany.

In these circumstances, there are usually initial calls for solidarity. But through times, sometimes doubt and fear get the better of the public and these suspicions against those of different beliefs and cultural backgrounds dig into the public consciousness.

Will we let this happen to our country? Will we let these acts of terror break us apart?

Today, the challenge is to remain united against the true enemy. Because, once there is infighting among the citizenry, then terror wins.

Now, more than ever, we need to work together to synergize all the organs of government, our civil society, and our citizenry to ensure that this does not happen again.

In the short term, let us set aside politics and provide authorities all the resources that they need to combat these perpetrators.

And for the long term, we here in the Senate must lay the foundation for a future free of terror because of inclusive growth, peace and prosperity for all.

We do this for those who were killed and injured in Davao, we do this for our soldiers fighting for our freedoms, we do this for every Filipino.

The Philippines has endured typhoons, earthquakes, floods, and countless natural calamities.

In those moments, the Filipino people never cowered and, instead, banded together to gather donations and distribute aid.

Today, our enemy, unfortunately, is more sinister, more calculating, and more strategic.

Now, more than ever, we need to unite in goodness to build a future that is bright, peaceful, and full of hope.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

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

Being a Mindanaoan, I would like to condemn in the strongest possible terms, the recent bombing at the night market in Davao City, that claimed 15 lives and left more than 60 people wounded on the 2nd of September, 2016. I happened to be about 140 kilometers away in General Santos in celebration of the tuna festival.

On September 2, the terrorist attack on Davao City claimed 15 innocent lives and wounded more than 60 unsuspecting people after an explosion in the crowded night market. They targeted innocent women and children. Many of them were elderly. The masseuse was giving therapy to the civilians who were tired and weary that night in Davao.

Initial investigations by authorities revealed that it was an improvised explosive device that was used to perpetrate the attack around 10:30 that evening. The perpetrators of this carnage should not go unpunished and should be immediately arrested and held accountable by our courts.

This tragic loss of life is mourned not only by the Filipino people but by the international community as well, and we call on our countrymen to be vigilant and not allow despicable threats of wanton violence, disrupt our normal daily lives.

As we mourn the senseless loss of innocent lives in this incident, I ask the Senate to join the entire nation in condemning this dastardly act of terrorism. The Senate of the Philippines, I am sure, stands as one with the Filipino people as we condole with the bereaved families and the loved ones of those who perished in the said terrorist attack and denounces its reckless contempt of life.

I also urge the public to steer clear of unwanted rumors and stay highly alert but calm.

I support the President's declaration of "state of lawless violence" made in the aftermath of this terror attack. Although the said declaration sparked concerns that our country is veering toward military rule, the Chief Executive himself denied this that this would be any type of martial rule. He denied that it was martial law and assured that it does not involve the suspension of the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*.

The declaration of state of lawless violence

merely calls out the military or the Armed Forces of the Philippines to do law enforcement operations normally done only by the Philippine National Police. It is precisely for the purpose of suppressing lawless violence, and it is to supplement the capability of the PNP *kasi kulang naman po talaga tayo ng* security forces on the ground.

We have nothing to be afraid of, much more doubt the intent of the President. The declaration does not entail the suspension of any rights under the Constitution or set the stage for martial rule. The three branches of our government are still functional, both houses of Congress are working.

We have to take note that former President Joseph Estrada declared a state of lawlessness when he directed the AFP and PNP chiefs to coordinate with each other in the deployment of Marines for a temporary period during the infamous Rizal Day bombing in 2000 in Metro Manila. And the Supreme Court upheld the same as well. Former President Arroyo similarly declared a state of lawlessness in 2003 after the bombing of the Sasa Wharf and the airport in Davao City at that time.

It is my position that now is the best time to support the President and we should forget politics. I believe that we should unite in this time of adversity in our country to curtail lawlessness and suppress its spread throughout the nation.

Mabuhay po ang Davao. Mabuhay po ang ating bansa.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR GORDON

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

Last Friday, September 2, 2016, a dastardly act was perpetrated by lawless elements or what have you. To date, Abu Sayyaf has claimed that they were the ones who perpetrated the bombing. But nonetheless, we were all shocked. We were pained by the carnage of 14 people and 71 injured.

It caused me to write in my Facebook account the following:

We commiserate and pray for the people of Davao City particularly families of the 14 people killed and the 71 persons hurt as of the latest report.

This happened before in Davao and was probably unexpected considering the dastardly actions made previously by lawless elements are now under an anticipated and effective interdiction from the government.

Let us all, at this time, be reflective, deliberate and calm as a people. Let us do our share by being constantly vigilant and alert as we continue with our daily normal lives and not allow such heinous acts to deter us from moving forward. For allowing this incident to stop our normal way of living, we would have allowed those who terrorized to win.

The President as commander-in-chief has now called out our Armed Forces to suppress lawless violence. Our Constitution allows him to do so. And taken alone, he is not suspending the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* or proclaiming martial law. The Davao bombing is an act of terrorism by a known terrorist organization that must be outlawed by the full force of the law as provided in the Human Security Act of 2007 and under anti-terrorism measures.

I call on all of us to support the President and our Armed Forces and police forces and their families as well, as well as the victims of these dastardly actions.

As we commiserate with the people of Davao, we must remember that this is not the first time, as I said on my Facebook account, that bombings have occurred in our country, let alone the whole world. In fact, in the Red Cross, we have been practicing and we have been trying to organize all the chapters in the communities of our country to be aware and to be alert, to have their ambulances ready, to have their first-aid ready so that in the event like this, we would be ready. And in fact, we were there along with other responders.

In Ozamis City, a bombing occurred in February 25, 2000, and 39 were killed. There are many other sundry items which are becoming just statistics:

- Three killed in bombings in General Santos;
- One killed in Metro Manila in May 21;
- General Santos — multiple bombings, June 24, two killed;
- Metro Manila — Rizal Day bombings, 22 killed;
- Basilan beheadings near Lamitan town, 11 killed including our armed forces;
- Pagadian bus terminal bombings, September 4, 2001, three killed;



- Zamboanga Puericulture Center bombing, October 28, five killed;
- General Santos bombing at Fitmart Store, 15 killed on April 21, 2002;
- Zamboanga karaoke bar bombing, October 2, 2002, four killed;
- Kidapawan bus terminal bombing, eight killed;
- Zamboanga mall bombing, six killed;
- Metro Manila bombing in 2002, two killed;
- Zamboanga, Fort Pilar bombing in October 1, 2003, one killed;
- Maguindanao bombing in Datu Piang, 16 killed;
- Tacurong City bombing in 2002, nine killed;
- Kidapawan bombing in 2003, one killed;
- Kabacan, North Cotabato bombing on February 20, 2003, one killed;
- Cotabato City, Awang Airport bombing, one killed in February 22, 2003;
- Davao International Airport—and I was Secretary of Tourism at that time and we went over there to really make sure that our tourism would not get hurt but it did, to a certain extent, but we were able to recover —March 4, 2003 and 22 were killed and immediately was followed by a Tagum bombing on the same day, one killed;
- Sasa Wharf in Davao was bombed in April 2, 2003, 17 killed;
- Koronadal Public Market bombing, 10 killed in 2003;
- Super Ferry bombing outside Manila Bay, Corregidor, 116 killed on February 27, 2004
- Parang Stadium bombing on January 4, 2004, 24 killed;
- Valentine's Day bombing, eight killed;
- Zamboanga multiple bombings on August 10, 2005, 30 injured;
- Basilan bombing, four killed on August 28, 2005; and culminating in the bombing just last Friday.

Now, I cite this so that we would not become impervious to all these because I suppose when there are so many killings, it becomes a matter of fact to us, it becomes a matter of statistics. And that is something that I would not like to happen in our country. And because of this—perhaps on a question of collective privilege or to maybe manifest—some of you at least should not be helpless, we will not go quietly into the night and allow the evil

amongst us and within us, not only here but in the entire world, to go without being arrested, being prosecuted and at times, being killed.

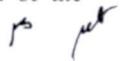
At the moment, it will not be unexpected for us to have more bombings. Why? Because we have seen a long list of bombings in the past, bigger than the one in Davao. But at the same time, we must remember that the President has just declared a ceasefire and the NDF-NPA had declared a ceasefire. So that now, he is able to address the problem of the Abu Sayyaf which has killed foreigners and cost us tremendous damage – Norwegians killed, decapitated; soldiers killed, decapitated; and two Canadians killed. Even Indonesians and Malaysians are now kidnapped and they are paying for wild ransoms.

When that happened, I made a statement that one of these days, they might take the law into their hands and do Entebbe-type raid. You will recall the raid on Entebbe made by the Israelis; 2000 miles away, they went to Uganda to rescue the Israeli hostages. It may be farfetched for our neighbors to intervene in our country and try to rescue Indonesian, Malaysian, Canadian or even American hostages.

That is why I stand four square in supporting our Armed Forces in removing what all of us know has become a blight in our country. *Talagang matagal na. Tagos na sa buto ang ginagawa nitong mga taong nangingidnap, pumapatay at nagpuputol ng ulo at lahat.*

You remember the other day an article in the *Inquirer*? A mother of a soldier texted her son and the answer was: “*Patay na iyong anak mo. Pinutol ko na ang ulo. At kung pupunta ka rito, puputulin ko rin ulo mo.*” That is impunity. That is ignominy. And that is why today, in my statement that initially I cited in my Facebook account, I said that we must support our armed forces and police forces and their families as well. And that is why when the President declares a state of lawlessness, it is not a declaration of martial law. A state of lawlessness is declared so that he could act and call for more of our units to man the checkpoints, to go after these malefactors, these evil amongst us, and that we should do so because this is the only thing that they understand at times, most of the times, in fact.

Now, if we do not do so, we would be helpless in this scenario. The declaration of state of lawlessness has no specific review. Under the Constitution, martial law has automatic review. Under the Constitution, the President either comes in person or delivers a letter to the Congress, explaining why he has declared martial law. And in the case of the suspension of the



privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*, it can cover rebellion and invasion. In other words, the checks and balance are maintained.

Now, in the case of a state of lawlessness, there is no such automatic review although, of course, we are a coequal branch of the government, and as a coequal branch of the government and under the doctrine of separation of powers, we can do so.

And so, I would like to state for the record, that we have a Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations called the Blue Ribbon Committee, which was foisted upon me and I accepted. If only to assuage those of us who rightfully will be concerned about the declaration of a state of lawlessness—some of us are asking for a bill of particulars, some amongst our people are asking that this be explained—to my mind, we cannot wait for all these niceties but we can, in the Senate, open the Blue Ribbon Committee to any complaint by any citizen if he feels that he has been aggrieved by a military checkpoint, or by any military man, or a policeman, or any member of the government, to come to the Blue Ribbon Committee at any time. I have instructed the staff of the Blue Ribbon Committee to accept any complaints so that if the police are not doing their jobs, and their internal affairs investigation is not done right away, then the Senate Blue Ribbon Committee is open to that.

The legislator's work, the Senate officials specifically, will remain unhampered. We will not allow it to be hampered. We will debate, we will pass laws, we will exercise our oversight functions in order to ensure that the other parts of government do their work properly and within the bounds of law.

But at the moment, there is a big offensive going on, perhaps one of the most major offensives. Because of the ceasefire, we are now able to put in more armed forces in Basilan and because of that, there is that danger that they will try to distract the focus of the government by bombing other places. And like I said, we have to be deliberate, we have to be careful, we have to be vigilant against any such attacks.

In fact, we have become over-vigilant. A lot of text messages are coming. This morning, I got a text message that says the ASG is targeting U.P. Diliman. And yesterday, I had to issue a statement that the Red Cross has not issued any statement that malls are going to be bombed. On the contrary, it is just to remain, like I said, leading our normal lives but making sure that we are alert. In fact, if the Senate President will

recall, while we were there in the refectory the other day, the Senate President immediately called the Senate Secretary and Sergeant-at-Arms General Balajadia to the refectory because I intimated then that because of the offensive going on—this was before the bombing, this was before the explosion—that we should be careful in our own offices because we are not relatively sure that we may not be the target.

In other words, all of us may be targets but it does not mean that we cannot go on sessions every day. We must really make sure that we promote the necessary security measures that will protect not only us but more especially the people who come here, and the country as a whole must have that capability.

That is why I support this move of the President to declare a state of lawlessness and he has assured us that it is not a state of martial law; it is not suspending the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus*. Therefore, if we want to really eradicate this blight—the budget is about to be here in front of us—we should see where we can actually give the necessary support by way of peace initiatives, not just a piece of paper in Mindanao about having a separate homeland, but really, the peace initiatives required are the socio-economic initiatives that must be done in Mindanao particularly ARMM and in other areas. Among other things, education, the social support that is needed to make sure that we can get back to the people who have been pained by so many years of being excluded. Rightly or wrongly they should not feel that because actually, Mindanao has got its seaports, it has its airports which have been improved, as we know—Cagayan de Oro, Davao and soon, Zamboanga; and hopefully a railroad. But it will not stop unless we really come up with social initiatives that are necessary so that we can get our people better educated, so that we can have our people there to get better opportunities in life.

I conclude this little discourse by appealing to all of us to give the support and to make sure that the Armed Forces and the police feel that they are not our enemies.

True enough, there are evil people among the Armed Forces and among the police agencies of our country.

By the way a policeman lost his life in that bombing. A policeman who was also looking for his wife who just went there, found her dead. So, it is important to know that all bombs or all bullets coming from manufacturers do not have a specific address. It is written "To whom it may concern". Sorry ka na lang kung tamaan ka.

I finish my discourse today with an appeal to the Lord Almighty and prayers to all our people who have been hurt and who are being marginalized by what is happening here and for a quick resolution of the crisis upon us.

Today, Bangkok is not spared from bombings. Even China is not spared from bombings. Europe is certainly not spared from bombings. In fact, they are even imposing a burkini ban in their beaches. They are really going overboard. And it has become a source of great discomfort for the rest of the world.

But in the Philippines, we must not give in and we must make sure that we have that resolve and the support necessary to really quell the problem both militarily and above all, socially and peacefully.

MOTION TO REFER THE SPEECHES TO THE COMMITTEES

Senator Sotto moved to refer the privilege speeches of Senators Aquino, Zubiri and Gordon primarily to the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs and secondarily to the Committee on National Defense and Security.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Gordon, the session was suspended.

It was 4:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:04 p.m., the session was resumed.

Upon resumption, Senator Sotto withdrew his motion.

REFERRAL OF SPEECHES TO COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the privilege speeches of Senators Aquino, Zubiri and Gordon were referred to the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs as the primary committee, and to the Committee on National Defense and Security as the secondary committee.

Furthermore, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the portion of Senator Gordon's

speech regarding complaints of abuse was referred to the Blue Ribbon Committee; and the call for condemnation by the Senate relative to the bomb attack in Davao City was referred to the Committee on Rules.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 4:06 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 124, entitled

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING JERWIN ANCAJAS FOR WINNING THE INTERNATIONAL BOXING FEDERATION WORLD SUPER FLYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel "Manny" D. Pacquiao

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 125, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO CONDEMN IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THE LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES OVER THE BOMBING AT THE ROXAS NIGHT MARKET IN DAVAO CITY CLAIMING 15 LIVES AND LEAVING MORE THAN 60 PEOPLE WOUNDED ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2016

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committee on Rules

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 125

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 125, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO CONDEMN IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THE LOSS OF INNOCENT LIVES OVER THE BOMBING AT THE ROXAS NIGHT MARKET IN DAVAO CITY CLAIMING 15 LIVES AND LEAVING MORE THAN 60 PEOPLE WOUNDED ON 2 SEPTEMBER 2016.

Secretary Barbo read only the title of the resolution without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 125

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body adopted Proposed Senate Resolution No. 125, subject to style, taking into consideration the privilege speeches of Senators Aquino, Zubiri and Gordon.

ALL SENATORS AS COAUTHORS

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, all senators were made coauthors of the resolution.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1112

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1112 (Committee Report No. 1), entitled

AN ACT POSTPONING THE OCTOBER 2016 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the guests of Senator Angara, namely:

- Comelec Director James Jimenez;
- Comelec Executive Director Jose Tolentino; and
- Comelec Executive Director Bartolome Sinocruz Jr.

Senate President Pimentel welcomed the guests to the Senate.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Angara, sponsor of the measure, for his individual amendments.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

To facilitate the proceedings and avoid returning to amendments that had previously been approved, Senator Sotto suggested that the members who intend to propose anterior amendments should be aware of the amendments that were being proposed.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SENATOR ANGARA

On page 1, line 10 of the bill, Senator Angara proposed that the word "LAST" be changed to FOURTH.

Asked by Senator Recto whether Senator Angara, as chairperson of the committee, could propose an individual amendment, Senate President Pimentel replied in the affirmative.

Senator Recto proposed to amend the proposal of Senator Angara by replacing the phrase "last Monday of October 2017" on lines 10 and 11 of page 1 with the phrase SECOND MONDAY OF MAY 2017.

He explained that he proposed the synchronization of the national and local elections because of the probability of higher registration and voting turnout.

To allow for orderly discussion and procedure, Senator Drilon suggested that the Body first vote on the proposed individual amendment of Senator Angara.

JP M

At this juncture, Senate President Pimentel proposed that Senator Recto's motion be treated as a motion to amend the proposed amendment of Senator Angara which would be put to a vote in case Senator Angara rejects Senator Recto's proposal.

For his part, Senator Angara said that while he appreciated Senator Recto's suggestion and the rationale behind it, he could not accept the proposal because the consensus reached during the committee hearing was to move the schedule to October 2017 since May 2017 was seen as too close to the October 2016 elections.

At this point, Senator Sotto sought clarification on which of the two proposals would shorten the term of the incoming barangay officials.

Senator Recto clarified that he was not in favor of extending the terms of the barangay officials.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:57 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

Upon resumption, Senator Recto asked that his proposed amendment to Senator Angara's amendment be put to a vote considering the fact that the barangay and SK elections are unique to the Philippines, and that the idea is to have higher registration and voting turnout.

Submitted to a vote, and with the majority of the Members voting against, the proposed amendment of Senator Recto to the proposed amendment of Senator Angara was not accepted by the Body.

APPROVAL OF THE ANGARA AMENDMENT

On page 1, line 10 of the bill as proposed by Senator Angara, there being no objection, the Body approved to change the word "LAST" to FOURTH.

RECTO AMENDMENT

On page 1, line 12, after the word "HELD," as

proposed by Senator Recto and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion of the phrase ON THE SECOND MONDAY OF MAY 2020 AND.

ANGARA AMENDMENT

On page 2, lines 1 and 2, adopting Senator Drilon's earlier suggestion, as proposed by Senator Angara, there being no objection, the Body approved to reword Section 3, to read as follows:

SEC. 3. *HOLD-OVER.* – UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS SHALL HAVE BEEN ELECTED AND QUALIFIED, ALL INCUMBENT BARANGAY OFFICIALS SHALL REMAIN IN OFFICE, UNLESS SOONER REMOVED OR SUSPENDED FOR CAUSE.

RECTO AMENDMENTS

On page 2, as proposed by Senator Recto and accepted by Senator Angara, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments, one after the other:

1. Insert a new Section 4 to read as follows:

SECTION 4. SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6679 IS HEREBY AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

SEC. 3. *BAN ON GOVERNMENT PROJECTS.* – THE CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE OF BARANGAY-FUNDED ROADS AND BRIDGES SHALL BE PROHIBITED FOR A PERIOD OF TEN (10) DAYS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE DATE OF ELECTION, THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 261, PARAGRAPHS (V) AND (W), OF THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING.

The session was suspended and was resumed shortly thereafter.

2. Insert a new Section 5, to read:

SEC. 5. *PROHIBITION ON APPOINTMENTS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES.* – THE APPOINTMENT OR HIRING OF NEW EMPLOYEES, CREATION OF NEW POSITION, PROMOTION

OR GIVING OF SALARY INCREASES, REMUNERATION OR PRIVILEGES IN THE BARANGAY SHALL BE PROHIBITED FOR TEN (10) DAYS IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING THE ELECTION, THE PROVISIONS OF SECTION 261, PARAGRAPH (G) OF THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE TO THE CONTRARY NOTWITHSTANDING.

REQUEST OF SENATOR GORDON

At this juncture, Senator Gordon requested that the proposed amendments be typed and flashed on a screen for the guidance of the senators in the chamber.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 5:11 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:14 p.m., the session was resumed.

INQUIRIES OF SENATOR DRILON

Senator Drilon recalled that during the period of interpellations, he requested some data on the actual budget expenditure in the 2015 and 2016 appropriations for the SK and barangay elections. Saying that he had already received the requested data, he noted that for 2015, the amount of P155,167,000 was allocated for the SK registration. Asked if the said amount had been obligated, Senator Angara said that the amount was still unobligated and intact.

That being so, Senator Drilon asked if the said amount had been realigned. Senator Angara replied in the negative, saying that the amount was available.

On whether the amount of P936,129,000 allocated for the 2015 SK elections had been obligated, Senator Angara said that of the total amount of P936,129,000, P34,978,261.65 had been obligated.

Asked where the fund went and what it was spent for considering that the 2015 SK elections did not take place, Senator Angara said that the Comelec had to spend for materials, traveling expenses, services and wages.

As to why wages had to be paid when no election took place, Senator Angara explained that the Comelec had to hire casual employees to assist the election officers and election assistants in the preparation for the election. He said that there is only one election officer and one election assistant per municipality.

Asked by Senator Drilon when the 2015 SK election was cancelled, Senator Angara said that R.A. No. 10656 which suspended the SK elections to the last Monday of October 2016, took effect in March 2015.

Senator Drilon observed that the P4.3 million for wages was for a period of one quarter only. Asked how many casuals were hired for one quarter, Senator Angara said he did not have the exact figures at the moment but stated that out of the P4.37 million, each casual employee was given an allowance or honorarium amounting to P9,400.

Senator Drilon noted that P29,407,401.33 was allocated for supplies and materials. Asked what supplies and materials were purchased considering that the elections were not held, Senator Angara explained that the amount was used to pay for the purchase or acquisition of various registration and election forms and supplies and materials used during the registration period.

Saying that there were still supplies and materials in stock by the end of 2015 because the elections were not held, Senator Drilon asked why there was a need to purchase P42.8 million in supplies and materials for 2016. Senator Angara replied that the P42 million was to cover both barangay and SK registration.

Asked if the amount of P901,150,738.35 out of the P936,129,000 total budget for the 2015 SK election was still available, Senator Angara replied in the affirmative, adding that it has not been realigned to other items in the budget.

Senator Drilon noted the remaining balance of about P109 million for the 2015 SK election and P155 million for the 2015 SK registration, out of the P1 billion allotted for the 2015 SK elections and registration. He also pointed out that of the budget for the 2016 SK and barangay registrations amounting to P506,274,000, P75,728,217 was obligated, of which the amount of P32,856,921 was used for travel expenses.

Pmt

Asked for clarification on the travel expenses, Senator Angara replied that it covered the election officers' travel all over the country as well as their mobilization expenses especially when meeting with government officials.

As regards the obligation for supplies and materials for the SK and barangay registration in the amount of P42,845,502, Senator Angara stated that they were for registration and election forms which were still available and usable for the 2017 SK and barangay elections.

Asked how much budget was allotted for the SK and barangay elections for 2016 considering that there was still the remaining balance of P430,575,782 for the same purpose, Senator Angara replied that the budget was P5,994,243,000 both for Personal Services (PS) and MOOE (Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses), P101.7 million of which had been obligated, inclusive of P18 million for salaries, wages and overtime pay.

Senator Drilon noted that for the 2016 SK and barangay elections that have not taken place, the Comelec spent a total of over P36,038,742 for salaries, wages and overtime pay, P49,389,259 for travel expenses, and P12,766,891 for supplies and materials. Senator Angara agreed, stating that the Comelec had begun printing ballots and had incurred expenses for other activities.

Asked to explain the item under "Other Services and Expenses" which incurred P3,389,565 out of the total of P101,719,218 for PS and MOOE, Senator Angara explained that the amount was used to pay for items that were not categorically included in the stated accounts, such as rental of polling places, lighting facilities, AFP/PNP security support, printing of official ballots and other accountable forms and miscellaneous expenses. He clarified that some of the materials would still be used in the coming elections.

As to the balance of P5,892,523,781.87 for the barangay and SK elections, Senator Angara said that the amount was still intact, apart from the P430,575,782 budget for the SK and barangay registration for 2016.

As to the total amount available in the coffers of the Comelec for the SK and barangay elections in 2017, including the remaining balance of the budgets for the SK registrations and elections for 2015 and

2016, Senator Angara stated that the total amount available was P7,379,3287,303.06.

At this juncture, Senator Drilon said that he was ready to introduce his individual amendments to Senate Bill No. 1112.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF SENATOR DRILON

On page 2, line 4 of the bill, Senator Drilon proposed to substitute Section 4, now Section 6 as a consequence of the Recto amendments, to read as follows:

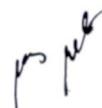
SEC. 6. USE OF APPROPRIATIONS.—THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND SHALL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS:

- 1) THE AMOUNT OF NINE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX MILLION ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-NINE THOUSAND PESOS (P936,129,000) APPROPRIATED FOR THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS AND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE MILLION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN THOUSAND PESOS (P155,167,000) APPROPRIATED FOR THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN REGISTRATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10651 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 2015 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT; AND
- 2) THE AMOUNT OF FIVE BILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY-FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED FORTY-THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,994,243,000) FOR THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN AND BARANGAY ELECTIONS AND FIVE HUNDRED SIX MILLION TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY-FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (P506,274,000) APPROPRIATED FOR THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN AND BARANGAY ELECTIONS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10717, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 2016 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT."

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 5:41 p.m.



RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:54 p.m., the session was resumed.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR DRILON

Senator Drilon explained that the amendment was to make sure that the appropriations for 2015 and 2016, which were still in the coffers and unutilized by the Comelec, would be considered as continuing appropriations, and that the funds should not be declared as savings and should not be realigned to other items in the budget.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR RECTO

Senator Recto adverted to Article VI, Section 25(5) of the Constitution which states:

"No law shall be passed authorizing any transfer of appropriations; however, the President, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the heads of Constitutional Commissions may, by law, be authorized to augment any item in the general appropriations law for their respective offices from savings in other items of their respective appropriations."

Saying that he supports the amendment of Senator Drilon, Senator Recto recalled that among the reasons for the postponement of elections was the drug problem and he believed otherwise, maintaining that it would be better to continue with the elections so that candidates could run on a platform anent the war on drugs.

He also recalled that his original proposal was, in fact, to use the P6 billion savings for drug rehabilitation, but he later acknowledged that it could be unconstitutional since no law can be passed authorizing any transfer of appropriations.

As regards the new Section 6 of the proposed measure, Senator Recto noted that based on the replies to the questions earlier raised, a lot of the budget had already been spent. He opined that if the elections push through, it would cost P7 billion, but if the elections were postponed, under Article VI, Section 25(5), the head of a constitutional commission could realign the budget. Thus, he raised the possibility that by next year, the cost of election could reach up to P14 billion when it could have cost P7 billion if it

were not postponed. He believed that nothing could stop the future Congress from postponing the elections for another year, citing as possible reasons the charter change through a constitutional convention or constituent assembly.

Asked whether the amendment would not curtail the authority of the head of agency to augment other items in the budget of the agency, Senator Drilon replied that the agency cannot realign because the premise of realignment to other items in the budget was that there is savings, as stated in Administrative Circular No. 6-99 signed by Chief Justice Hilarion G. Davide. But he explained that under his proposed amendment, the money shall be considered as a continuing appropriation; as such, the Comelec is thereby prevented from declaring the amount as savings until after the conduct of the barangay and SK elections and registration in 2017. It is only at that time, he said, that the unexpended balance could be realigned and be declared for whatever purpose.

Asked if the unexpended balance could be declared as savings by the end of 2017, Senator Drilon replied in the affirmative, as he also agreed that as a continuing appropriation, there is no need to put P6 billion for the barangay and SK elections in the 2017 General Appropriations Act. Senator Recto clarified that he only wanted to be apprised of the purpose of Senator Drilon's amendment: that the Body was appropriating by way of continuing appropriation and that the validity of the 2015 and current appropriation was being extended to the 2017 budget.

Agreeing with Senator Recto, Senator Drilon stressed that the savings cannot be used until the end of 2017 when elections and registration must have already been done.

On whether the first paragraph of the amendment referred to the 2015 budget, Senator Drilon replied in the affirmative. He said that the purpose of his inquiry earlier was to find out if the amount was still intact and whether it is a continuing appropriation to date. He affirmed that the budget for the 2016 SK and barangay elections would technically be valid for two years if no election would take place in 2016.

In closing, Senator Recto expressed his support to the amendment of Senator Drilon which would extend for another year the budget for the barangay and SK elections as provided in the 2015 and 2016 GAA.

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DRILON AMENDMENT

As proposed by Senator Drilon and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved to replace Section 4 (*Appropriations*), now denominated as Section 6, to wit:

SEC. 6. USE OF APPROPRIATIONS. – THE FOLLOWING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) SHALL BE CONSIDERED AS CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND SHALL BE USED EXCLUSIVELY FOR THE CONDUCT OF THE BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN REGISTRATION AND ELECTIONS:

- A. THE AMOUNT OF NINE HUNDRED THIRTY SIX MILLION ONE HUNDRED TWENTY NINE THOUSAND PESOS (P936,129,000) APPROPRIATED FOR THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS AND ONE HUNDRED FIFTY FIVE MILLION ONE HUNDRED SIXTY SEVEN THOUSAND PESOS (P155,167,000) APPROPRIATED FOR THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN REGISTRATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10651 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 2015 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT; AND
- B. THE AMOUNT OF FIVE BILLION NINE HUNDRED NINETY FOUR MILLION TWO HUNDRED FORTY THREE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,994,243,000) FOR THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN AND BARANGAY ELECTIONS AND FIVE HUNDRED SIX MILLION TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY FOUR THOUSAND PESOS (P506,274,000) APPROPRIATED FOR THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN AND BARANGAY ELECTIONS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10717 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 2016 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SENATOR CAYETANO

In behalf of Senator Cayetano, Senator Angara proposed to add a new Section 7, to wit:

SEC. 7. SUPERVISION. – THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG) SHALL HAVE STRICT SUPERVISION OVER BARANGAY OFFICIALS WHO SHALL BE COVERED UNDER THIS ACT. THE DILG SHALL IMPOSE STRICTER SANCTIONS OVER THOSE WHO ARE INEFFICIENT OR WHO HAVE CONSISTENTLY FAILED TO PERFORM THEIR DUTIES.

Asked by Senate President Pimentel whether Senator Angara was adopting as his own the proposed amendment in the absence of Senator Cayetano, Senator Angara answered in the affirmative.

At this juncture, Senate President Pimentel asked that the proposed amendment be flashed on the screen to allow the Body to review the wordings.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 6:05 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:12 p.m., the session was resumed.

OBJECTION OF SENATOR DE LIMA

Senator De Lima objected to the proposal, explaining that, first, it was not germane to the entire subject matter of the bill and therefore a rider; and second, the word “strict” would just be a surplusage of what is already stated in the Local Government Code. She noted that the proponent should explain the rationale of the amendment but since he was not around, the proposal should be submitted to a vote.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF SENATOR RECTO

Asked by Senator Recto whether a sponsor can propose individual amendments to his own bill and accept the same amendments, Senator Angara replied that the Body would be adopting instead of approving the amendment.

Replying to the objection of Senator De Lima, Senate President Pimentel explained that the presence of Senator Cayetano was not needed because Senator Angara already adopted as his own the proposed amendment of Senator Cayetano.

Senator Recto argued that under the *Rules*, those who want to introduce an amendment should be present so that there would not be a situation wherein the chairman of the Committee accepts the amendment as a personal amendment and in effect proposes an amendment which he himself would be accepting.

Senator Sotto explained that when the Sponsor adopted the proposed amendment, he was proposing



it to the Body and not to himself. He said that he would adopt the amendment if the Body does not want Senator Angara to adopt it so that it can be submitted to a vote. But he stressed that the *Rules of the Senate* and tradition must be followed.

Senator Angara clarified that he was adopting the amendment of Senator Cayetano as his amendment and was proposing to the Body to accept it.

For his part, Senator Aquino stated that since the amendment was adopted by the Sponsor and Senator De Lima has raised an objection to the proposal, the Sponsor should explain the rationale behind the proposal to add a new Section 7.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GORDON

Senator Gordon said that he was not questioning whether the proposed amendment was really that of Senator Cayetano because he believed in the integrity of the sponsor, Senator Angara. However, he asked whether the bill was certified, otherwise, the Body should wait for Senator Cayetano to present his amendment to the Body so that there could be no recriminations afterwards among his fellow senators. He said that while he wanted to know the intentions of the provision, he agreed with Senator De Lima that it may not be germane to the bill after all.

Furthermore, he stated that the second sentence was troublesome and that he would like to know the reason behind it. He hoped that Senator Angara would have an idea behind the amendment of Senator Cayetano. However, he doubted whether Senator Cayetano would agree if Senator Angara would be the one to explain the amendment.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 6:20 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:22 p.m., the session was resumed.

WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Upon resumption, Senator Angara withdrew his motion considering the suggestions of the Members.

RECTO AMENDMENT

On page 1, line 20, after the word "election," as proposed by Senator Recto and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion of the following proviso, subject to style:

PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN OFFICIALS ELECTED IN MAY 2020 ELECTIONS AND SUBSEQUENTLY THEREAFTER SHALL COMMENCE AT NOON OF JUNE 30 NEXT FOLLOWING THEIR ELECTION.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

Senator Hontiveros proposed the insertion of an additional proviso lifted from Section 4 of Republic Act No. 10742 to ensure continued allocation and utilization for barangay youth-related development activities, to wit:

"SECTION 7. USE OF TEN PERCENT (10%) SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN FUND. — UNTIL THE NEW SET OF OFFICIALS SHALL BEEN DULY ELECTED AND QUALIFIED, THE SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY SHALL USE THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN FUND SOLELY FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM."

Senator Angara suggested to include the phrase as "provided for under Republic Act No. 10632" after the words "Sangguniang Kabataan Fund," subject to style.

At this juncture, Senate President Pimentel directed the Secretariat to show the final wordings of the proposed amendment on the screen.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 6:26 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:35 p.m., the session was resumed.

Acting on the request of Senate President Pimentel, Senator Hontiveros restated her proposed amendment on Section 7, to read as follows:

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SECTION 7. USE OF TEN PERCENT (10%) SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN FUND. — UNTIL THE NEW SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN OFFICIALS SHALL HAVE BEEN DULY ELECTED AND QUALIFIED, THE SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY SHALL NOT USE THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN FUND EXCEPT FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS AS PROVIDED FOR IN R.A. 10742.

Senator Drilon observed that the title appears confusing as it only refers to 10% of the SK fund. Thereupon, Senator Hontiveros agreed to delete the words and figure “ten percent (10%).”

Senator Angara likewise suggested spelling out the acronym “R.A.” to “Republic Act,” as a matter of style. Further, Senator Drilon proposed to remove the word “for” between the words “provided” and “in,” to which Senator Hontiveros agreed.

Lastly, Senator Angara proposed to include the phrase “Otherwise Known as the Sangguniang Kabataan Reform Act of 2015.”

HONTIVEROS AMENDMENT

As proposed by Senator Hontiveros and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion of a new Section 7, to read as follows:

SECTION 7. USE OF SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN FUND. — UNTIL THE NEW SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN OFFICIALS SHALL HAVE BEEN DULY ELECTED AND QUALIFIED, THE SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY SHALL NOT USE THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN FUND EXCEPT FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS AS PROVIDED IN REPUBLIC ACT 10742, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN REFORM ACT OF 2015.

ANGARA AMENDMENTS

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

- As amended by Senator Drilon, on Section 5 (now Section 8) - *Implementing Rules and Regulations*, to change the word and figure “thirty (30) days” to NINETY (90) DAYS; and

- Amend Section 8 (now Section 11) – *Efectivity Clause*, to read as follows:

SEC. 11. EFFECTIVITY CLAUSE – THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY AFTER ITS PUBLICATION IN THE *OFFICIAL GAZETTE* OR IN TWO (2) NEWSPAPERS OF GENERAL CIRCULATION.

RECTO AMENDMENT

On the title of the bill, as proposed by Senator Recto and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved to change the title to read as:

AN ACT POSTPONING THE OCTOBER 2016 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, PRESCRIBING ADDITIONAL RULES GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

MOTION OF SENATOR SOTTO

To give sufficient time for the Secretariat to prepare the visual aids being requested by other members, Senator Sotto moved that all senators be required to submit in advance to the Committee on Rules written copies, preferably soft copies, of their proposed amendments.

Asked by Senator Angara whether it would preclude members from proposing amendments on the floor, Senator Sotto clarified that it would not be the case, saying that the submission aims to facilitate the proceedings by flashing on the screen the proposed amendments.

For his part, Senator Gordon said that the staff could type the amendments as they are being proposed in real time to give the senators sufficient time to study the same.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Drilon, the session was suspended.

It was 6:47 p.m.

[Signature]

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:50 p.m., the session was resumed.

WITHDRAWAL OF MOTION

Senator Sotto withdrew his earlier motion. Instead, he requested the members to submit their amendments in advance to the Committee on Rules. He clarified that the submission would not preclude any senator from making proposals during the period of amendments on the floor.

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD
OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS**

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

CLEAN COPY

Thereafter, Senator Sotto requested the Secretariat to provide a clean copy of Senate Bill No. 1112, incorporating the approved amendments.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF SENATE BILL NO. 1112**

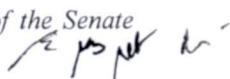
Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

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 6:51 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


ATTY. LUTGARDO B. BARBO
Secretary of the Senate


Approved on September 7, 2016