



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

# Journal

**SESSION NO. 6**  
Wednesday, July 31, 2019

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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**SESSION NO. 6**  
Wednesday, July 31, 2019

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PRAYER**

Sen. Win Gatchalian led the prayer, to wit:

Heavenly Father, we are grateful for this opportunity You have given us to serve through our Filipino countrymen.

We ask for Your Divine wisdom and the fear of the Lord to come upon us, legislators, and even in the other officials of government of our beloved land.

May Your grace abound here in the plenary as we pursue reforms anchored on justice and integrity. Help us pass relevant and beneficial measures with genuine concern for the underprivileged kept in mind.

*Panginoon, itinataas din po namin sa Inyo ang aming mga kababayan sa Batanes na nasalanta ng lindol. Patnubayan Mo po sila at iligtas sa kapahamakan.*

Lord God, we believe that as we acknowledge Your power working in and through all of us, Your peace, righteousness, and integrity will always be displayed in this august institution.

May You be honored today, in Jesus' Name, we pray.

Amen.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Myra Marie D. Villarica, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

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

P.S. 

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

Senator Gordon arrived after the roll call.

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

#### **APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 5 (July 30, 2019) and considered it approved.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

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

- Ms. Tess Fragata, former mayor of Guban and former board member of Sorsogon;
- Thirty-six student leaders and three teachers of the Cor Jesu College Basic Education Department of Digos City headed by Jun Rey Dequiña;
- Undersecretary Jacinto Paras of the Department of Labor and Employment; and
- Atty. Dino Yulo of the Sugar Regulatory Administration.

Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

#### **REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

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

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

Senate Bill No. 301, entitled

**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 12-B OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8282 ENTITLED “AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM THEREBY AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY LAW”**

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

**To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development**

Senate Bill No. 302, entitled

**AN ACT INCREASING THE SALARY GRADE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO 15 AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 303, entitled

**AN ACT GRANTING 15 DAYS OF PAID LEAVE A YEAR TO EMPLOYEES WHOSE SPOUSE, PARENT, UNMARRIED CHILD, OR WHEN THEY THEMSELVES ARE SUFFERING FROM SERIOUS ILLNESS**

Introduced by Senator Revilla, Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 304, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL DEFENSE INDUSTRY THROUGH THE STRENGTHENING AND REVITALIZING OF THE SELF RELIANT DEFENSE POSTURE (SRDP) PROGRAM, INCENTIVIZING IN-COUNTRY ENTERPRISES, RATIONALIZING DEFENSE ACQUISITION, AND CREATING THE OFFICE OF THE UNDERSECRETARY FOR DEFENSE TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

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**To the Committees on National Defense and Security; Ways and Means; Finance**

Senate Bill No. 305, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FOR DETERMINING STATUTORY RAPE TO PROVIDE STRONGER PROTECTION FOR CHILDREN, AND AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 8353, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-RAPE LAW OF 1997

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality**

Senate Bill No. 306, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO ALL ELECTIVE OR APPOINTIVE BARANGAY OFFICIALS WHO HAVE RENDERED A CONSECUTIVE PERIOD OF NINE (9) YEARS OR THREE TERMS OF PUBLIC SERVICE IN THE BARANGAY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

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

Senate Bill No. 307, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOLO PARENTS' WELFARE ACT OF 2000, BY PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PENAL PROVISION FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ACT

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

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

**Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 308, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE MINDANAO RAILWAYS AUTHORITY (MRA), PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4156 ENTITLED 'AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION' AS AMENDED BY R. A. NO. 6366, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Public Services; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 309, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE DRUG PRICE REGULATORY BOARD TO REGULATE THE PRICES OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES IN THE PHILIPPINES AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9502, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE CHEAPER AND QUALITY MEDICINES ACT OF 2008" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

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

Senate Bill No. 310, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING GOOD MANNERS AND RIGHT CONDUCT AND CHARACTER EDUCATION IN THE CURRICULUM OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY LEVEL

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

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**To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 311, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING A “NO PERMIT, NO EXAM” POLICY OR ANY SUCH POLICY THAT PREVENTS STUDENTS OF ANY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION FROM TAKING THEIR EXAMINATIONS DUE TO UNPAID TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 312, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), AND THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP)

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

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

**COAUTHORS**

At this juncture, Senate President Sotto requested that he and Senator Lacson be made coauthors of Senate Bill No. 312.

**REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

(Continuation)

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

Senate Bill No. 313, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FISCAL REGIME FOR THE MINING INDUSTRY

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 314, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF WORKERS, ENTERPRISES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY, INSTITUTIONALIZING MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Poe

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

Senate Bill No. 315, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF ETHNICITY, RACE, RELIGION OR BELIEF, SEX OR GENDER OR SEXUAL ORIENTATION, LANGUAGE, DISABILITY, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, AND OTHER FORMS OF DISCRIMINATION, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Poe

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

Senate Bill No. 316, entitled

AN ACT IMPROVING AND PROMOTING QUALITY DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES BY BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS IN THE BARANGAY LEVEL, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Poe

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

Senate Bill No. 317, entitled

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CREDIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS**

Introduced by Senator Poe

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 318, entitled

**AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 146, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Poe

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

Senate Bill No. 319, entitled

**AN ACT PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER MOBILITY OPTIONS TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY, INCREASE EFFICIENCY, REDUCE CONGESTION AND CONTRIBUTE TO POSITIVE HEALTH IMPACTS IN OUR SOCIETY**

Introduced by Senator Poe

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Environment and Natural Resources**

Senate Bill No. 320, entitled

**AN ACT TO MODERNIZE ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Poe

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

Senate Bill No. 321, entitled

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Poe

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

Senate Bill No. 322, entitled

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR FILM AND TELEVISION TOURISM IN THE PHILIPPINES, MARKETING THE INDUSTRY GLOBALLY AND PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT FOR THE SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Poe

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

Senate Bill No. 323, entitled

**AN ACT SUPPORTING THE PRODUCTION OF PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENT FILMS BY PROVIDING INCENTIVES TO FILMMAKERS WHO ARE GIVEN HONORS IN NOTABLE INTERNATIONAL FILM COMPETITIONS**

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

Introduced by Senator Poe

Senate Bill No. 324, entitled

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**



Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 325, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NURSING LAW TOWARDS QUALITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 326, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING THE DIRECT REMITTANCE TO THE HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IF THEIR FORTY PERCENT (40%) SHARE DERIVED FROM THE NATIONAL WEALTH AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 293 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"**

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 327, entitled

**AN ACT CREATING THE MINDANAO RAILWAYS CORPORATION, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION**

Introduced by Senator Angara

**To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Public Services; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 328, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF WORKERS IN INFORMAL ECONOMY, INSTITUTIONALIZING MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 329, entitled

**AN ACT INSTITUTING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INCLUSIVE EDUCATION LEARNING RESOURCE CENTERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS DIVISIONS, PROVIDING FOR STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Angara

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 330, entitled

**AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR SPORTS**

Introduced by Senator Angara

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Sports; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 331, entitled

**AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE, DEFINING ITS POWER AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Angara

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**To the Committees on National Defense and Security; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 332, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AND ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION AND OTHER MOBILITY OPTIONS TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY, INCREASE EFFICIENCY, REDUCE CONGESTION, AND CONTRIBUTE TO POSITIVE HEALTH IMPACTS IN OUR SOCIETY

Introduced by Senator Angara

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Environment and Natural Resources**

Senate Bill No. 333, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE MANUFACTURING, IMPORTATION, AND USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES, LEVIES AND INCENTIVES SYSTEM FOR INDUSTRIES, BUSINESS ENTERPRISES AND CONSUMERS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 334, entitled

AN ACT TO ADOPT INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT AS A NATIONAL STRATEGY TO ENSURE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF THE COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES AND TO ESTABLISH SUPPORTING MECHANISMS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND PROVIDE FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Villar

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Agriculture and Food; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 335, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE CATCHING, SALE, PURCHASE, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION, IMPORTATION, AND EXPORTATION OF ALL SHARKS, RAYS, AND CHIMAERAS AND ANY PART THEREOF IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Villar

**To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Environment and Natural Resources**

Senate Bill No. 336, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING NEW COMMERCIAL, INSTITUTIONAL, AND RESIDENTIAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS IN METRO MANILA AND MAJOR CITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES TO INSTALL RAINWATER HARVESTING OR RETENTION FACILITIES, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar

**To the Committee on Public Works**

Senate Bill No. 337, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (BIRDC), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar

**To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Ways and Means; and Finance**



Senate Bill No. 338, entitled

**AN ACT INSTITUTING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION, ESTABLISHING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION LEARNING RESOURCE CENTERS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (CYSNs) IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS DIVISIONS, PROVIDING FOR STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

Introduced by Senator Villar

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 339, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THEFT, ROBBERY AND DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY**

Introduced by Senator Villar

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Justice and Human Rights**

Senate Bill No. 340, entitled

**AN ACT PROHIBITING TEXT SCAMS, MISLEADING ADVERTISEMENTS, AND FRAUDULENT SALES PROMOTIONS, MANDATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE REGISTRATION OF ALL USERS OF SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) CARDS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATIONS THEREOF**

Introduced by Senator Villar

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship**

Senate Bill No. 341, entitled

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES STOCK EXCHANGE**

Introduced by Senator Villar

**To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 342, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF NURSES, ASSIGNING AT LEAST ONE REGISTERED NURSE FOR EVERY BARANGAY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 343, entitled

**AN ACT ENHANCING THE REGULATION ON EMPLOYMENT OF FOREIGN NATIONALS AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 40, 41, AND 42 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

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

Senate Bill No. 344, entitled

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE *PAGKAIN PARA SA LAHAT* PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

**To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 345, entitled

**AN ACT INSTITUTING INCLUSIVE**

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EDUCATION AND ESTABLISHING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION HUBS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS DIVISIONS, PROVIDING FOR STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 346, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY FREE HEALTH MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATION (HMO) PLAN COVERAGE TO FACULTY AND NON-TEACHING PERSONNEL IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

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

Senate Bill No. 347, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE UNJUSTIFIED INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE PROVIDED BY DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCASTING ENTITIES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Public Information and Mass Media**

Senate Bill No. No. 348, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE DISPLAY OF CALORIE AND OTHER NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION IN MENUS OF FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

**To the Committee on Health and Demography; Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship**

Senate Bill No. 349, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF PHILIPPINE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Ways and Means; And Finance**

Senate Bill No. 350, entitled

**AN ACT ENHANCING THE SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

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

**PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS  
ON SENATOR TOLENTINO'S  
PRIVILEGE SPEECH**

*(Continuation)*

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

**MANIFESTATION  
OF SENATOR DRILON**

Saying that he had thoroughly reviewed the privilege speech of Senator Tolentino as found in the Journal of Session No. 4 dated July 29, 2019, Senator Drilon thanked Senator Tolentino for putting forward a number of novel legal theories, and he admitted that in his almost 50 years of being a lawyer, it was the first time he heard some of them. He said that he was prepared to debate on those propositions that,



to him, have not been settled yet. As he was not claiming to have a monopoly of legal knowledge, he believed that the best avenue to test the validity of those novel propositions would be in a committee hearing rather than in plenary debates, expressing his interest in hearing the thoughts of legal luminaries and recognized experts in international law on these propositions.

Adverting to page 73 of the Journal of July 29, 2019, Senator Drilon pointed out that Senator Tolentino made the statement that “There is no restriction on either the form or substance of international agreements.” Following that proposition, he asked: 1) Can the president of the Republic (of the Philippines) enter into an oral or even a written agreement ceding the island of Panay even if it is contrary to Article I of the Constitution? 2) If there is no restriction as to form, can multilateral agreements be in the form of an oral agreement? He said that he could not imagine the confusion and difficulty of enforcing a verbal multilateral agreement.

To Senator Tolentino’s forceful assertion that matters of foreign policy are within the exclusive and absolute power of the president, citing as an authority the case of *Saguisag vs. Ochoa* (G.R. No. 212426, January 12, 2016), Senator Drilon noted that in the *Saguisag* case, the Supreme Court specifically stated that the role of the president in foreign affairs is qualified by the Constitution, giving particular importance to the sovereignty of the nation and the integrity of its territory; it does not crystalize into an absolute discretion to craft whatever instrument the chief executive so desires. In fact, he pointed out that this power is limited by a number of constitutional provisions, including Sections 20 and 21 of Article VII, Sections 4(2) and 5(2)(a) of Article VIII, and Sections 4 and 25 of Article XVIII.

Senator Drilon congratulated Senator Tolentino for putting forward those novel theories and for single-handedly opening up the discussion on complicated issues surrounding the West Philippine Sea. He said that he would look forward to the inquiry that would be conducted by the Committee on Foreign Relations which was made possible by Senator Tolentino’s early and timely manifestation. He said that he would not further occupy the Senate’s time in a very complicated legal debate which would only be appreciated by lawyers, and he believed that such a legal debate should be done by the legal experts in the committee. He added that he would

await the committee report so that he could thoroughly discuss and respond to these legal theories.

Thus, Senator Drilon manifested that he no longer has any questions for Senator Tolentino.

#### **REJOINDER OF SENATOR TOLENTINO**

Senator Tolentino clarified that the basis of his proposition is that the President is considered as the chief architect of the country’s foreign policy acting on constitutional grounds, and that oral agreements are done on a bilateral basis. As to the reference to the Philippine Constitution, he said that the case cited is apropos to the Constitutional Commission deliberation as it affirmed that in the hierarchy of foreign policy, the chief executive is first, and that the role of the Senate is only limited to concurrence unlike that of the United States Senate which is limited to advice and consent. Nevertheless, he deferred to Senator Drilon’s manifestation that the speech be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations and even to the Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes as the secondary committee.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GORDON**

At the outset, Senator Gordon commended Senators Tolentino and Drilon for enriching the discussion on vital issues faced by the country, as he took note of the recent statement of the Secretary of National Defense that China was being a bully. He said that it was disturbing that China as the country’s biggest neighbor, with a powerful military air force, navy and army, has militia on board all their sea-going crafts, including fishing boats. He noted that even Vietnam, which also has militia on board their aircraft, is able to track down the traffic going on in the West Philippine Sea and the South China Sea. He suggested that the Philippines should consider following their examples in light of the recent incident when the Liaoning, an aircraft carrier of China, passed through the Sibutu Strait. He believed that the local fishermen should be equipped with GPS and communications facilities so that the authorities would be quickly alerted about traffic, threat or mining activities on the ocean.

Thus, Senator Gordon said that the speech of Senator Tolentino was very timely as it would afford the Senate the opportunity to discuss the issue in an



objective way because democracy subsists well when opinions are expressed through intelligent debates. He hoped that the hearing would pave the way for discussions on the military strength of the countries involved in the contested areas. This way, he said that the Philippines would be better prepared and even increase the capabilities of the army, navy and coast guards.

In closing, Senator Gordon stated that it is important for their ideas to reflect history so that the country can move forward and see what lies ahead.

#### **REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE**

Thereupon, Senator Zubiri moved that the privilege speech of Senator Tolentino, together with the interpellations and manifestations thereon, be referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations as the primary committee, and to the Committee on Agriculture and Food as the secondary committee.

Senator Drilon asked for the reconsideration of the secondary committee referral as he pointed out that the issue of fisheries, as mentioned in the speech, was simply incidental to the main issue of sovereignty, sovereign rights, and others. He maintained that the Committee on Agriculture and Food deals with the substantial aspects of fisheries as an economic activity. Senator Zubiri explained that the speech also dealt with the issues on the country's lack of fishing grounds and the fisheries resources. He noted that the primary committee referral was still with the Committee on Foreign Relations under Senator Pimentel.

Senate President Sotto suggested that the speech be referred only to the Committee on Foreign Relations as the issue involved foreign policy. If necessary, he said that the issue on fisheries can be taken up by the Committee on Agriculture and Food later on.

Agreeing with Senate President Sotto, Senator Drilon opined that the principal issue and the basic proposition of the speech was on foreign policy over which the Committee on Agriculture and Food, as stated in the Rules, does not have jurisdiction.

Senator Zubiri said that he would defer to the wishes of the Body, as long as the issue would be taken up by a proper committee and be discussed and debated there.

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Chair referred Senator Tolentino's privilege speech and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### **ADDITIONAL COMMITTEE REFERRAL**

Acting on the request of Senator Tolentino, Senator Zubiri moved that Senate Bill No. 201, the bill postponing the May 2020 Barangay and *Sangguniang Kabataan* elections, be referred secondarily to the Committee on Local Government.

Senator Drilon pointed out that this was not the first time that such measure was considered in the Senate as they also took up similar measures postponing the barangay elections in the past. He asked to which committee those similar measures were referred. Senator Zubiri informed the Body that in the Seventeenth Congress, the bill on the first postponement of the barangay elections was handled by the Committee on Local Government, while the second postponement was referred to the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation because at that time, Senator Angara, the chairman of the Committee on Local Government, was busy with the TRAIN bill.

Senator Zubiri stated that in consultation with Senators Tolentino and Marcos, chairpersons of the Committee on Local Government and the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation, respectively, they agreed that the primary committee would be the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation.

At this juncture, Senator Angara clarified that there was nothing unusual with the manifestation of Senator Zubiri as he recalled that in the previous Congress, he asked Senator Gordon to handle the measure postponing the barangay and SK elections the second time as he had on his plate then both the TRAIN bill and the proposed Bangsamoro Organic law.

Senator Tolentino explained that he requested the referral of the bill to the Committee on Local Government because most of the SK and barangay elections were partly funded by the LGUs and that there has never been an instance wherein the Comelec fully funded such elections.

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Chair also referred Senate Bill No. 201 to the Committee on Local Government as the secondary committee.

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## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

*It was 3:42 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:10 p.m., the session was resumed.

## ADDITIONAL 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. 351, entitled

AN ACT RECOGNIZING ALTERNATIVE MODES OF PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, PROVIDING REGULATIONS GOVERNING THEIR OPERATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 352, entitled

AN ACT ENSURING THE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BETWEEN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

To the Committee on Finance

Senate Bill No. 353, entitled

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE RATIONAL EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF MINERAL RESOURCES, AND TO ENSURE THE EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENE-

FITS FOR THE STATE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Cultural Communities; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 354, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING AND PROHIBITING ELDER ABUSE, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

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

Senate Bill No. 355, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 106, 107, 108, 109, AND 112 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "TAX REFORM ACT OF 1997," AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 356, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING ABSOLUTE DIVORCE IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

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

Senate Bill No. 357, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

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**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Foreign Relations**

Senate Bill No. 358, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT POLICY, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 359, entitled

AN ACT MAINSTREAMING THE PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO PHILIPPINE DRUG POLICY, ESTABLISHING AND IMPLEMENTING COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAMS AND STRATEGIES FOR DRUG-RELATED ISSUES AND CONCERNs, AND PROHIBITING HARMFUL AND DISCRIMINATORY INTERVENTIONS AND PRACTICES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 360, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE CATCHING, SALE, PURCHASE, POSSESSION, TRANSPORTATION, IMPORTATION, AND EXPORTATION OF ALL SHARKS, RAYS, AND CHIMAERAS AND ANY PART THEREOF IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 361, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR STUDENTS' RIGHTS AND WELFARE

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 362, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING REFORMS IN THE PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLY BY DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES FOR THE CAPTIVE MARKET BY MANDATING A COMPETITIVE SELECTION PROCESS FOR POWER SUPPLY AGREEMENTS

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committee on Energy**

Senate Bill No. 363, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR FACILITIES UTILIZING WASTE-TO-ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committees on Energy; and Environment and Natural Resources**

Senate Bill No. 364, entitled

AN ACT REDUCING THE RECOVERABLE SYSTEM LOSS RATE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committees on Energy; and Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 365, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING ALL PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES

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AND INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS FROM IMPOSING AN EXPIRATION PERIOD ON THE VALIDITY OF PERIOD LOAD CREDITS AND THEIR FORFEITURE

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committee on Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 366, entitled

MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAY OFFICIALS

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 367, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A PROGRAM FOR THE MANDATORY CONTINUING EDUCATION OF TEACHERS IN THE PRIMARY AND SECONDARY LEVELS IN BOTH PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 368, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE OF MOTOR VEHICLES IN METRO MANILA BY REQUIRING A PROOF-OF-PARKING SPACE OR FACILITY FROM MOTOR VEHICLE BUYERS AS A PREREQUISITE FOR THE PURCHASE OF A MOTOR VEHICLE AND REGISTRATION WITH THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 369, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC MATH AND SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOLS IN PREVIOUSLY UNDERSERVED AREAS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Local Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 370, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE MANDATORY GUIDELINES ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF LOCAL UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 371, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING, PROVIDING FOR ITS PENALTY AND OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator De Lima

**To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights**

Senate Bill No. 372, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PARTY-LIST ACT AND EMPHASIZING ITS ROLE AS A CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE TOOL TO GIVE THE MARGINALIZED AND UNDER-REPRESENTED GENUINE POWER AND REPRESENTATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7941, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ELECTION OF PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVES THROUGH THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM,

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AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR," OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PARTY-LIST SYSTEM ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator De Lima

**To the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation**

Senate Bill No. 373, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 180, 183, AND 184 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED, INCREASING THE PENALTIES THEREOF, CRIMINALIZING SUBORNATION OF PERJURY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator De Lima

**To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights**

Senate Bill No. 374, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1405, ALSO KNOWN AS THE BANK SECRECY LAW, AS AMENDED, BY REMOVING FROM ITS COVERAGE, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator De Lima

**To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

Senate Bill No. 375, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE HUMAN RIGHTS AFFAIRS OFFICE OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND TO FURTHER AMEND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990," AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator De Lima

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

Senate Bill No. 376, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JULY 12 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE HISTORIC DECISION OF THE PERMANENT COURT OF ARBITRATION (PCA) IN FAVOR OF PHILIPPINE SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA

Introduced by Senator De Lima

**To the Committee on Foreign Relations**

Senate Bill No. 377, entitled

AN ACT ENSURING ACCOUNTABILITY IN INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES AND THE USE OF INTELLIGENCE AND CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS GRANTED TO ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE A JOINT CONGRESSIONAL INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE TO STRENGTHEN THE OVERSIGHT POWERS OF CONGRESS TO MONITOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES OF ALL AGENCIES OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT AND TO OVERSEE HOW INTELLIGENCE AND CONFIDENTIAL FUNDS ARE EXPENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator De Lima

**To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 378, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING WOMEN IN STATE CUSTODY, PRESCRIBING THE MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR THEIR TREATMENT, PENALIZING ACTS IN VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator De Lima	AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE THE REVISED PENAL LAWS, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES
<b>To the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Justice and Human Rights</b>	
Senate Bill No. 379, entitled	Introduced by Senator Pacquiao
AN ACT PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS, ESTABLISHING THE REFUGEES AND STATELESS PERSONS PROTECTION BOARD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	<b>To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes</b>
Introduced by Senator De Lima	Senate Bill No. 383, entitled
<b>To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights</b>	AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 141, 142 AND 143 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997"
Senate Bill No. 380, entitled	Introduced by Senator Pacquiao
AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE REGULATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES	<b>To the Committee on Ways and Means</b>
Introduced by Senator De Lima	Senate Bill No. 384, entitled
<b>To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means; and Finance</b>	AN ACT ABOLISHING THE PHILIPPINE TRAVEL TAX IMPOSED TO FILIPINOS DEPARTING FROM ALL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS AND SEAPORTS IN THE PHILIPPINES
Senate Bill No. 381, entitled	Introduced by Senator Pacquiao
AN ACT TO IMPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY ON THE HEINOUS CRIME OF KIDNAPPING, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE THE REVISED PENAL LAWS, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES	<b>To the Committees on Ways and Means; Tourism; and Finance</b>
Introduced by Senator Pacquiao	Senate Bill No. 385, entitled
<b>To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes</b>	AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF AIRLINE PASSENGERS
Senate Bill No. 382, entitled	Introduced by Senator Pacquiao
AN ACT TO IMPOSE THE DEATH PENALTY ON THE HEINOUS CRIME OF RAPE WITH HOMICIDE,	<b>To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance</b>
	Senate Bill No. 386, entitled
	AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SUSTAINABLE COASTAL TOURISM BY PROVIDING MECHANISMS FOR INSTITUTIONALIZATION WHILE

**ADOPTING INTEGRATED COASTAL MANAGEMENT PLANS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

**To the Committees on Tourism; Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 387, entitled

**AN ACT CREATING THE PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 388, entitled

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) CARDS IN MOBILE PHONES**

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship**

Senate Bill No. 389, entitled

**AN ACT CREATING LAKE LANAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

**To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Economic Affairs; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 390, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMUNITY**

**FITNESS CENTER IN EVERY BARANGAY NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Pacquiao

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

Senate Bill No. 391, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS**

Introduced by Senator Go

**To the Committees on Local Government; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 392, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Go

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

Senate Bill No. 393, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE TO ANY OFFICER OR ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ON ANY CHARGE BEFORE THE PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE, COURT OR ANY COMPETENT BODY ARISING FROM AN INCIDENT OR INCIDENTS RELATED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTY**

Introduced by Senator Go

**To the Committees on National Defense and Security; Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Finance**

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Senate Bill No. 394, entitled

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AN EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES SYSTEM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL EMSS COUNCIL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Go

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

Senate Bill No. 395, entitled

**AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 9173 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE NURSING ACT OF 2002, PROVIDING FOR AN ADVANCED NURSING EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Introduced by Senator Go

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

Senate Bill No. 396, entitled

**AN ACT EXPANDING THE PURPOSES AND APPLICATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 272 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Go

**To the Committees on Local Government; and Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 397, entitled

**AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SPORTS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Go

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Sports; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 398, entitled

**AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE MANDATORY BASIC IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM AND PROVIDING A SYSTEM IN THE DETERMINATION OF OTHER TYPES OF VACCINE-PREVENTABLE DISEASES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10152, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MANDATORY INFANTS AND CHILDREN HEALTH IMMUNIZATION ACT OF 2011"**

Introduced by Senator Go

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 399, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND SUPPORT OF A DRUG ABUSE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION CENTER IN EVERY PROVINCE THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Go

**To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; Health and Demography; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 400, entitled

**AN ACT PENALIZING PRANK CALLERS TO EMERGENCY HOTLINES**

Introduced by Senator Go

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Justice and Human Rights**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 41, entitled

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO**

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CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG-TERM PLAN OF ACTION ON THE DISPLACED STUDENTS OF THE 55 SCHOOLS FOR INDIGENOUS CHILDREN TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES ADDRESSING THE PLIGHT OF DISPLACED STUDENTS

Introduced by Senator Binay

**To the Committees on Cultural Communities; and Education, Arts and Culture**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 42, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED 18 BILLION PESOS WORTH OF UNDISTRIBUTED MEDICINES STOCKED IN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH WAREHOUSES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IMPROVING THE INVENTORY MANAGEMENT AND PROCUREMENT PLANNING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Introduced by Senator Binay

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 43, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE RECENT COMMISSION ON AUDIT REPORT THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH FAILED TO DISTRIBUTE P18 BILLION WORTH OF MEDICINES IN 2018

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 44, entitled

RESOLUTION CREATING A STANDING COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS, INNOVATION, AND FUTURES THINKING

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 45, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE COUNTRY'S GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 46, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE STATUS OF THE PHILIPPINES' UPSTREAM OIL AND GAS INDUSTRY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IMPROVING AND STREAMLINING REGULATIONS TOWARDS INCREASED INVESTMENTS IN OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committee on Energy**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 47, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS AND JUSTICE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE SPATE OF KILLINGS THAT DEVASTATED THE ISLAND OF

NEGROS AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT ALLOWED FOR THE LAWLESS VIOLENCE THAT CLOAKED THE PROVINCE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ATTAINING JUSTICE FOR THE SLAIN VICTIMS AND CREATING POLICIES THAT WILL ADEQUATELY ADDRESS THE ROOT CAUSE OF THE CONFLICT IN THE PROVINCE

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 48, entitled

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE PROLONGED AND PERSISTENT POWER OUTAGES ACROSS THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

**To the Committee on Energy**

**SECOND ADDITIONAL  
REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 49, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE REGULAR RECRUITMENT PROGRAM WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THE ATTAINMENT OF THE IDEAL POLICE TO POPULATION RATIO OF ONE POLICEMAN FOR EVERY FIVE HUNDRED PEOPLE TO PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY IN THE UTILIZATION OF THE ALLOCATED FUNDS FOR ITS PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 50, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF PORTIONS OF METRO MANILA MILITARY CAMPS IN ACCORDANCE WITH REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 7227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992" AS AMENDED, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT SAID PROCEEDS WERE REMITTED BY THE BCDA AND WERE UTILIZED FOR THEIR INTENDED PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 51, entitled

RESOLUTION ALLOWING SENATOR LEILA M. DE LIMA TO PARTICIPATE IN PLENARY THROUGH TELECONFERENCING, VIDEO CONFERENCE OR OTHER FORMS OF REMOTE OR ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS

Introduced by Senators Drilon and Lacson

**To the Committee on Rules**

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Report No. 1, prepared and submitted by the Committee on Rules, on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 52, with Senator Zubiri and the members of the Committee on Rules, entitled

RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTION 13 (4) (22) (28) (29), AND (34) RULE X OF THE RULES OF THE SENATE,

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recommending its approval, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 24.

Sponsor: Senator Zubiri

### To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

### ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Atty. Toto Jesry Palmares, vice mayor of Passi, Iloilo; and
- Mayor Larry Alvarez of Tingloy, Batangas.

Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

### SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 1 on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 52 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

### COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1 ON PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 52

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 52 (Committee Report No. 1), entitled

### RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTION 13 (4), (22), (28), (29), AND (34), RULE X OF THE RULES OF THE SENATE.

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

The Chair recognized Senator Zubiri for the sponsorship.

### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri presented to the Body Proposed

Senate Resolution No. 52, which seeks to amend Section 13, Rule X of the Senate Rules.

*The full text of Senator Zubiri's sponsorship speech follows:*

The Committee on Rules met last Monday, July 29, a well-attended one with eight out of nine members present.

In that meeting, the Committee discussed several proposed Senate resolutions amending Section 13 of the Rules. These are the proposed resolutions creating a new standing committee to be known as the Committee on Overseas Filipinos (PSR No. 5); splitting the Committee on Education into two - the Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture and the Committee on Higher, Technical, and Vocational Education (PSR No. 24); and the resolution on the creation of the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation and Futures Thinking (PSR No. 44).

We also received requests from several committee chairpersons to increase the number of the memberships in their respective committees.

On the creation and splitting of the committees, the Committee decided to resolve first the splitting of the Committee on Education into two. These are the Committee on Basic Education, Arts, and Culture, and the Committee on Higher, Technical, and Vocational Education. Among the reasons cited for this is that the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education is too broad, and basically, education is divided into two main concerns or subsectors — the basic and higher education. Also, this is to align our Committee on Education with the House of Representatives, which has the Committee on Education and Committee on Higher Education.

As to the requests of several committee chairpersons to increase the number of membership in their respective committees, such as the Committee on Finance, Committee on Tourism, Committee on Public Services, and Committee on Public Information, the Committee has decided to authorize this Representation as chair of the Committee on Rules to act on these requests as he sees fit and meritorious.

And so, we propose to amend the specific paragraphs of Section 13 pertaining to the number of membership of the aforementioned committees. For instance, the Committee on Finance is so important to our work as legislators as the General Appropriations Act (GAA) is



among the most significant pieces of legislation that we pass every year, and as the GAA mirrors the implementation of the policies and priorities laid out by the Legislative and Executive branches of government through concrete programs and projects.

Thus, we propose that all members of the Senate be members of the Committee on Finance, including the Senate President Pro Tempore, the Majority Leader, and the Minority Leader who are already *ex officio* members of all the standing committees as per Section 20 of the Rules.

On the other hand, we propose a considerable increase of memberships in the Committees on Tourism, Public Services, and Public Information and Mass Media.

On the proposal to create new standing committees, the Committee decided to further discuss these proposals in the next hearing of the Rules Committee.

Relative to this, the Committee also directed the Secretariat to prepare a matrix on the bills and resolutions referred to the committees in the 17<sup>th</sup> Congress and to study the jurisdiction and names of our standing committees to avoid overlapping jurisdictions and for a possible merger and streamlining of committees with similar jurisdictions. This was actually the humble suggestion of our distinguished Minority Leader — to study which committees had the least referrals and the most referrals, and maybe we could streamline the number of committees with this study.

With that, we propose to amend Section 13, Rule X of the Senate Rules as reflected in our Committee Report.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GORDON**

For the record, Senator Gordon registered his support for Proposed Senate Resolution No. 52 as he was unable to affix his signature thereon when it was circulated that morning.

#### **REQUEST OF SENATOR DRILON**

At this juncture, Senator Drilon requested that Senator Zubiri and the technical staff review the number of standing committees the Senate has at present, noting that during the hearing of the Committee on Rules, it was reported that there were already 40 committees, just too many for 22 senators to handle — the Senate President and the Minority Leader do not have any committee — and could put pressure on the administrative staff. He then asked

for a review of the referrals to committees in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> Congresses and find out which committees are active and inactive in order to identify which committees must be retained and correspondingly rationalize the organization of standing committees in the Senate by adjusting their jurisdiction.

Senator Gordon expressed his support to the proposal of Senator Drilon, further suggesting the merging of some, given the large number of standing committees.

Senator Zubiri informed the Body that the matter would be discussed in the meeting with the Secretariat on Wednesday the following week.

#### **ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 52**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body adopted Proposed Senate Resolution No. 52.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI**

Pursuant to the resolution, Senator Zubiri directed the Secretariat to review all the referrals of bills made in the last two weeks, particularly those referred to the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, so that the proper change of referrals would be made.

Senate President Sotto said that since the Secretariat has just received the communication, they may submit a report thereon to the Senate on Monday.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereafter indicated:

##### *Committee on Finance*

##### *Vice Chairpersons :*

Cayetano	Gordon
Villar	Go
Lacson	Marcos
Villanueva	Hontiveros
Gatchalian	

##### *Members :*

Binay	Pangilinan
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
De Lima	Poe
Lapid	Revilla
Pacquiao	Tolentino

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*Committee on Basic Education,  
Arts and Culture*

*Chairperson : Gatchalian*

*Vice Chairperson : Villanueva*

*Members :*

*Majority*

Angara	Lapid
Binay	Marcos
Cayetano	Pimentel
Go	Poe
Lacson	Revilla

*Minority*

De Lima	Pangilinan
Hontiveros	

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

*It was 5:40 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 5:40 p.m., the session was resumed.

**RECONSIDERATION OF THE ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 52**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body reconsidered the adoption of Preposed Senate Resolution No. 52, entitled

**RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTION 13  
(4) (22) (28) (29) AND (34) OF THE  
RULES OF THE SENATE.**

As a consequence, the Body proceeded to the period of amendments.

**ZUBIRI AMENDMENT**

As proposed by Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body approved to replace on page 2, line 28, the word and figure "ELEVEN (11)" to THIRTEEN (13).

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED  
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 52**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no

objection, the Body adopted Proposed Senate Resolution No. 52, as amended.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

*(Continuation)*

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committee hereafter under indicated:

*Committee on Higher, Technical,  
and Vocational Education*

*Chairperson : Villanueva*

*Vice Chairperson : Gatchalian*

*Members:*

*Majority*

Binay	Revilla
Angara	Poe
Go	Lacson
Dela Rosa	Villar
Cayetano	Lapid

*Minority*

Hontiveros	Pangilinan
De Lima	

**INQUIRY OF SENATOR GORDON**

At this juncture, Senator Gordon asked if it would still be possible to reconstitute the membership of the Committee on Higher, Technical, and Vocational Education given that the committee was just created that day thereby giving him no chance to volunteer for membership.

In reply, Senator Zubiri said that instead of recalling the elections of the members of the committee, he would confer with the chairperson and ask if a member could give up his or her post in order to accommodate Senator Gordon.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

*It was 5:44 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 5:46 p.m., the session was resumed.

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## REQUEST OF SENATE PRESIDENT SOTTO

Upon resumption, Senate President Sotto asked that the membership of the Committee on Public Services be again placed on record in consideration of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 52.

In reply, Senator Zubiri submitted the composition of the Committee on Public Services, to wit:

*Chairperson* : Poe

*Vice Chairpersonss* :

Lacson	Pacquiao
Revilla	Gatchalian

*Members* :

<i>Majority</i>	
Go	Villanueva
Binay	Gordon
Tolentino	Lapid

<i>Minority</i>	
Hontiveros	Pangilinan

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

*Committee on Tourism*

*Vice Chairpersons*:

Villanueva	Pimentel
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*Members*:

<i>Majority</i>	
Poe	Dela Rosa
Villar	Angara
Lapid	Gordon

<i>Minority</i>	
Hontiveros	De Lima

*Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises*

*Chairperson* : Gordon

*Vice Chairperson* : Gatchalian

*Members* :

<i>Majority</i>	
Pacquiao	Villar
Binay	Go
Villanueva	

<i>Minority</i>	
Hontiveros	Pangilinan

*Committee on Ethics and Privileges*

*Chairperson* : Pacquiao

*Members* :

<i>Majority</i>	
Gordon	Dela Rosa
Villar	Tolentino
Lacson	

<i>Minority</i>	
Pangilinan	

*Committee on Cultural Communities*

*Chairperson* : Marcos

Senator Zubiri requested Senator Marcos to come up with the list of the members of her committee by Monday.

*Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture*

Gordon in lieu of Angara

*Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education*

Gordon in lieu of Dela Rosa

*Committee on Public Information and Mass Media*

*Members* :

Pacquiao	Villanueva
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## MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR DRILON

Senator Drilon reiterated his request that notices of committee hearing must comply with the three-day notice as stipulated in the *Rules*.



For his part, Senate President Sotto called on the chairpersons of the different committees to ask their respective chiefs of staff to always coordinate with the committee secretary in the preparation of the committee reports considering that in the past, some committee reports that were forwarded to the Bills and Index Service had not even been seen by the committee secretary concerned resulting in errors that had to be corrected on the floor. He underscored the importance of ensuring that the committee secretaries are well-informed of the reports that are prepared by the chiefs of staff of the different senators.

Relative thereto, Senator Drilon stated that in the past Congresses, they had a very good arrangement crafted not by the rules but out of courtesy. He cited the practice of not allowing committee reports to be filed unless they had passed through the Minority Leader's office. He believed that elementary courtesy dictates that the Minority Leader must see the report before it is filed, adding that he never caused any delay as regards the filing of committee reports.

Senate President Sotto expressed confidence that both the Senator Zubiri and Senator Drilon would continue such working arrangement.

Senator Zubiri gave assurance that all committee reports would pass through the office of Senator

Drilon before these are filed, and he instructed the Secretariat to ensure that before a committee report reaches his office, it has visited the office of the Minority Leader for study.

Senate President Sotto also reminded the chiefs of staff of all senators to allow the committee secretary to review the committee reports before these are submitted to the Office of the Senate President.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, August 5, 2019.

*It was 5:55 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.



ATTY. MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA  
Secretary of the Senate



Approved on August 5, 2019