



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 17
Tuesday, September 3, 2019

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

Sen. Ramon “Bong” Revilla, Jr. led the prayer, to wit:

Dakilang Diyos, pinupuri Ka namin at pinasasalamatan sa araw na ito. Sa muling pagtitipon namin sa bulwagang ito upang talakayin ang mga mahahalagang isyu at usapin ng aming bansa, idinudulog po namin sa Inyo, mahal naming Panginoon, na biyayaan Mo kami ng dalisay na puso, malinaw na pag-iisip, at malawak na pang-unawa upang maging makabuluhan ang sesyon na ito sa pagbibigay ng tugon sa pangangailangan ng bawat Pilipino.

Lord, Your Word says in James 1:5, “If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you.” Lord, we ask You for wisdom, give us wisdom each day—wisdom to lead this country.

We live in a time where there is much turmoil, challenges, pressing problems and, at times, all these can be so overwhelming. May we all learn to seek You first before we act or say anything. May we put our people’s needs first before anything or anyone else.

Our desire is to see our nation prosper and blessed. For Your Word says in Psalm 33:12, “Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, the people He chose for his inheritance.”

You are the way, the truth and the life. I am a living witness to Your truth and how it shines bright over lies and injustice. Shine Your truth upon us and the country.

So, Lord, strengthen every leader in this House to be men and women of truth and integrity, and not be swayed to go either to the left or the right but to keep our eyes and hearts fixed on You. You are the author and finisher of our faith. We shall put our trust and confidence in You alone.

This is our prayer, in the Name of Jesus, our Lord, our Savior and our God.

Amen.

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

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

Senators Poe and Recto 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. 16 (September 2, 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 guests:

- His Excellency Norman bin Muhammad, the new ambassador of Malaysia to the Philippines, and his delegation;
- Vice Governor Jose D. Tomas of Nueva Vizcaya; and
- Members of the Tam-an Banaue Multi-Purpose Cooperative of Nueva Vizcaya headed by its chairman, Mr. Melchor Carnate, Jr.

Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read the following bills which the Chair referred to the committee hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 999, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL HEROES COUNCIL UNDER THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos

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

Senate Bill No. 1000, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE IMPOSITION OF ANY FEE FOR THE USE OF PARKING SPACES AND FACILITIES LOCATED WITHIN SHOPPING MALLS, HOTELS AND SIMILAR BUSINESS AND/OR COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 1001, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SUPPORT MECHANISMS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND SCHOOL PERSONNEL IN MATTERS OF STUDENT DISCIPLINE AND MECHANISMS FOR CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT AND PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION IN CASE RELATED THERETO

Introduced by Senator Binay

To the Committees on Basic Education,

[Handwritten initials]

**Arts and Culture; and Women, Children,
Family Relations and Gender Equality**

Senate Bill No. 1002, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF POTABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS IN EVERY BARANGAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROMOTING RURAL HEALTH

Introduced by Senator Binay

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

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 66 under Committee Report No. 2 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 66

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 66 (Committee Report No. 2), entitled

RESOLUTION RECONSTITUTING THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON MARAWI CITY REHABILITATION.

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 stated that Proposed Senate Resolution No. 66 seeks to reconstitute the special committee for the rehabilitation of Marawi City. He lamented that two years after the 2017 Marawi siege

which left the city in rubble, efforts to rehabilitate and rebuild the city were at a snail's pace.

Senator Zubiri said that he was seeking the reconstitution of the special committee so that the Senate could start exercising its oversight functions over the rehabilitation of the city. He feared that if the rehabilitation process is not supervised and is allowed to continue at its slow pace, Marawi City would become another hotbed of insurgency or recruitment area of the ISIS and other subversive elements. He believed that the quicker Marawi City is rehabilitated and rebuilt, the faster radicalism is eliminated in that area of the country.

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 66**

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 66 was adopted by the Body.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

With the permission of the Body, the session was suspended to allow the senators to greet Senator Poe on the occasion of her birthday.

It was 3:11 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:12 p.m., the session was resumed.

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 3 on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 122 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 122 (Committee Report No. 3), entitled

RESOLUTION AMENDING SECTIONS 13(10), (13), (14), (20), (25), AND (39) RULE X OF THE RULES OF THE SENATE AND CREATING THE COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE

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DEVELOPMENT GOALS, INNOVATION, AND FUTURES THINKING.

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, on behalf of the Committee on Rules, submitted for plenary consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 122, entitled "Resolution Amending Sections 13(10), (13), (14), (20), (25), and (39) Rule X of the Rules of the Senate and Creating the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking" under Committee Report No. 3.

He reported that when the Committee considered to amend Section 13 to rationalize the formation of standing committees, they sought the guidance and institutional knowledge of the Secretariat and did a comparison of the standing committees of the Senate and the House of Representatives and used two main yardsticks: *parallelism* which means that a Senate committee has a counterpart in the House; and *efficiency* which means that having such standing committees in the Senate, even if absent in the House of Representatives, the process will promote ease and efficiency in doing legislative functions. In addition, he said that the Secretariat presented the historical evolution of the standing committees since the 8th Congress up to the present.

Senator Zubiri stated that admittedly, the current number of standing committees is one of the highest since the 8th Congress, and so the Committee looked into the jurisdictions of the standing committees if there are possible overlaps as well as the committee referrals or measures that were referred to all the standing committees in the past three Congresses; after completing this process, taking those parameters into consideration, the Committee on Rules decided to streamline the number of standing committees and merge some existing standing committees that have similar or related jurisdictions and subject matter, as follows:

1. The Committee on Agriculture and Food to merge with the Committee on Agrarian Reform which shall now be called the Committee on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform;
2. The Committee on National Defense and Security to merge with the Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation which shall now be called the Committee on National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and
3. The Committee on Environment and Natural Resources to merge with the Committee on Climate Change which shall now be called the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change.

As a consequence of the mergers, he said that the Committee proposed to increase the membership of the affected committees.

Senator Zubiri also presented the Committee's proposal to create the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking, in line with the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.

Finally, he stated that with the streamlining and merging of standing committees, the current 41 standing committees will now be reduced to 39 standing committees, the average of the last four Congresses.

He then urged his colleagues to adopt the proposed amendments to the Rules of the Senate.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR DRILON

At the outset, Senator Drilon lauded Senator Zubiri, chair of the Rules Committee, for his efforts in amending the Rules of the Senate, particularly in streamlining the number of standing committees.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Drilon, the session was suspended.

It was 3:19 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:19 p.m., the session was resumed.

Senator Drilon noted that the proposed Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and

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Futures Thinking would have jurisdiction over “all matters relating to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.” the first agenda being to “end poverty in all forms everywhere”. He asked how the agenda would be distinguished from the existing committee jurisdiction of the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development.

Likewise, Senator Drilon noted that the second sustainable development goal under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is “to end hunger, achieve food security, improve nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture,” which would already be covered by the present Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development, Agriculture and Food, and Health and Demography; similarly, the third sustainable development goal which is “to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all ages” is currently being handled by the Committee on Health and Demography; while another sustainable development goal which is “to ensure inclusive and equitable education and promote long-term learning opportunities for all” is presently under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture.

Senator Drilon said that while there is merit in creating the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking, problems may arise in the committee referral of legislative measures bearing subject matters covered under the Sustainable Development Goals but theoretically already falling under the jurisdiction of the current standing committees. He then asked how the distinction would be made.

Senator Zubiri replied that if the topic of a proposed measure is on health, for instance, the primary referral would be to the Committee on Health and Demography and the secondary referral would be to the Committee on Sustainable Development Goals, Innovation, and Futures Thinking (SDG Committee).

Senator Drilon said that he has no problem if placed on record that the said committee would be the secondary committee on all matters falling under the jurisdiction of the other standing committees, a rule that would be followed on a day-to-day basis in the consideration of the Reference of Business.

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano emphasized that the ultimate objective of organizing the new committee is to ensure that the Senate is cognizant

and conscious of the fact that there are goals that they intend to achieve. She said that the SDG Committee would put a perspective into the prioritizations as there are goals that the country has committed to achieve by 2030. She said that it is the responsibility of the Committee to make the Body aware that there are goals that need to be achieved by way of prioritization. She reiterated that the objective is to plan for the future and to think out-of-box to be able to recognize that there are problems that need to be solved today and the SDG Committee should assist in the whole process of solving such problems, including setting aside time and resources which are oftentimes neglected.

But Senator Drilon pointed out that all of the fields mentioned in the jurisdiction of the SDG Committee already fall under the jurisdiction of the different standing committees. He said that his understanding of the response of Senator Zubiri earlier is that the new committee would always be a secondary committee. Senator Zubiri agreed, clarifying that a primary referral to the SDG Committee may be possible if the resolution or the bill happens to tackle sustainable development goals *per se*, for instance, the resolution requesting the Senate to investigate whether the country has complied with the sustainable development goals’ target of the United Nations. Conversely, he said that if a bill has something to do with education, such as expanding the alternative learning centers all over the Philippines, the primary referral would be to the Committee on Basic Education, Arts and Culture and the secondary referral would be to the SDG Committee since education is also a part of the SDGs.

But Senator Drilon noted that the various committees in the Senate already have oversight functions to review the compliance of the country with the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Senator Zubiri acknowledged that the problem was that the sustainable development goals are too broad that they encompass about 12 departments of government.

Senator Drilon agreed that the jurisdiction of the new committee is very broad that it could include every measure filed in the Senate.

For her part, Senator Cayetano explained that the objective of creating the SDG Committee is to have a broader view of the priorities of the Senate and to give recommendations on such priorities as

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done in many other parliaments. She said that the biggest contribution of the committee would be on overlapping goals, such as education having an automatic effect on decent work and on the progress of the economy which is a different SDG. As the committees are often left within the confines of the bill pending before them, she believed that making the SDG Committee the secondary committee would ensure that the Body takes a better picture of the issues, including futures thinking and innovation.

Senator Drilon said that he was raising the questions as he was truly concerned about the possible confusion in the referral of legislative measures to committees which might result in the Body devoting its time debating on a particular referral because of the overarching jurisdiction of the committee. He then took note of the response of Senator Zubiri that the committee, in most instances, would be a secondary committee, with the standing committees with jurisdiction of the different aspects of governance taking the primary role in the referral. He said that he has no objection to the passage of the resolution but that he would wait for the referrals that would arise once the Rules have been amended to reflect the formation of a new committee.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR LACSON

At the outset, Senator Lacson stated that in the two hearings that he attended, one factor that was considered in collapsing three committees, namely, the Committees on Agrarian Reform, Peace Unification, and Reconciliation, and Climate Change was the number of referrals to those committees. If the arrangement is such that the proposed SDG committee would only be secondary committee, he asked how many referrals are envisioned to be made to the SDG Committee.

Senator Zubiri replied that he did know the number at the moment and that what he knows was that Senator Cayetano, who is a champion for sustainable development goals, would like to have a joint referral or secondary referral to several committees.

To Senator Lacson's suggestion to simply create an Oversight Committee on Sustainable Development Goals instead of creating another standing committee, Senator Zubiri explained that historically, the Senate has allowed similar arrangements to address particular advocacies, such as Committee on Climate Change

which was carved out of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources because they believed then that climate change was a very important topic that required a standing committee. He also recalled issues on power generation as well as environmental issues like reforestation which were secondarily referred to the Committee on Climate Change. He also cited the Committee on Motion Pictures in the Eighth Congress which was collapsed into the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media presently chaired by Senator Revilla. He believed that the creation of the SDG Committee was being proposed because some Members of the Body believed in complying with the sustainable development goals that the country has committed to achieve.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan expressed support for the amendments particularly on the merging of the Climate Change Committee with the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources which, he believed, would correct what he felt 15 years ago as a potential source of conflict and overlapping referrals. Collapsing the two committees into one committee, he believed, would simplify matters.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 122

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 122 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Delegation from Brgy. Marcos Village, Palayan City, Nueva Ecija, headed by Barangay Captain Josephine Guevarra;
- Vice Governor Christopher Yap of Southern Leyte; and
- Mayor Ma. Ofelia O. Alcantara and Vice Mayor Rodolfo B. Legaspi of Tolosa, Leyte.

Senate President Sotto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

At this point, Senator Zubiri manifested the need for the amended Rules to be printed and uploaded on the Internet.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, the session was suspended.

It was 3:39 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:58 p.m., the session was resumed.

CHANGE OF COMMITTEE REFERRAL

With the concurrence of Senators Pimentel and Poe, upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body approved the change of referral of Senate Bill No. 209 (*Good Samaritan at Sea Law*) to the Committee on Foreign Relations as the primary committee, and to the Committee on Public Services as the secondary committee.

MOTION TO ALPHABETIZE THE LIST OF COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the Body authorized the Senate Secretariat to alphabetize for easy reference the listing of the standing committees in accordance with Proposed Senate Resolution No. 122, subject to style.

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. 1003, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 29, 97, 98, AND 99 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Go

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

Senate Bill No. 1004, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE PRISON FACILITY FOR THOSE CONVICTED OF HEINOUS CRIMES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance**RESOLUTION**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 123, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO REVIEW, AMEND, AND MODIFY THE ISSUED IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10592 TO REFLECT THE LEGISLATIVE INTENT OF THE CONGRESS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF UPHOLDING THE IMPARTIAL DELIVERY OF JUSTICE

Introduced by Senator Dela Rosa

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

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

It was 5:01 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


ATTY. MYRA MARIE D. VILLARICA
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on September 4, 2019