

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 2019

OPENING OF THE SESSION

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

The President. The 34th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Eighteenth Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us bow our heads for a minute of silent prayer.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

The President. Please remain standing for the singing of the national anthem. The AUP Mu Gamma Chi Choir will lead us in the singing of the Philippine national anthem, and the group will also render a song entitled *Pagkakaisa Medley*.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.

ROLL CALL

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Sonny Angara	Present
Senator Maria Lourdes	
Nancy S. Binay	Present
Senator Pia S. Cayetano.....	Present
Senator Leila M. De Lima	*
Senator Ronald “Bato”	
M. Dela Rosa	Present
Senator Franklin M. Drilon	Present
Senator Win Gatchalian	Present
Senator Christopher Lawrence	
T. Go	Present
Senator Richard J. Gordon	Present**
Senator Risa Hontiveros	***
Senator Panfilo “Ping” M. Lacson ...	Present
Senator Manuel “Lito” M. Lapid	***
Senator Imee R. Marcos	Present**

* Unable to attend the session as she was under detention

** Arrived after the roll call

*** On official business, but arrived after the roll call

Senator Emmanuel “Manny”

 D. Pacquiao

Senator Francis “Kiko”

 N. Pangilinan

Senator Aquilino “Koko” L.

 Pimentel III.....

Senator Grace Poe

Senator Ralph G. Recto

Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

Senator Francis “Tol” N. Tolentino...

Senator Joel Villanueva

Senator Cynthia A. Villar

Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

The President

The President. With 17 Senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Zubiri. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the 33rd session, Wednesday, November 6, 2019 and consider it approved.

The President. Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the *Journal* is hereby approved.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Senator Zubiri. Mr. President, we have several VIP guests in the gallery today.

We have with us the secretary of the Department of Finance, Sec. Carlos Dominguez III, together with the secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, Sec. Wendel E. Avisado. We also have the men and women of the DOF and the DBM, together with their undersecretaries and assistant secretaries.

We also have with us members of the NEDA family headed by Usec. Rosemarie G. Edillon.

We also have with us members of the BIR family; the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and the Bureau of Treasury. There are several names, and to cut it short, all the men and women of these departments.

And we also have with us, Mr. President, Zonta Club of Makati-Ayala, headed by Ms. Nini Layug.

** Arrived after the roll call

Six, it promotes and expands the use of alternative methods of procurement under already existing laws. To address the crisis, it presents a novel solution which proposes shorter completion for a premium.

Seven, this bill expedites acquisition of rights-of-way and other projects, but in a manner that is targeted, not speculative; pinpointed in location and not real estate plays that impose predatory prices.

Eight, this bill supports the need for a modernized public transport with social mechanisms that will not leave our PUV sector wanting. Full assistance shall be given by the State in order to create a safer, more comfortable, and environmentally sustainable good public transport system.

Nine, this bill seeks the route rationalization of PUVs, in consultation with the LGUs affected, as the basis for the modification, suspension or revocation of franchises issued by the LTFRB. And I thank, in particular, Senator Tolentino for sharing with us the work that he has already done previously and the experiences that he has had so that a bus consortium and, at least, the rationalization of routes will be implemented.

Finally, this bill addresses the technical deficit in our traffic management know-how. By capacitating our agencies to handle present and upcoming challenges, we are future-proofing this important sector.

Mr. President, while there are many things that this bill is about, there are equally many things that it is not. It is not the sole handbook to fix our traffic problems. It is not. It is but one of many. For example, laying more railway tracks and running more trains on them is a guaranteed traffic-buster; land use plan is another.

There are also solutions on the demand-side which are outside the ambit of this bill. The foremost of which is decongesting Metro Manila by dispersing development across the regions, and with jobs available there, foreclose the need for people to migrate to the national capital.

For as long as development remains limited to the metro, our people will continue to flee a countryside lacking in opportunities only to crowd into a problematic megapolis. The requirements of not just moving them around, but of housing them, educating them will spiral upward in the years to come. That is a bigger crisis which we must all solve soon.

Thank you very much.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1157

Senator Zubiri. Thank you, Mr. President.

To allow our colleagues to study the measure further, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1157.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, the motion is approved.

Senator Zubiri. Yes. We beg the indulgence of Senator Bato, he will be taken up right away. It is just that the ratification of bicameral conference committee report, Mr. President, is of utmost importance. If it is okay with Senator Bato, this will only take two minutes.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON S. NO. 1043/H. NO. 4933 (Postponing the May 2020 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections)

Mr. President, we are in receipt of the Bicameral Conference Committee Report on the Disagreeing Provisions of Senate Bill No. 1043 and House Bill No. 4933. This is the Postponement of the May 2020 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections.

With the permission of the Body, may we recognize the chairperson of the Senate panel, Sen. Imee Marcos, to give us the highlights of the conference committee report.

The President. Sen. Imee Marcos is recognized.

REPORT OF SENATOR MARCOS

Senator Marcos. Yes. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

The Conference Committee on the Disagreeing Provisions of Senate Bill No. 1043 and House Bill No. 4933, having duly met and discussed the differences, hereby reports through a Joint Explanation of the Conference Committee on the Disagreeing Provisions, and I request that this be inserted into the *Record*.

Thank you, Mr. President.

APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE COMMITTEE
REPORT ON S. NO. 1043/H. NO. 4933

Senator Zubiri. Mr. President, we thank Sen. Imee Marcos for the report.

I move that we approve the Bicameral Conference Committee Report on the Disagreeing Provisions of Senate Bill No. 1043 and House Bill No. 4933.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]*
There being none, the motion is approved.

MOTION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI
**(Insertion of the Joint Explanation
of the Conference Committee Report
on the Disagreeing Provisions
of S. No. 1043/H. No. 4933)**

Senator Zubiri. Mr. President, as requested by the sponsor, Senator Marcos, I move that the text of the Joint Explanation of the Conference Committee on the Disagreeing Provisions of Senate Bill No. 1043 and House Bill No. 4933 be inserted into the *Record of the Senate*.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]*
There being none, the motion is approved.

The full text of the Joint Explanation of the Conference Committee Report on the Disagreeing Provisions of S. No. 1043 and H. No. 4933 is annexed at the end of this session date.

SPECIAL ORDER

Senator Zubiri. Mr. President, with the permission of the Body, I move that we transfer from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders Committee Report No. 19 on Senate Bill No. 1155, entitled

AN ACT FIXING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF LICENSE TO OWN AND POSSESS, PERMIT TO CARRY OUTSIDE OF RESIDENCE OR PLACE OF BUSINESS AND REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 7 AND 19 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10591, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT."

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]*
There being none, the motion is approved.

BILL ON SECOND READING
**S. No. 1155—Fixing the Validity Period
of the License to Own, Permit to Carry
and Registration of Firearms**

Senator Zubiri. Mr. President, I move that we consider Senate Bill No. 1155, as reported out under Committee Report No. 19.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]*
There being none, the motion is approved.

Consideration of Senate Bill No. 1155 is now in order.

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1155, entitled

AN ACT FIXING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF LICENSE TO OWN AND POSSESS, PERMIT TO CARRY OUTSIDE OF RESIDENCE OR PLACE OF BUSINESS AND REGISTRATION OF FIREARMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 7 AND 19 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10591, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT"

Editorial Note: A copy of Senate Bill No. 1155 is annexed at the end of this session date.

Senator Zubiri. Mr. President, to sponsor the measure, I ask that we recognize the distinguished gentleman from Davao del Sur, no other than Sen. Ronald "Bato" M. dela Rosa.

The President. Sen. Ronald M. dela Rosa is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH
OF SENATOR DELA ROSA

Senator Dela Rosa. Thank you, Mr. President.

Mr. President, my dear colleagues, I stand before this august Body to sponsor Committee Report No. 19, containing Senate Bill No. 1155, "An Act Fixing the Validity Period of the License to Own and Possess, Permit to Carry Outside of Residence or Place of Business and Registration of Firearms, Amending for the Purpose Sections 7 and 19 of Republic Act No. 10591, Otherwise Known as the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act."

What do the United States, Mexico, and Guatemala have in common? In these countries, Mr. President, owning a gun is a constitutional