

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 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 26th session of the Senate in the First Regular Session of the Eighteenth Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay.

PRAYER

Senator Binay.

Panginoon, amin pong ipinagpapasalamat ang mga biyayang aming natanggap at tatanggapin pa mula sa Inyong wagas na pagmamahal. Dalangin po namin na kami ay Inyong patuloy na basbasan at patnubayan upang magampanan namin sa araw-araw ang aming mga tungkulin at mga responsibilidad sa bayan at sa aming kapwa.

Sa Iyong mapagmahal na kamay, matamo sana namin ang kasaganahan. Maranasan sana namin ang kapayapaan, at maghari nawa ang kalayaan at katarungan sa aming bansa.

Nagsusumamo kami sa Inyo rito sa Senado na kami ay Inyong bigkisin at pag-isahin bilang instrumento sa pagpapaunlad ng mga biyayang Inyong iginawad sa amin, nang aming lubusang maihatid ang ginhawa ng Inyong pagmamahal para sa bawat Pilipino.

Ito po ay aming hinihiling sa ngalan ng Inyong anak na si Hesus.

Amen.

The President. Amen.

ROLL CALL

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	*

* Unable to attend the session as she was under detention

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	Absent
Senator Risa Hontiveros	Present
Senator Panfilo “Ping” M. Lacson ...	Present
Senator Manuel “Lito” M. Lapid	Present
Senator Imee R. Marcos.....	Present
Senator Emmanuel “Manny”	

D. Pacquiao	Present**
Senator Francis “Kiko”	

N. Pangilinan	Present
Senator Aquilino “Koko” L.	

Pimentel III.....	Present**
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Senator Grace Poe	Present
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Senator Ralph G. Recto	Present**
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Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.	Present
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Senator Francis “Tol” N. Tolentino...	Present**
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Senator Joel Villanueva	Present
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Senator Cynthia A. Villar	Present
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Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri	Present
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The President	Present
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The President. With 18 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 25th session, Monday, September 23, 2019, and consider it approved.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUESTS

Senator Zubiri. Mr. President, we have special guests here with us today in the VIP area of the gallery, particularly the former Supreme Court Justice and now the governor of Marinduque, Gov. Presbitero Velasco Jr., together with Gov. Melchor Diclas of Benguet and our former colleague in the House of Representatives, now governor of Eastern Samar, Gov. Ben Evardone.

We also have with us Mayor Shameem Mastura of Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, and other political leaders from Aklan, namely: Vice Mayor

** Arrived after the roll call

PAGHILOM” FOR ROAD CRASH VICTIMS,
SURVIVORS, AND FAMILIES

Introduced by Senator Poe

The President. Referred to the Committee on
Public Services

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1070, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE RULES AND
POLICIES ON THE DOMESTIC
ADMINISTRATIVE ADOPTION PROCEEDING
OF FILIPINO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Poe

The President. Referred to the Committees on
Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender
Equality; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural
Development; and Finance

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 1071, entitled

AN ACT PROFESSIONALIZING PARALEGAL
PRACTICE IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING
FOR THIS PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL
REGULATORY BOARD OF PARALEGALS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

The President. Referred to the Committees on
Civil Service, Government Reorganization and
Professional Regulation; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

The Secretary. Proposed Senate Resolution No.
141, entitled

RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING
BATCH SAKABYAS: THE PHILIPPINE
CONTINGENT TO THE 46TH SHIP FOR THE
SOUTHEAST ASIAN AND JAPANESE YOUTH
PROGRAM (SSEAYP)

Introduced by Senator Angara

The President. Referred to the Committee on
Rules

The Secretary. Proposed Senate Resolution No.
142, entitled

RESOLUTION HONORING AND COMMENDING
THE FILIPINO TEACHERS FOR THEIR HARD
WORK AND COMMITMENT TO SHAPING
THE LEARNERS OF ALL GENERATIONS

Introduced by Senator Revilla

The President. Referred to the Committee on
Rules

The Secretary. Proposed Senate Resolution No.
143, entitled

A RESOLUTION GETTING THE SENSE OF THE
SENATE IN SUPPORTING THE YOUTH
STRIKE FOR CLIMATE ON SEPTEMBER 20-
27, 2019, ITS CALLS, AND ITS SUCCEEDING
STEPS TOWARDS CLIMATE ACTION

Introduced by Senator Hontiveros

The President. Referred to the Committee on
Rules

We have an unfinished business. The Majority
Leader is recognized.

Senator Zubiri. Thank you, Mr. President.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF GUEST

We also have a guest with us, Justice Franklin
Demonteverde, who will be with us tomorrow in
the Commission on Appointments for the
position in the JBC as a representative.

The President. Yes, we welcome Justice
Demonteverde.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 1043—Postponing the May 2020 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan Elections (Continuation)

Senator Zubiri. Mr. President, I move that we
resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1043 as
reported out under Committee Report No. 4.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence]
There being none, the resumption of
consideration of Senate Bill No. 1043 is now in
order.

Senator Zubiri. This is an Act Postponing the
May 2020 Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan
Elections.

Mr. President, the parliamentary status of the
measure is that we closed the period of
interpellations yesterday.

I move that we open the period for amendments.

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

Senator Zubiri. May we recognize the sponsor,
Sen. Imee Marcos, for the period for committee
amendments.

The President. Sen. Imee Marcos is recognized.

MARCOS AMENDMENTS

Senator Marcos. Thank you, very much, Mr.
President, Majority Leader.

Following the vigorous and enlightening debates
on the past few days and submitting to the
greater wisdom of this Chamber, I will no longer
be introducing committee amendments, but
instead, be proposing the following individual
amendments, as recommended by our members,
the matters of which arose during the period of
interpellations:

Firstly, page 2, line 2, delete the date “October
23, 2017”, and replace it with the words THE
SECOND MONDAY OF MAY 2020.

On the same page, line 3, delete the phrase “the
second Monday of 2018” and replace it with the
date DECEMBER 5, 2022.

On page 2, line 5, delete the phrase “SECOND
MONDAY OF MAY, 2023...”

The President. Wait, Senator Marcos. Let us
start with...

Senator Marcos. One by one. All right.

The President. If these are individual
amendments and our colleagues have proposed
amendments also, let us start with page 1.

Senator Marcos. All right.

The President. On page 1. Any amendments
on page 1? Except for the title, of course.

Hearing none, we will proceed to page 2.

Senator Marcos. All right. My apologies. I was
told to go page by page, but there are several
individual amendments on the different pages.

On page 2, line 2, delete the date “October 23,
2017”, and replace it with the words THE
SECOND MONDAY OF MAY 2020.

The President. SECOND MONDAY OF MAY
2020.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President.

The President. The Minority Leader is
recognized.

Senator Drilon. With the indulgence of the good
sponsor, we find difficulty following the
amendments. If it is not inconvenient, can we
have written copies of the amendments?

The President. Before we go into the page by
page.

Senator Drilon. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. All right. Let us provide the
members. In the meantime...

Senator Marcos. My apologies, Mr. President,
Minority Leader. I was under the impression
that the pages had distributed the written
version, but I will follow up and make sure they
give them to the members now.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

The President. In the meantime, with the
permission of the Body, we suspend the session
for one minute, if there is no objection. *[There
was none.]*

It was 3:13 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Marcos is recognized. Continue on page
2 on the period of individual amendments.

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

For purposes of clarity, I repeat, on page 2, line
2, delete the date “October 23, 2017” and
replace it with the words THE SECOND
MONDAY OF MAY 2020.

I so move, Mr. President.

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

Senator Marcos. On the same page, line 3, we
delete the phrase “the second Monday of May
2018” and replace it with the date DECEMBER
5, 2022.

The President. December 5, 2022.

Senator Marcos. December 5, 2022 shall be the date of the next barangay and SK elections.

I so move, Mr. President.

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

Senator Marcos. On page 2, line 5, we delete the phrase "SECOND MONDAY OF MAY 2023" and replace it with the phrase FIRST MONDAY OF DECEMBER 2025 and every three (3) years thereafter.

As recommended by the Minority Leader and other members, we seek to regularize the elections of the barangay and the SK, no longer postponing it habitually.

I so move, Mr. President.

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

Senator Marcos. On page 2, once again, line 6, we remove the open and close brackets ([]) of the phrase "three (3) years".

I so move, Mr. President.

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

Senator Marcos. On the same page, line 14, we replace "MAY 2023" once again with the same date of the next elections, DECEMBER 5, 2022.

I so move, Mr. President.

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

Senator Marcos. On the same page, finally, line 15, we delete the words "June 30" and in lieu thereof, insert the words JANUARY 31 as the assumption into office of the barangay officials.

I so move, Mr. President.

The President. All right. the Minority Leader is recognized.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, will the good sponsor accept the following amendment to her amendment? Instead of JANUARY 31, we propose that it be JANUARY 1 because the election is on December 5 and there is no reason for a very long gap between the election and the assumption of office. We propose an amendment

that instead of JANUARY 31 as the date of the assumption, it should be JANUARY 1.

The President. What does the sponsor say?

Senator Marcos. Mr. President, this was the date that we first recommended, January 1, but as it is usually in the middle of the holiday and it is a holiday itself, it may be difficult.

What is the gentleman's pleasure?

Senator Drilon. There is no difficulty especially that this is only a barangay. This is the smallest unit of governance. There is no need for a very lengthy turnover period and for symmetry, it is better that we do it on January 1 so that the term of office starts on January 1. So for three years...

The President. Every three years.

Senator Drilon. Every three years, Mr. President.

We so move, Mr. President. We submit it to the sponsor.

Senator Marcos. Mr. President, with all due respect, January 1 is usually the date following much revelry, drinking, and carousing. The barangays and the SKs urge that we can meet midway at January 15.

Senator Drilon. I cannot understand, Mr. President, the resistance. Anyway, I have a motion, an amendment to the amendment. I think the procedure should be, if the good sponsor so rejects it, I appeal to the Floor. I will ask for a vote.

The President. The proposed amendment of the sponsor is that it be January 31. As of now, she is amenable to January 15. Do I take it that the good sponsor's proposal now really is for this amendment to be January 15?

Senator Marcos. I think January 15 is quite reasonable so there will not be an extended period between proclamation and assumption.

The President. All right. The Minority Leader is proposing that it be January 1. Is the good sponsor willing to accept the proposal to the amendment?

Senator Marcos. There is a great deal of resistance to January 1, Mr. President. It was my proposal in the beginning because many of the officials concerned will be coming from fiestas and other far, far away barrios and may not be in the best condition to commence office.

The President. So, the amendment of the Minority Leader is unacceptable to the sponsor.

What is the gentleman's pleasure?

Senator Drilon. I appeal to the Floor.

The President. The gentleman appeals to the Floor. The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Zubiri. I ask for a one-minute suspension, Mr. President.

The President. Yes.

Senator Zubiri. I ask for a one-minute suspension.

The President. Session is suspended.

Yes, Senator Lacson is recognized.

Senator Lacson. What time on January 1 or January 15? Is it noon time or 0001?

The President. 12:00 noon of January.

Senator Marcos. *Kung noon time, siguro naman...*

Senator Lacson. Noon time.

Senator Drilon. Yes, we can insert the phrase noon time of January 1.

The President. *Mahirap iyong noon time, 12:00 noon na.*

Senator Drilon. 12:00 noon, *sige.*

The President. Noon time could be 1:00 p.m.

Senator Drilon. *Sige,* Mr. President, 12:00 noon. I am sorry.

The President. Twelve noon of January 1, that is the gentleman's proposal. What does the sponsor say, unacceptable?

Senator Zubiri. May I ask for a one-minute suspension.

Senator Marcos. All right. We therefore amend to the amendment—the new date of January 1, on or before noon.

The President. *Huwag mo nang i-on* or before 12:00 noon. Will assume office at 12:00 noon.

Senator Marcos. AT NOON TIME OF JANUARY 1.

I so move.

The President. *Iyan.*

Senator Zubiri. So, there is no conflict, Mr. President?

The President. No more conflict.

Senator Zubiri. The sponsor agrees to the amendment of the Minority Leader.

The President. Yes. The wording to the amendment is 12:00 NOON OF JANUARY 1 and every three years thereafter also.

Senator Zubiri. No need to divide the House.

The President. The amendment is 12:00 NOON OF JANUARY 1.

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

Senator Marcos may proceed, subject to style.

Senator Marcos. For the sixth amendment, on the same page, line 18...

The President. Senator Marcos.

Senator Marcos. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. Before we proceed, there is a request by the Secretariat for you to read how it will appear now, the entire Section 1 and Section 2.

Senator Marcos. All right. The entire Section 1 shall read as follows:

"Section 1. Date of Election. – There shall be synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections, which shall be held on July 15, 2002. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the last Monday of October 2007 and every three (3) years thereafter: *Provided,* That the barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections on THE SECOND MONDAY OF MAY 2020 shall be postponed to DECEMBER 5, 2022. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the FIRST MONDAY OF DECEMBER 2025 and every three (3) years thereafter."

That is Section 1.

The President. So, it has practically deleted the one year following the national election thereafter. You are no longer...

Senator Marcos. Yes, we are no longer insisting on the one-year gap between the national and

barangay elections given that the Comelec said that they can live with close to seven months.

The President. All right. So, period. Now, Section 2, as proposed.

Senator Marcos. All right.

“Section 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

Section 4. Assumption of Office. – The term of office of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected under this Act shall commence at noon of June 30 next following their election: *Provided, however,* That the term of office of the barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials elected in the DECEMBER 5, 2022 elections and subsequently thereafter, shall commence at noon of JANUARY 1 next following their election.”

I so move if that is acceptable to the Minority Leader and the other members.

The President. At 12:00 noon?

Senator Marcos. Yes.

The President. “At noon” *na lamang. Iyon ang nasa* Constitution—“at noon.”

All right, at noon; remove the “12”.

Senator Marcos. To repeat and reiterate, shall commence at noon of JANUARY 1 next following their election.

Is that correct, Mr. President?

The President. Yes, it is correct and clear. Now, we can proceed with the next amendment, still on page 2.

Senator Marcos. The eighth amendment on the same page, line 18, after the word “barangay”, may we please add the words AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN.

I so move, Mr. President.

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

Senator Marcos. On the same page, line 19, after the word “barangay”, may we please add once again the words AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN.

I so move, Mr. President.

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

Senator Marcos. On the same page, line 21, we seek to delete the comma (,) after the word “Panlalawigan”.

I so move, Mr. President, a mere matter of style.

The President. Editorial amendment, yes.

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

Senator Marcos. On the same page and line, we delete the phrase “as the case may be,” no longer being relevant, I so move, Mr. President.

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

Senator Marcos. On page 2, line 22, let us replace the phrase “the next barangay election” with JUNE 30, 2020.

I so move, Mr. President.

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

Senator Marcos. On page 2, line 23, after the word “Barangay”, may we please add AND THE PEDERASYON NG SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN.

I so move, Mr. President.

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

Senator Marcos. And on the same page, lines 23 and 24, let us replace the date “July 31, 2023” with JUNE 30, 2020.

I so move, Mr. President.

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

Senator Marcos. On the same page, line 24, we insert a period (.), a matter of style, after the word “Sanggunians”.

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

Senator Marcos. On the same page, lines 24 and 25, we delete the phrase “under the supervision of the Department of Interior and Local Government”.

I so move, Mr. President.

The President. Is there any objection?

Senator Tolentino is recognized.

Senator Tolentino. May we know from the sponsor the rationale behind the deletion of the phrase “under the supervision of the Department of Interior and Local Government”?

Considering that it is the action emanating from the DILG provincial officers, DILG city, local government officers, and even DILG regional officers that would trigger the actual conduct of federation elections, and without whose actions probably, the local government officials specifically, the governors, the mayors would not move specifically as it would entail additional Comelec “neutral work” for the conduct of such federation election, Mr. President. May we know the rationale behind the deletion of the phrase?

Senator Marcos. Mr. President, following consultation with the Comelec as well as the DILG, the word “supervision” could be confusing inasmuch as both the barangay and the SK have their own electoral mechanisms. The role of the DILG would simply be to monitor the same and not directly supervise the exercise of voting.

Senator Tolentino. Mr. President, would the sponsor agree that the calling, the timing, the venue, as well as the mechanics, have been historically and traditionally conducted by the Department of the Interior and Local Government?

Senator Marcos. I think, Mr. President, it is the SK that has established its own electoral mechanism and the DILG does not directly supervise the elections any longer. The barangay is the same; it has its own mechanism. And they enjoin us that we delete “under the supervision of the Department of Interior and Local Government”.

Senator Tolentino. So, Mr. President, as long as the mechanics would be laid down under, perhaps, the IRR of this law, I think the DILG should have a direct participation in all of these federation elections.

Senator Marcos. All right. I think the IRR would be the proper location for said mechanics as well as they implement the existing laws that govern the same.

Senator Tolentino. Because, Mr. President, usually it is the MLGOO, CLGOO, and the provincial counterparts who would initiate the conduct of the elections. But with the explanation coming from the sponsor, I think I

accept the rationale for the deletion of the said phrase.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Marcos. Thank you very much, Senator Tolentino. And we shall simply, at this point, remind the DILG as well as the Comelec to indicate the precise role of the DILG following the intent of the Barangay and SK Reform Acts.

Senator Zubiri. May we recognize the Senate President Pro Tempore, Mr. President?

The President. Senator Ralph Recto is recognized.

Senator Recto. Thank you, Mr. President.

Just an inquiry, Mr. President. What stage are we in right now? Is this a committee amendment or...

The President. Period of individual amendments.

Senator Recto. And I understand that we are already on page 2, Mr. President?

The President. Yes.

Senator Recto. And I understand that we have already approved that the election will be held on December 5, 2022, is that correct, Mr. President?

The President. Yes.

Senator Recto. And therefore, there will be two elections in 2022, Mr. President?

The President. Yes.

Senator Recto. We will have the presidential in May, and the barangay elections in December?

The President. Yes.

Senator Recto. And when we had this in the past, Mr. President, as I mentioned yesterday, two elections in one year, chances are, this will be postponed again. Because the Comelec has said, even during the hearings, that they would prefer a separate year for the barangay elections.

Senator Marcos. Mr. President.

The President. Yes, Senator Marcos.

Senator Marcos. To clarify on Senator Recto’s query—we have consulted with the Comelec—having reservations about extending their terms

so long already as indicated by the good gentleman from Batangas yesterday. And upon consultation with the Comelec, they said that no failure of election and other such problems has occurred in 2010 would repeat if they were given more than six months. It is the printing, distribution, and verification of ballots phases that take over four and a half months. In this case, we have given six and a half months, which they consider sufficient time.

The President. And this is manual?

Senator Marcos. That is correct, Mr. President. It is manual; it is not hybrid. So, the long period of developing the source codes will no longer be required.

Senator Recto. But it will be easier for the Comelec if they were to conduct the elections a year after or a year before, is that correct?

Senator Marcos. That is correct, Mr. President.

I actually offered in my bill one whole year, also rendering simultaneous all the terms of office. However, the concern of many of our members, including our Minority Leader, was that the extension of term would be so long.

Senator Recto. Yes, but the difference is only five or six months. Because the original bill was May of 2023, and there is a reasonable chance of having that election not postponed because it is a year after.

Senator Marcos. Yes. We are giving them close to seven months, Mr. President. So, there is a difference of five months.

Senator Recto. Yes. My fear, Mr. President, is that if we conduct the elections for the barangay in December of 2022, there would be two national elections held in that year — one in May, one in December. The future President, whoever that may be, will come back to Congress and we are not finding a permanent solution here in this case, and ask again for a postponement of the barangay election. So, the initial fear that we are giving too long an extension period will probably be even worst at that point in time when they will request for an extension again of the term of office of barangay.

Senator Marcos. Yes, Mr. President.

Senator Recto. So, when we had this in the past, normally, if it is within one year, we ask for a postponement. That has been the history. So, I would have preferred May 2023 or May 2021, Mr. President.

The President. The May 2023 was the original committee report but our colleagues, particularly the Minority Leader, suggested six months instead because they have been in office for too long.

Senator Marcos. Yes. Mr. President, Senator Recto, Majority Leader, as the gentlemen may have read, the original committee report as well as my own bill indicated May 2023. However, upon prodding, both during the hearings for the Comelec budget as well as in consideration of our members' concern, that the extension was excessive if it reached May 2023, we have come up with the work program that starts October 21 working backwards and it brought us at the earliest date of December 2022.

So, six and a half months or so, apparently, is a short period. The Comelec will be pressed for time but they claim that they can do it without undue failure of elections and other problems.

Senator Zubiri. To add to the discussion, with the permission of the two Senators, it was a compromise because, initially, some of the bills that were filed were October of 2022, and it was too close to May of 2022. And, therefore, there was another proposal that it will be made on May of 2023, but many of us felt that it would have been too long of a term. It would have been almost close to seven years seated as a barangay chair.

Senator Recto. Mr. President, I will no longer prolong the issue or prolong this point. But, let it not be said that I did not put into *Record* that there is a higher probability of postponing again this election for the next administration when they get to power after May of 2022.

With that, thank you, Majority Leader; thank you, Mr. President.

The President. All right. So, are we still on page 2, sponsor?

Senator Marcos. Yes, Mr. President.

The President. The motion is to delete lines 24 to 25 from the word "under" up to the word "Government;".

Senator Marcos. I so move, Mr. President.

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

Senator Marcos. Yes. For purposes of recording and for clarity with our Secretariat, may I read the entire Section 3 on Hold Over once again.

“Until their successors shall have been duly elected and qualified, all incumbent barangay AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN officials,—that is the first amendment in that section—shall remain in office, unless sooner removed or suspended for cause: *Provided*, That barangay AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN officials who are *ex officio* members of the Sangguniang Bayan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, or Sangguniang Panlalawigan shall continue to serve as such members in the Sanggunian concerned until JUNE 30, 2020. — This is another amendment referring to the previous Act and the term. — The Liga ng mga Barangay AND THE PEDERASYON NG SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN at the municipal, city, and provincial levels shall, not later than JUNE 30, 2020, conduct election for *ex officio* positions in the Sanggunians.”

I so move, Mr. President.

The President. Yes, it is already amended and accepted.

All right. Is there any other amendment?

Senator Marcos. With that, Mr. President and Majority Leader, I have no further amendments.

Thank you.

Senator Zubiri. Mr. President, before we close the period of amendments, may we request the sponsor, together with the Secretariat, to give us clean copies of the measure.

The President. As amended.

Senator Zubiri. As amended, Mr. President.

May we ask for a one-minute suspension, Mr. President.

The President. The Minority Leader is recognized before the suspension.

Senator Drilon. Point of inquiry, Mr. President.

Are we going to approve this this afternoon, Mr. President?

The President. Hopefully. [*Stricken off the record*]

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Senator Zubiri. Mr. President, I move that we suspend the session for one minute to prepare the clean copy.

The President. I do not think one minute is enough to prepare a clean copy.

Senator Zubiri. One Senate minute, Mr. President.

The President. One Senate minute is enough.

Senator Zubiri. Yes, Mr. President.

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

It was 3:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:31 p.m., the session was resumed.

The President. The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Zubiri. Actually, Mr. President, before we suspended, the parliamentary status of the measure is that we are in the period of amendments. We already have a clean copy of the amendments done by Senator Marcos.

We would like to ask our colleagues if they are all right with the amendments so that we can close the period of amendments.

Mr. President, I ask that we recognize Sen. Ralph G. Recto.

The President. Sen. Ralph G. Recto is recognized.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR RECTO

Senator Recto. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

Mr. President, this is just a manifestation since I was late entering the hall earlier. If the chairperson was not yet in the point in time of introducing her individual amendments, I would have proposed certain amendments.

Mr. President, just to put on the record, I would have proposed this:

On page 1, line 1, replace the entire Section 1 with the following:

“Section 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

SECTION 1. Date of Election. – There shall be synchronized barangay and sangguniang

kabataan elections, which shall be held on July 15, 2002. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the last Monday of October 2007 and every three (3) years thereafter: *Provided*, That the barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections on October 23, 2017 shall be postponed to the second Monday of May 2018. Subsequent synchronized barangay and sangguniang kabataan elections shall be held on the SECOND MONDAY OF MAY 2023 and every SIX (6) YEARS thereafter.”

It would have been my first amendment, Mr. President. Meaning to say, the term of barangay would be six years.

Senator Marcos. Mr. President, *bakit magiging* six years?

Senator Recto. No, that would have been my proposed amendment, Mr. President.

The President. That would have been your proposal, and then?

Senator Recto. So that we fix the problem, Mr. President. *Hindi na lamang iyong tuwing* administration, we keep on postponing the elections.

Mr. President, my second amendment would have been to insert a new Section 2 to read as follows:

“Sec. 2. Section 2 of Republic Act No. 9164, as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

SECTION 2. *Term of Office.* – The term of office of all barangay and sangguniang kabataan officials after the MAY 2023 ELECTIONS shall be SIX (6) years: *PROVIDED, THAT* No barangay elective official shall serve for more than TWO (2) consecutive terms in the same position.”

I would have been open to an amendment to one term.

“*PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE SANGGUNIAN KABATAAN ELECTIVE OFFICIALS SHALL HOLD OFFICE FOR ONE (1) TERM. Provided, FINALLY,* That the term of office shall be reckoned from 2013 barangay elections FOR BARANGAY ELECTIVE OFFICIALS AND 2018 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS FOR SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIVE OFFICIALS. Voluntary renunciation of office for any length of time shall not be considered as an interruption in the continuity of service for the full term for which the elective official was elected.”

Mr. President, I would have proposed this so that there would be no future postponements, a six-year term, two consecutive terms, may be open to the idea of a one term for the barangay officials, Mr. President.

So, it is just a manifestation.

Thank you, Mr. President.

Senator Marcos. Thank you, Mr. President.

We appreciate that. There will be a bicam. As we have heard that the House has just passed its own version. And, certainly, the extension of terms not only for barangay officials, but for other local officials—mayors and governors—is a position that I, too, maintain.

Senator Zubiri. Thank you, Mr. President.

Since no other member wishes to amend the measure, I move that we close the period of amendments, Mr. President.

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

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1043 ON SECOND READING

Senator Zubiri. Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1043 under Committee Report No. 4, as amended.

The President. Is there any objection? *[Silence]* There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1043, as amended.

As many as are in favor of the bill, say *aye*.

Several Members. *Aye*.

The President. As many as are against the bill, say *nay*. *[Silence]*

Senate Bill No. 1043, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1043

Senator Zubiri. Thank you, Mr. President.

I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1043.

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