

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1991

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 4:25 p.m., the Honorable Jovito R. Salonga, President of the Senate, called the session to order.

The President. Binubuksan ang pulong ng Senado.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Sa kagandahang loob ni Mayor Lita Nuñez, aawitin ng City Hall Choir ng General Santos City ang "Pambansang Awit" at "Think Mindanao", at pagkatapos ay pangungunahan tayo sa panalangin ni Senador Sotero H. Laurel.

Everybody rose for the singing of the National Anthem and remained standing for the opening prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Laurel.

Almighty God:

We praise You. We adore You. We seek Your divine help.

When we took our oath of office more than five years ago, we vowed to serve You and our people and not to fall prey to temptation, self-exaltation, and self-aggrandizement or delusion of power.

Now that our term as Senators of our Republic is about to close, we ask ourselves if we have lived up to the expectations of the people whom we have vowed to serve.

Have we served them to the best of our abilities? Have we served them with honesty, candor, honor and dignity? Have we provided them with the kind of leadership that they badly need?

If we have not, then, Lord, show us what and how to do in the remaining days left to us in this Chamber. But,

* Arrived after the roll call

if it be too late, then we pray that the forthcoming electoral exercise be peaceful, clean, and honest so that those who are more deserving than we are may be chosen to serve in our place.

For our people, dear Lord, we pray.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

The President. Babasahin ng Kalihim ang talaan ng mga Senador.

The Secretary.

Senator Heherson T. Alvarez	Present
Senator Edgardo J. Angara	Present
Senator Agapito A. Aquino	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Present
Senator Joseph Ejercito Estrada	Present
Senator Neptali A. Gonzales	Present
Senator Teofisto T. Guingona, Jr.	Present
Senator Ernesto F. Herrera	Present
Senator Sotero H. Laurel	Present
Senator Jose D. Lina, Jr.	Present
Senator Ernesto M. Maceda	Present
Senator Orlando S. Mercado	Present*
Senator John H. Osmeña	Present
Senator Vicente T. Paterno	Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel, Jr.	Present
Senator Santanina T. Rasul	Present
Senator Alberto G. Romulo	Present
Senator Rene A.V. Saguisag	Present
Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani	Present
Senator Mamintal Abdul J. Tamano	Present
Senator Wigberto E. Tañada	Present
Senator Victor S. Ziga	Present*
The President	Present

The President. Dalawamput-isang Senador ang dumalo sa ating pagpupulong; mayroon tayong korum.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Guingona. I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the previous session and consider the same as approved.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence]

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. The Majority Floor Leader.

BILL ON THIRD READING
Senate Bill No. 234 - Urban Development
and Social Housing Program

Senator Guingona. If there are no further comments, Mr. President, I move that we vote on Third Reading for the consideration of Senate Bill No. 234. Copies of the bill were duly distributed to all the Members of the Senate on December 2, 1991.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Voting on Third Reading on Senate Bill No. 234 is now in order. The Secretary will please read only the title of the bill, if there is no objection. *[There was none.]*

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 234, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL HOUSING PROGRAM, PROVIDE FOR A SOCIAL HOUSING TAX, APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. The Senate will now proceed to vote on the bill. The Secretary will please call the roll.

The Secretary called the roll and the result of the voting was as follows:

YES - 20

Senator Angara
 Senator Aquino
 Senator Enrile
 Senator Estrada
 Senator Gonzales
 Senator Guingona
 Senator Herrera
 Senator Laurel
 Senator Lina
 Senator Maceda*

Senator Mercado*
 Senator Osmeña
 Senator Paterno
 Senator Rasul
 Senator Romulo*
 Senator Saguisag
 Senator Shahani
 Senator Tamano
 Senator Tañada
 Senator Ziga

* With explanation of vote

NO - 0

ABSTENTION - 0

EXPLANATION OF VOTE OF SENATOR MERCADO

Senator Mercado. G. Pangulo, may ilang mga dahilan kung bakit ako po ay naging Coauthor ng panukalang batas na ito, at ngayon nga ay bumoboto na pabor sa panukalang batas na ito. *[Applause]*

Sa kasalukuyang mga problemang kinakaharap ng ating mga kababayan, ang pinakamabigat na problema ay ang kawalan ng tirahan. Alam ko po ang problemang ito, dahil dati kaming squatter. Ako ay ipinanganak at lumaki sa Fabie, Paco, Maynila, na kung saan ang aking ama na isang migrant mula sa Leyte ay unang nagtayo ng kubo malapit sa riles ng tren.

Noong siya ay maging public school teacher, ipinapunta na sa amin ang lupang ito. Matagal nang panahon naming naririnig, mula noong ako ay bata pa, sa mga pulitiko ang kanilang pangako na magiging amin ang lupang iyon. Tumanda na po ako, pero hindi naging totoo iyon. Noon lamang 1978 akong nagkapalad na mabili ang maliit na lupaing iyon para sa aking mga magulang.

Bagamat ang aking puso ay para sa mga iskwater, dapat rin nating intindihin na sa paggawa ng mga batas na ito ay kinakailangang balansehin din natin ang mga karapatan ng iba't ibang sektor.

Hindi naman maaaring ipikit na lamang natin ang ating mga mata sa mga karapatan ng mga bumibili ng lupa; kadalasan ay mga empleyado na naghuhulog buwan-buwan. Ang panukalang-batas na ito ay mahalaga bagamat maaaring ito ay masakit sa mga mayroong malalaking mga lupain. Sa kasalukuyang kalagayan natin ay kinakailangang gawin natin ito, bagamat mayroon pong masasaktan.

Kaya ang aking boto ay isang maliwanag na maliwanag na Oo sa panukalang-batas na ito. *[Applause]*

Senator Maceda. Mr. President, in voting Yes, I would like to submit a written explanation of my vote.

The following is the written Explanation of Vote of

Senator Maceda:

EXPLANATION OF AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF
SENATOR ERNESTO M. MACEDA ON SENATE
BILL NO. 234, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE URBAN
DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIAL HOUSING
PROGRAM, PROVIDE FOR A SOCIAL
HOUSING TAX, APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR
THE PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

The yearly exodus to urban areas by rural dwellers especially in Metro Manila, in search of livelihood opportunities exacerbates the already burgeoning problem of lack of mass housing facilities to accommodate the upsurge of urban population. People are squatting in all open spaces as long as nobody checks them at first. We are witness to the proliferation of shanties in river embankments in Quiapo and most of Metro Manila. Suburban public plazas are not exempted. Private lots that are left unoccupied suddenly sprout squatter colonies in no time at all.

All because these people cannot afford to rent a house at the present rate of rentals. They live an abject life shorn of many necessities, from lack of education to adequate food, medicine, dress, shelter. They belong to the lowest 30 percent of the poorest of the Philippines; squatters in their own homeland where land abound.

We have a situational gravamen here requiring its address. The twin requirements of housing and jobs are badly needed. We cannot be indifferent to the plight of our poor countrymen, their bleak shanties being inhumanly demolished and their belongings strewn all over, the majesty of the Government pointed at them through the barrels of guns. All because they are so poor as not to afford to even rent a small room.

It is a cruel structural injustice in which our poor countrymen are virtually forced to squat and become legal criminals, because they cannot afford legal housing and they then become prey to exploitations of professional squatters, of illegal housing syndicates and of unscrupulous politicians. Even the property owners' legitimate exercise of right to private property is likewise hindered by not facing squarely and seriously this situation.

We know that this imbalance in population density is mainly due to economic and peace and order considerations.

Senator Enrile. Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Senator Enrile is recognized.

Senator Enrile. I vote Yes, Mr. President. [Applause]

Senator Romulo. Mr. President.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Senator Romulo.

Senator Romulo. May I inquire as to how my vote was registered?

The Secretary. It was an affirmative vote.

Senator Romulo. Well, I am voting Yes, and I would like to submit my written explanation on why we should approve this bill. [Applause]

The Secretary. Senator Tañada.

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. Yes.

Senator Gonzales is recognized.

Senator Gonzales. May I know how my vote was recorded.

The Secretary. It was an affirmative vote.

Senator Gonzales. I affirm that affirmative vote. [Applause]

RESULT OF VOTING

The Presiding Officer [Senator Tañada]. With 20 affirmative votes, no negative vote, and no abstention, Senate Bill No. 234 is approved on Third Reading. [Applause]

Senator Guingona. Mr. President, in order to con-