



**Republic of the Philippines**  
**SENATE**  
**Pasay City**

# JOURNAL

SESSION NO. 63  
MONDAY, 20 MARCH 2023



NINETEENTH CONGRESS  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

PREPARED BY THE  
LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL SERVICE  
SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES

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**SESSION NO. 63**  
Monday, March 20, 2023

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:17 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Miguel “Migz” F. Zubiri, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

Sen. Imee R. Marcos led the prayer, to wit:

*Dakilang Diyos, salamat po sa tuluyang paghupa ng COVID-19 sa aming bansa, pag-angat ng aming ekonomiya, paglakas ng negosyo, at pagdami ng may trabaho,*

*Patawad po sa aming mga pagkukulang sa Inyo, sa aming bayan at pati na rin sa aming mga pamilya.*

*Ingatan Ninyo po ang mga namumuno sa aming bayan, lalung-lalo na ang aming mga senador at protektahan kami laban sa mga kapahamakan, kalamidad, at mga sakunang kagaya ng oil spill sa Mindoro na sana ay makontrol na, ang ASF, ang agri-smuggling, at inaasahang hamon ng tagtuyot*

*Hiling namin na mapayapang maresolba ang territorial dispute sa West Philippine Sea, hustisya sa Degamo case at iba pang mga krimen.*

*Manguna po sana Kayo para maging matatag kami sa paglutas ng problema ng aming bansa at pamilya.*

*Idinadalangin din namin ang mga kababaihan ng aming bansa, lalo na ang mga solo mothers na mag-isang itinataguyod ang kanilang mga pamilya, ang mga lolang patuloy sa pag-aruga ng kanilang mga apo at mga kabataang babae na sa murang gulang pa lamang ay nagtatrabaho na para makatulong sa pamilya.*

*Magsibi pa ring ilaw ng tahanan ang aming mga minamahal na ina at mabigyan sila ng karampatang pagpupugay kahit hindi buwan ng kababaihan.*

*Ito ang dalangin namin sa Pangalan ni Hesus. Amen.*

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra Double Quartet played the national anthem, the Senate Hymn, and the song, entitled "*Hatinggabi*" by National Artist for Music Antonio Jesus N. Molina.

## ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Renato N. Bantug Jr., called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Marcos, I. R.
Cayetano, P. S.	Padilla, R. C.
Dela Rosa, R. B. M.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Poe, G.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Estrada J. E.	Tolentino, F. T. N.
Gatchalian, W.	Tulfo, R. T.
Go, C. L. T.	Villanueva, J.
Hontiveros, R.	Villar, C. A.
Lapid, M. L. M.	Villar, M. A.
Legarda, L.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

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

Senator Binay arrived after the roll call.

Senator Cayetano (A) was on official business to attend engagements with policy experts and scholars at the National University of Singapore from March 20 to 22, 2023, as indicated in the March 20, 2023 letter of his chief of staff.

## APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 62 (March 15, 2023) and considered it approved.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

Senator Villanueva acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the delegation from the German Bundestag, namely: Hon. Gabrielle Katzmarek, chairperson of ASEAN Parliamentary Friendship Group; Hon. Michael Müller; Hon. Andreas Larem; Hon. Jürgen Coâe; and Her Excellency Anke Reiffenstuel, Ambassador of Germany to the Philippines.

Senate President Zubiri informed the Body that the following year would be the 70<sup>th</sup> year of friendship between Germany and Philippines. He welcomed the guests to the Senate.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

With the permission of the Body, the session was suspended to allow the senators to greet the delegation from Germany.

*It was 3:28 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:32 p.m., the session was resumed.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF OTHER GUESTS**

Upon resumption, Senator Villanueva likewise acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests:

- DOF Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno;
- DBM Secretary Amenah F. Pangandaman;
- NEDA Secretary Arsenio Balisacan; BSP Governor Felipe Medalla;
- National Treasurer Rosalia V. De Leon;
- SEC Commissioner McJill Bryant T. Fernandez;
- Nineteen Filipino students who won gold medals at the World International Mathematical Olympiad (WIMO) in Thailand, led by Engr. Karen Sy, president of the Math Olympiads Training League Inc., and their proud parents;
- Officers of the Katipunan ng Liping Pilipina of Gumaca (KALIPI)-Quezon accompanied by Gumaca Mayor Webster D. Letargo and his wife, Justine Espina-Letargo;
- Local government officials from Sta. Maria, Laguna led by Mayor Cindy V. Carolino;
- Local government officials from San Jose, Batangas led by Mayor Valentino "Ben" R. Patron;
- Government Corporate Counsel Rogelio V. Quevedo;
- Family members of Sen. Lapid, namely: Mr. Christopher Lapid, Mr. Florencio dela Cruz, Mr. Antonio de Jesus, Ms. Estelita Daranan, and Ms. Catalina Marquez;
- Local government officials from Magallanes, Cavite led by Mayor Jasmin Angelli Maligaya-Bautista; and
- DAR Assistant Secretary Virgilio L. Mendez.

Senate President Zubiri welcomed the guests to the Senate.

**APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 1841 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, Senate Bill No. 1841, copies of which were electronically distributed to the senators on March 15, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF OUR NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH AN ENHANCED CULTURAL POLICY AND CULTURAL MAPPING PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10066, OR THE "NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF 2009."

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.



**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared Senate Bill No. 1841 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 1594 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, Senate Bill No. 1594, copies of which were electronically distributed to the senators on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ONE TOWN, ONE PRODUCT (OTOP) PHILIPPINES PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared Senate Bill No. 1594 approved on Third Reading.

### **EXPLANATION OF VOTE BY SENATOR HONTIVEROS**

Pursuant to the manifestation of Senator Villanueva, following is the explanation of the affirmative vote of Senator Hontiveros on Senate Bill No. 1594 which was deemed read and inserted into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*:

A short manifestation, just to put it on record.

Under Sec. 11 of the OTOP bill, each LGU is mandated to create OTOP Program Offices.

However, upon inquiry with the sponsor's office, I was informed that this provision will have no adverse effects or unintended consequences for LGUs who are not capable of developing their product offering and/or setting up their own OTOP program offices.

In effect, with the response from the sponsor's office, municipal LGUs with no demonstrated capacities for OTOP may opt out of the program.

I just wanted it to be put on record for consideration by our implementing agencies when they formulate and implement the rules and regulations for the OTOP program.

### **APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 1359 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, Senate Bill No. 1359, copies of which were electronically distributed to the senators on March 15, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF A "NO PERMIT, NO EXAM" POLICY, OR ANY POLICY THAT PREVENTS STUDENTS ENROLLED IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FROM TAKING EXAMINATIONS OR ANY FORM OF EDUCATIONAL ASSESSMENT FOR REASONS OF OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL OR PROPERTY OBLIGATIONS, SUCH AS UNPAID TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.



**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared Senate Bill No. 1359 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4635 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 4635, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 15, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT EXTENDING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE ADIONG MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE FROM THREE (3) YEARS TO FOUR (4) YEARS IN ACCORDANCE WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8292, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "HIGHER EDUCATION MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997," FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7935, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8651.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 4635 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 1864 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, Senate Bill No. 1864, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 15, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MORATORIUM ON THE PAYMENT OF STUDENT  
LOANS DURING DISASTERS AND OTHER EMERGENCIES.**

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared Senate Bill No. 1864 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6660 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 6660, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT SEPARATING THE TUKURAN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL-BACLAY EXTENSION IN BARANGAY BACLAY, MUNICIPALITY OF TUKURAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR FROM THE TUKURAN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BACLAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 6660 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6661 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 6661, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT SEPARATING THE SAPA ANDING NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - RAMON MAGSAYSAY EXTENSION IN BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF RAMON MAGSAYSAY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR FROM THE SAPA ANDING AGRICULTURAL VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 6661 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6668 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 6668, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT SEPARATING THE MARIANO PERALTA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - DATU DANWATA EXTENSION IN BARANGAY DATU DANWATA, MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL FROM THE MARIANO PERALTA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE GASPAR DANWATA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 6668 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6699 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 6699, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 16, 2023..

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT SEPARATING THE ADDANG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL - AMBATUTONG EXTENSION IN BARANGAY BUNOT, MUNICIPALITY OF PARACELIS, PROVINCE OF MOUNTAIN PROVINCE FROM THE ADDANG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE AMBATUTONG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.



**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 6699 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6700 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 6700, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT SEPARATING THE BACoor NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - TABING DAGAT ANNEX IN BARANGAY TABING DAGAT, BACoor CITY, PROVINCE OF CAVITE FROM THE BACoor NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARIANO GOMES NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 6700 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6663 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 6663, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE BUKID ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BUKID, MUNICIPALITY OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BUKID INTEGRATED SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.



**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 6663 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6664 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 6664, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE TRIBAL FILIPINO SCHOOL OF TAMBELANG, KNOWN AS THE TFS OF TAMBELANG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, IN BARANGAY DATU DANWATA, MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE TFS OF TAMBELANG INTEGRATED SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.



**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 6664 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6665 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 6665, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE KIDAMAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY KALBAY, MUNICIPALITY OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE KIDAMAN INTEGRATED SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 6665 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6695 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 6695, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

**AN ACT CONVERTING THE HIBAO-AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY HIBAO-AN SUR, MANDURRIAO DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE HIBAO-AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 6695 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6696 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 6696, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT CONVERTING THE NABITASAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY NABITASAN, LA PAZ DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE NABITASAN INTEGRATED SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 6696 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6669 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 6669, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MABCA, MUNICIPALITY OF SAGÑAY, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE MABCA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 6669 approved on Third Reading.

**APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 6697 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 6697, copies of which were distributed electronically to the senators on March 16, 2023.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Secretary Bantug read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BOLILA, MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE BOLILA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Secretary Bantug called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Angara	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Padilla
Dela Rosa	Pimentel
Ejercito	Poe
Escudero	Revilla
Estrada	Tolentino
Gatchalian	Tulfo
Go	Villanueva
Hontiveros	Villar (C)
Lapid	Villar (M)
Legarda	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 22 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 6697 approved on Third Reading.

**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. 2009, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10583, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT CONVERTING THE MOUNTAIN PROVINCE STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONTOC, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE MOUNTAIN PROVINCE STATE UNIVERSITY, WITH CAMPUSES IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TADIAN, BAUKO, PARCELIS AND BARLIG, ALL LOCATED IN MOUNTAIN PROVINCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committee on Higher, Technical and Vocational Education**

Senate Bill No. 2010, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY LEGODON  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ESPERANZA, PROVINCE OF SULTAN  
KUDARAT

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committees on Local Government; and Electoral Reforms and People's  
Participation**

Senate Bill No. 2011, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL CAMPUS IN  
THE MUNICIPALITY OF LABANGAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL  
SUR, AS PART OF ZAMBOANGA PENINSULA REGION CAMPUS AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committee on Rules**

Senate Bill No. 2012, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY  
LIBUTON IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAWATA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO  
DEL NORTE

Introduced by Senator Marcos

**To the Committee on Rules**

Senate Bill No. 2013, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR WATER  
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF WATER  
RESOURCES AND THE WATER REGULATORY COMMISSION, DEFINING  
THEIR MANDATES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

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

Senate Bill No. 2014, entitled

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE CONTROL AND SUPERVISION OF THE  
PROVINCIAL AND SUB-PROVINCIAL JAILS TO THE BUREAU OF JAIL  
MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN  
PROVISIONS OF 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 Dela Rosa

**To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 2015, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE KAPARKAN FALLS LOCATED IN BARANGAY CAGANAYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TINEG, PROVINCE OF ABRA AN ECOTOURISM SITE, AND ESTABLISHING THE KAPARKAN FALLS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Introduced by Senator Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 2016, entitled

AN ACT MODERNIZING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD MODERNIZATION TRUST FUND AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Estrada

**To the Committees on Public Services; National Defense and Security, Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; and Finance**

## RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 549, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACTS OF NATURAL EXTREME EVENTS, DISASTERS, AND CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, AND THE STATE OF THE GOVERNMENT'S AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE PROGRAMS

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

**To the Committees on Agriculture, Food and Agrarian Reform; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 550, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING FILIPINO ACTRESS DOLLY EARNSHAW DE LEON FOR WINNING ACTING TROPHIES FROM VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL AWARD GIVING BODIES, SCORING HISTORIC NOMINATIONS, AND FOR HER SUCCESSES IN THE INTERNATIONAL FILM CIRCUIT

Introduced by Senator Estrada

**To the Committee on Rules**

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

**BILLS ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 2017, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION COUNCIL, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gatchalian

**To the Committees on Basic Education; Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 2018, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A LEGISLATED WAGE HIKE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

**RESOLUTIONS**

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 9, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION GRANTING CONSENT TO SENATE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE LOREN LEGARDA TO ACCEPT THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN) BIODIVERSITY HEROES AWARD CONFERRED UPON HER BY THE ASEAN

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 551, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND RECOGNIZING FILIPINO OLYMPIAN BOXER CHARLY CORONEL SUAREZ FOR HIS RECENT WIN IN SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 552, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMEMORATING THE 75<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL ON MAY 14, 2023

Introduced by Senator Villanueva

**To the Committee on Rules**

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 56 submitted jointly by the Committees on Migrant Workers; and Foreign Relations re: Speech of Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada on the case of Jullebee Ranara, and Proposed Senate Resolution No. 448, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION TO REVISIT, RE-EXAMINE AND REVIEW THE EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND STANDARD EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT GOVERNING OFWS IN KUWAIT, WITH THE END VIEW OF ESTABLISHING STRICTER POLICIES, PREVENTIVE MEASURES AND APPLICABLE SANCTIONS OR BAN IN THE DEPLOYMENT OF OFWS IN KUWAIT,

recommending the adoption of this report and the implementation of its recommendations.

Sponsor: Senator Tulfo

### **To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

Committee Report No. 57, prepared and submitted by the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development, on Senate Bill No. 2019, with Senators Legarda, Angara, Tolentino, Revilla Jr., and Estrada as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING POLICIES FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CAREGIVERS IN THE PRACTICE OF THEIR PROFESSION,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 828, 1002, 1396, 1430 and 1440, taking into consideration House Bill No. 227.

Sponsor: Senator Estrada

### **To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

Committee Report No. 58, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Ways and Means; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 2020, with Senators Villar (M) and Tulfo as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MAHARLIKA INVESTMENT FUND, PROVIDING FOR THE MANAGEMENT, INVESTMENT, AND USE OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1670 and 1814, taking into consideration House Bill No. 6608.

Sponsor: Senator Villar (M)

### **To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

## **SPECIAL ORDER**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 58 on Senate Bill No. 2020 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 58 ON SENATE BILL NO. 2020**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 2020 (Committee Report No. 58), entitled

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MAHARLIKA INVESTMENT FUND, PROVIDING FOR THE MANAGEMENT, INVESTMENT, AND USE OF THE PROCEEDS OF THE FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

The Chair recognized Senator Villar (M) for the sponsorship.

**SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR VILLAR (M)**

Senator Villar (M), on behalf of the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies, submitted, and delivered his sponsorship speech for plenary consideration Senate Bill No. 2020, entitled "An Act Establishing the Maharlika Investment Fund, Providing for the Management, Investment, and Use of the Proceeds of the Fund, and for Other Purposes," under Committee Report No. 58:

It is my honor and privilege to sponsor Senate Bill No. 2020 under Committee Report No. 58, otherwise known as the Maharlika Investment Fund Act.

The Philippine economy is now at a critical period of recovery and growth. Before the pandemic, the country was heading toward becoming one of the fastest-rising economies in the region. The government was able to bring infrastructure development back to the fore after years of underinvestment. Our fiscal health was stronger than ever, with our debt-to-GDP ratio reaching a record low of 39.6% in 2019. Reforms to improve our tax system and Ease of Doing Business allowed us to build a business environment conducive to long-term growth.

Our strong macroeconomic fundamentals enabled us to provide support to those who need it most during the pandemic, without significantly compromising our physical health. But the journey toward our long-term goals of reducing poverty and raising the quality of life for all Filipinos may take much longer, if we do not put in the right investments that will give the Philippine economy the momentum to zoom forward. With high inflation and slower economic growth threatening both developed and emerging economies globally, we have to train our eyes on the future.

As policymakers, we have to take bold steps toward exploring measures that will contribute to high growth that cannot be easily reversed by external headwinds and future crises. For this reason, I am urging my fellow lawmakers to consider the passage of the Maharlika Investment Fund Act. This is a timely measure that should be given utmost attention and urgency by this Congress.

As the Philippines' first-ever sovereign wealth fund, it is designed to catalyze economic development by mobilizing government financial assets that are otherwise limited in use by current legal frameworks. With the Fund's dual objectives of optimizing financial returns and accelerating the development of infrastructure and other priority projects in key sectors, this will be an important instrument to generate consistent and stable investment returns to advance the Philippines' long-term development goals.

The Maharlika Investment Fund will support the administration's economic goals set in the medium-term fiscal framework: the Eight-Point Socioeconomic Agenda and the Philippine Development Plan 2023 to 2028, in a way that will ease the pressure on the government's fiscal space.

The Maharlika Investment Fund will quicken the implementation of NEDA-endorsed infrastructure projects. In particular, big-ticket infrastructure, such as in green and blue projects,

countryside development, and other employment-generating projects. Key examples include public road networks, tollways, green energy, water, agro-industrial ventures, and telecommunications. These critical infrastructures offer high-return investments and greater socioeconomic impact on the economy.

Just this month, the NEDA Board, which is chaired by the President, approved 194 high-impact priority projects under the new Infrastructure Flagship Project List for the Build, Better, More Program. The Maharlika Investment Fund will play a key role in accelerating the implementation of these big-ticket projects.

Some of our big-ticket priority projects may be undertaken by Maharlika Investment Corporation through coinvestments with global financial institutions and multilateral partners, opening another corridor for foreign direct investments. This is especially significant, considering that the Philippines will soon lose its access to official development status, as the country graduates to upper middle-income status.

Moreover, sovereign wealth funds are tried and tested investment vehicles used by governments in developed and emerging countries to achieve their economic goals. Having our own sovereign wealth fund will grant us access to the world's sovereign wealth fund community, which is abundant in opportunities for cofinancing and knowledge transfer.

In fact, more than 50 countries already have their own sovereign wealth funds. Some examples include Indonesia, Vietnam, and Kenya. The Indonesia Investment Authority or INA, in particular, is often cited as the ideal model for the Philippines, as it was used for investing in big-ticket infrastructure projects.

Now, allow me to clarify the capitalization requirement for the establishment of the MIF. The initial capitalization of the Maharlika Investment Corporation will come from the investable funds of the Land Bank of the Philippines and the Development Bank of the Philippines, as well as the contributions of the national government. The latter will include dividend remittances of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas; the national government's share of PAGCOR's income; and proceeds from privatization and the transfer of assets. Other sources such as royalties and special assessments may be tapped as well.

LANDBANK's investment to the Maharlika Investment Corporation will only account for around 3.7% of the investable funds, while the DBP's investment will be equivalent to around 3% of its investable funds. These GFIs are likely to earn more than what they are earning now, considering that they are investing in conservative instruments such as government securities. The involvement of these GFIs as contributors of the initial seed fund is reasonable, and will not crowd out the other lending obligations that they need to fulfill under their respective mandates.

In fact, the expected return of Maharlika, which is estimated to be around 8.6% on average, is much higher than their cost of capital and the return in their current investment placements. Globally, capitalization of sovereign wealth funds is no longer limited to surplus revenues generated by national resources. It also includes varying sources including budgetary contributions, as in the case of the Indonesia Investment Authority.

As a government-owned and -controlled corporation, the Maharlika Investment Corporation will be run professionally and on a commercial basis. It will pay taxes; be governed by the Government Procurement Reform Act and its rules; and shall be subject to the provisions of the GOCC Governance Act of 2011.

To ensure that these gains will be realized, the Fund will be established with the highest standards of accountability, fiscal responsibility, and good governance. The proposed Fund will adhere to the Santiago Principles, which pertain to the generally accepted principles and practices to ensure the effective operations of sovereign wealth funds globally; and will be governed by the relevant investment and risk management guidelines.

The Maharlika Investment Corporation would be governed by a Board of Directors with nine members. The Secretary of Finance will serve as the chairperson, while the CEO of Maharlika Investment Corporation will be the vice chairperson. Members include the President and CEO of the Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines; two regular directors;

and three independent directors from the private sector. The economic team will work closely with the Fund's administrators as its advisory board to help ensure that they will comply with proper financial reporting and auditing standards. This is also to align investment decisions with fiscal and monetary policies.

The Advisory Board shall be composed of the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, the Secretary of National Economic and Development Authority, and the National Treasurer. To ensure a level playing field, the exemptions and privileges were removed from the originally filed bill. The transactions and assets of MIC and the MIF shall be subject to local and national taxes.

Other than matters relating to the organization's structure, staffing pattern, and compensation structure, the MIC shall be subject to the provisions of RA 10149, or the GOCC Act of 2011. All procurement activities shall be subject to and governed by the provisions of RA 9184, or the Government Procurement Reform Act, except in the engagement of professional or technical services necessary for the selection of investments.

Now, in order to ensure accountability and proper governance of the Fund, several layers of oversights will be put in place: 1) The Board is required to appoint an internal auditor, which shall be independent from the management of the MIC and shall be under the direct control and supervision of the Board of Directors; 2) an internationally recognized audit firm will serve as the external auditor for the Fund to audit its financial statements; 3) the books and accounts of the funds shall be subject to the strict examination by the Commission on Audit; and 4) a joint Congressional oversight committee will be constituted to oversee, monitor, and evaluate the implementation of the MIF Act. This committee shall be composed of five members each from the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Finally, as an additional measure for transparency, all documents of the Fund in the Maharlika Investment Corporation shall be open, available, and accessible to the public.

I would like to emphasize that the Maharlika Investment Fund has the potential to bring back the Philippines to its high-growth trajectory through investments in the country's developmental projects. Not only will this promote the effective intergenerational management of the country's financial resources, but more importantly, improve the welfare of future generations of Filipinos.

Ultimately, the Philippines will benefit from a well-structured, robust, and effective sovereign wealth fund. The Maharlika Investment Fund has the potential to attract foreign investments, boost national savings, and advance economic growth for Filipinos across generations. And with that, I would like to solicit the full support of my colleagues for the passage of this bill.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 2020**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

*It was 4:14 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 4:20 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### **PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 429**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 429, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE 19 FILIPINO STUDENTS WHO WERE  
AWARDED GOLD MEDALS AT THE WORLD INTERNATIONAL  
MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD,

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 430.

With the permission of the Body, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the *Record of the Senate*.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Villanueva for the sponsorship.

**SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA**

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 429, Senator Villanueva delivered the following speech:

Today, I am deeply honored to sponsor Proposed Senate Resolution No. 429, commending our 19 *matinik* Mathletes who swept the gold medals and world championships in the World International Mathematical Olympiad 2022 Finals held last January 7 to 8, 2023 in Bangkok, Thailand.

*Marami po sa atin, kapag naririnig ang simpleng salitang Mathematics, ay nakahuhugot ng samo't saring mga emosyon lalo na po siguro iyong tinatawag na kaba, takot, at despair. Pero, klarong klaro po, hindi ito ang naramdaman ng ating mga estudyante na kasama po natin ngayon, mula sa iba't ibang paaralan sa NCR, Luzon, Visayas, at Mindanao.*

*Naririto po sa Bulwagang ito ang tatlong world champion sa katatapos lamang na World International Mathematical Olympiad 2022 na nakakuha ng pinakamataas na iskor sa kani-kanilang grade levels na si Alexandra Brian Gochian, from St. Jude Catholic School para sa Senior Secondary Group; narito rin po si Harvey James Dolar from Philippine Science High School, Main Campus para sa Secondary Three Group; at Mateo Iñigo Espocia from Genesis Christian Academy para sa Primary Five Group.*

*Kasama rin po nila ang ating mga World International Mathematical Olympiad gold medalists na sina Caiser Charlton Chua So, Skyler Loan B. Uy, Linaiah Amethyst Flores, Lourd Grey Latido, Liam Spark Peña Palarca, Lineth Mikaela B. Muldez, Agatha Maria Eden Nunag, Skyler Ycaruz Flores, Zac Andre De Lara, Jenelle Nyka Lee, Princess Abbey Aquino, Arwin Peter Castro, Evan Justin Panergo, Matt Raymond Ayento, Matthew Charles Carpio, at Rey Stephen Chua.*

No other name is more apt for this competition other than the battle of the golds. One should be a gold medalist in the Hong Kong International Mathematical Olympiad, Thailand International Mathematical Olympiad, or the Guangdong Greater Bay Area Mathematical Olympiad just to be eligible, I will repeat it, just to be eligible to participate in the prestigious World International Mathematical Olympiad.

These mathletes, through their grit and hard work, superbly stood out among gold medalists from 14 countries as they competed in logical thinking, Arithmetic or Algebra, Number Theory, Geometry, and Combinatorics.

This great celebration becomes more meaningful as we implement educational programs and reforms to improve our learners' knowledge and skills critical for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century world. I could not help but remember an old adage: "Life is a Math equation. In order to gain the most, you have to know how to convert negatives into positives."

The dismal results the country has received in Program for International Students Assessment (PISA) and the Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) now became the solid springboard, which drew up a clear direction for the future of the Philippine educational system, which is now being shaped by the Education Commission, headed by our chairman, Sen. Win Gatchalian. We just had a technical joint meeting last Thursday with Senators Angara and Cayetano (P).

With this “matherrific” Filipino students, we can see a bright future for Math, for STEM, for education, and for the Philippines as a whole. *Kaya sa mga kabataang ito na nakakuha ng mga gintong medalya sa World International Mathematical Olympiad 2022, kasama po ang kanilang mga magulang na naririto rin na buong-buo ang suporta sa kanilang mga pangarap, gaya rin po sa kanilang mga guro, coaches, sponsors, at sa Math Olympiads Training League, Inc. sa pangunguna ni Engr. Karen Sy at Ms. Aileen Ganancial, sa kanilang lahat nababanaag po natin ang pag-asa na kayang-kaya nating itaas ang antas ng edukasyon sa ating minamahal na bansa.*

Again, my biggest congratulations to these young people who bore the Philippine flag and decorated it with gold as they traversed the whole world.

### **COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR REVILLA**

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 429, Senator Revilla delivered the following speech:

I join our colleagues in honoring our young Math wizards for their impressive medal haul in the World International Mathematical Olympiad.

*Masasabing isa sa pinakamahirap na subject ang Math, subalit ipinamalas ng isangdaan pitumpu at walo nating delegado sa Thailand ang kanilang husay sa naganap na kompetisyon ng pagalingan sa Matematika. Sa murang edad, ang kanilang galing sa numero ay tunay namang world class.*

Our team’s exemplary win gained 138 medals in total: 19 gold, 52 silver, and 67 bronze, besting 13 other countries that qualified for WIMO 2023. *Sa musmos nilang edad, pinatunayan nila na tunay na “Math-tinik” ang kabataang Pinoy, na kahit pa tayo ay itinuturing na third world country, ang hanay ng ating mga kabataan ay maituturing na first class at tunay na maipagmamalaki—kayang-kayang makipagsabayan, kayang-kayang makipagpaligsahan, at kayang-kayang magwagi sa laban sa ibang mga bansa. Kahanga-hanga ang kanilang naging tagumpay.*

*Sa ating mga batang Math geniuses, ang aking pagsaludo sa bawat isa sa inyo. Ipagpatuloy ninyo ang paghasa ng inyong galing at ipinagmamalaki namin kayo. Mabuhay kayong lahat.*

### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL**

Senator Pimentel expressed his congratulations to the 19 Filipino gold medal student recipients at the World Mathematical Olympiad, revealing that as a student, he only reached the Metro Manila Olympiad level, whereas the honorees reached the World Math Olympiad level. He assured the young mathematicians of the senators’ full support and expressed hope that they would serve as good role models and encourage other students to be interested in Math, Science, and Reading, especially given the dismal performance of Filipino learners in international assessments.

He likewise lauded Senator Villanueva for filing the resolution to honor the awardees.

### **COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR DELA ROSA**

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 429, Senator Dela Rosa delivered the following speech:

I rise today to cosponsor Proposed Senate Resolution No. 429, congratulating the 19 Filipino students who were awarded gold medals at the World International Mathematical Olympiad.

*Napakabigat na kompetisyon ito. Mathematical na, world pa.*

There is an online article, entitled “Why Filipino Students Hate Math?” The word is not even “dislike.” The word used in the article is “hate.” *Kinamumuhian ng maraming mag-aaral ang*

*matematika. Maraming estudyante ang nahihirapan sa math, kasama na ako roon sa mga estudyante na iyon.*

When I enrolled at the Mindanao State University, *iyong aking kurso na in-enrol, kasi naging scholar ako roon*, was Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. After the first semester, *hirap na hirap ako sa Math 17. Parang almost pasang-awa—tres iyong nakuha ko.* So, realizing that I will not be able to maintain the required average grade in order for me to maintain my scholarship, I decided to shift to another course *na walang mathematics, iyong B. S. Public Administration na walang math. Kaya humahanga talaga ako sa mga batang ito, kaya napilitan talaga akong mag co-sponsor sa kanilang galing.*

Among the reasons identified in the article is the pressure and anxiety that envelope the teaching of math, and it is also this pressure and anxiety that gets handed down from parents, teachers, down to our children and their students.

*Sa tingin ko, marami sa mga kabataan ay natatakot sa math dahil natatakot silang magkamali. Marahil, naranasan nilang mapahiya, o mapagalitan dahil nagkamali sila.* I think it is in this space of being open to making mistakes that our children can begin to learn to love mathematics. *Kapag nakita nila na ang pagkakamali ay bahagi ng pagkatuto, at kapag nakita nila ang kahalagahan ng math lalo na pagdating sa problem-solving, mas maiintindihan din nila na ang galing sa math ay nasusukat sa kakayahan ng isang taong tanggapin ang pagkakamali, at mas pagbutihin na ang gawain sa susunod na pagkakataon.*

*Sina Alexandra Gochian, Harvey Dolar, Mateo Espocia, Caizer Chua So, Skyler Loan Uy, Linaiah Flores, Lourd Grey Latido, Liam Spark Palarca, Lineth Mikaela Muldez, Agatha Maria Nunag, Skyler Ycaruz Flores, Zac Andre De Lara, Jenelle Nyka Lee, Princess Abbey Aquino, Arwin Peter Castro, Evan Justin Panergo, Matt Raymond Ayento, Matthew Charles Carpio, at Rey Stephen Chua — nawa'y magsilbi silang mabuting halimbawa sa lahat ng kabataang Pinoy, hindi lamang dahil sa mga gold medal nila, o dahil magaling sila sa Math, kundi dahil gumaling sila sa Math, dahil din gusto nilang matuto.*

In the end, I look forward to the day when Filipino students will no longer hate Math for being difficult but will instead love it for never failing to pose a challenge.

Thank you, *at congratulations sa inyo, mga anak.*

#### **ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 429**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 429 was adopted by the Body.

#### **COAUTHORS**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, all the Members were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 429.

#### **REMARK OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT**

Senate President Zubiri lauded the medalists for their perseverance in mastering a difficult discipline such as Mathematics. He pointed out that the evolution of the subject into situational Math, also known as Singapore Math, made it easier for children to love learning the subject.

Thereafter, he requested all senators to attend a very important caucus.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Villanueva, the session was suspended.

*It was 4:39 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 6:34 p.m., the session resumed.

**COAUTHOR**

With the consent of Senator Angara and upon motion by Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Senator Legarda was made coauthor of Senate Bill No. 1166 (*The Pag-asa Island Ecotourism Cluster and Protected Area*) and Senate Bill No.1615 (*Baler in the Province of Aurora as the Birthplace of Philippine Surfing*).

**CONFEREES**

Upon nomination by Senator Villanueva, there being no objection, Senate President designated the following members to constitute the Senate panel in the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1841 (*Strengthening the Conservation and Protection of Philippine Cultural Heritage*) and House Bill No. 5110 (*Amending RA 10066, National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009*): Senator Legarda as chairperson, and Senators Binay and Pimentel as members.

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

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

*It was 6:36 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

Approved on March 21, 2023

Atty. **RENATO N. BANTUG Jr.**  
Secretary of the Senate

