



**LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE**  
**KEY POINTS OF PLENARY PROCEEDINGS**  
*Second Regular Session, 19<sup>th</sup> Congress*

**Session No. 32**  
**Tuesday, 28 November 2023**

**1. House Bill No. 8980 under Committee Report No. 155**

An Act Appropriating Funds for the Operation of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines from January One to December Thirty-One, Two Thousand and Twenty-Four

**Sponsor :**       **Sen. Sonny Angara**

**Amendments of Senator Angara**

- a. For national security, the Department of National Defense (DND) and Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), including the General Headquarters, Philippine Army, Philippine Air Force, and Philippine Navy were augmented to purchase the much-needed equipment, set up the needed infrastructure, and conduct the necessary capability enhancements and trainings
- b. For maintaining peace and order, the Philippine National Police (PNP) budget, along with the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), was also increased. In particular, the augmentation in the NBI budget will be allocated to the Investigation and Detection of Crimes and Other Related Activities for the training of new agents. The PCG will also receive a significant augmentation for its capital outlay. The Marawi Compensation Board will also receive additional funding.
- c. To ensure food security, additional funds for Department of Agriculture (DA) and its attached agencies were allotted for the National Corn Program, intensified pest surveillance and monitoring activities in the country's 16 regions, promoting Food Safety and Philippine Good Agricultural Practices, strengthening the five Plant and Genetic Resources Centers and Laboratories under the Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI), and implementing the National Stock Assessment Program under the National Fisheries Research and Development Institute (NFRDI) to support the newly-established Fisheries Management Areas. Additional budget was also given to Sagip Saka Law, Enhanced KADIWA Program, KADIWA Food hub project, Young Farmers Challenge Fund-Upscale Grant, Binhi ng Pag-asa project, Regional Fisheries Learning Hub, Tamban Aquaculture Hatchery Production Program in Zamboanga Peninsula, and the establishment of a greenhouse that will use hydroponic farming technology.
- d. In the education sector, DepEd will be allocated with additional budget for school-building program; Government Assistance and Subsidies

Senior High School (SHS) Voucher Program; Educational Service Contracting Program for Private Junior High Schools. Under Commission on Higher Education (CHED), additional funding for state and universities and colleges (SUCs) scholars, and Tulong Dunong will also be allocated. A special provision under CHED prioritizes new grantees of Tertiary Education Subsidies who are in the Listahanan 2.0 of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and in low-income households. As for Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Tulong Trabaho Fund will be retained, and Training for Work Scholarship Program (TWSP) and Special Training for Employment Program (STEP) funds will be increased.

- e. To promote safe and conducive learning environment, DepEd for a Child Protection Program will receive additional funding. Likewise, the Learner Support Program will be augmented by P50 million to strengthen ongoing mental health programs and advocacies. The funding for the P5,000 Cash Allowance for Teachers (formerly known as the “Chalk” allowance) and the School-Based Feeding Program will be continued.
- f. For social medical and livelihood programs, the budget for Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situations (AICS) Sustainable Livelihood Program (SLP) under DSWD, Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/Displaced Workers Program (TUPAD), and Government Internship Program (GIP) under the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), among others, will also increase.
- g. On the health front, a substantial increase will be allocated to Medical Assistance to Indigent and Financially-Incapacitated Patients (MAIFIP) at Health Facilities Enhancement Program (HFEP) to improve the hospital facilities across the country. Funding will also be channeled towards the first lung transplant in the Philippines. To ensure proper nutrition, augmentations to the Department of Health (DOH) will be retained to provide support and supplements for more mothers who are nutritionally at risk. A special provision was also retained mandating the National Nutrition Council to administer an online tracker system regarding the programs, expenditures, and general implementations of the Kalusugan at Nutrisyon ng Magnanay Act, or the First 1,000 Days Act, and for the purchase of drugs, medicines, and vaccines, up to 80% of which shall be allocated to provinces where disease incidence is high. Likewise, Emergency benefits and allowances healthcare and non-health care workers shall be allocated.
- h. As for the budget for Pabahay Para sa Pamilyang Pilipino (4PH) program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (DHSUD), subsidy for interest subsidy and other financial assistance/subsidies for in-city housing was allocated. DHSUD’s Integrated Disaster Shelter Assistance Program will receive additional funding.
- i. Under transportation, special provision will be retained for the construction, rehabilitation, and improvement of facilities for persons with disabilities (PWDs) and the elderly, and for the construction of gender-responsive comfort rooms. Also included are active transport infrastructure like bike lanes, pedestrian walkways, and other infrastructure for the safety of commuters. Additional funding will also be allocated to Daet Airport in Camarines Sur and Bukidnon Airport for

the purchase of airport fire truck and the construction of its communications tower. Special provision in the Bureau of Immigration (BI) budget will be allotted to reimburse the travel expenses of overseas Filipino workers incurred due to deferred boarding or withheld from leaving with no court order.

- j. Internet connectivity will also be improved given the augmentation in the budget of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (DICT) and the National Telecommunications Commission
- k. To meet the challenges of climate change, the Department of Agriculture will receive additional funding for the mainstreaming of climate resilient agriculture (CRA) in regional programs and projects. The Climate Change Commission will likewise receive additional funds for the Philippine Ecosystem and Natural Capital Accounting System (PENCAS) implementation. As for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, (DENR), funds will be allocated to the establishment of marine stations, improvement of existing marine stations, and strengthening cooperation and coordination among partner marine stations.
- l. In a bid for cleaner, more stable, and renewable energy sources to power the country's growth and development, steps were also taken to include special provisions on the conduct of a feasibility study and the eventual construction of an offshore wind integration port in order to diversify installed capacity to more renewable energy sources. The funding for the Philippine Energy Research and Policy Institute under the University of the Philippines (UP) System will be continued. On the other hand, additional funding will be allocated to Nuclear Energy Program Implementing Organization and Waste-to-Energy component of Renewable Energy Development Program.
- m. Augmentations to DTI Budget will also be done to operationalize green lanes for strategic investments for Tatak Pinoy goods and services and support Shared Service Facilities (SSFs). Additional funding will also be channeled to Philippine Creative Industries Development Act (PCIDA), Pangkabuhayan sa Pagbangon at Ginhawa Program, and Export and Trade Promotion Program of the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (CITEM).
- n. Fund increases will also be lodged in several agencies (National Book Development Board, the Department of Foreign Affairs, and the National Commission on Culture and the Arts) in connection with the Philippines' participation as the first Southeast Asian country to be recognized as guest of honor in the 2025 Frankfurt Book Fair.
- o. To boost Filipino innovation, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) and its attached agencies will receive a significant increase of over P1 billion. Upon the request of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), a special provision was included so that a portion of the existing innovation fund shall constitute an Innovations Revolving Fund to be used for grants for innovations programs and projects under the Philippine Innovation Act.
- p. To boost tourism, special provision under the Tourism Promotions Fund for the Tourism Promotions Board (TPB) will be retained. Funding support will be also be allocated to Manila Food and Wine Festival, and the Market and Product Development Operations of Department of Tourism (DOT). On the other hand, the budget of the

National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) will be increased in support of projects such as Likha-an, Rondalla Festival, Slow Food Festival (Cavite), Comics Festival, Schools of Living Traditions, and Conduct of Cultural Mapping Activities.

- q. To empower local governments and communities, locally driven governance shall continue under the proposed 2024 budget. Hence, the national tax allotment (NTA) afforded to local government units (LGUs) shall amount to P871 billion. Another automatic appropriation is the annual block grant to the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) amounting to some P70.5 billion. Local Government Support Fund for financial assistance to LGUs will also be augmented.
- r. In support of Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), its budget will be augmented as well as the budget of embassies and consulates general such as Italy, Cambodia, United Kingdom, Bahrain, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Netherlands, and Myanmar.
- s. In line with the aim to build a better, more transparent, and more responsive government, additional funds for the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) will be infused to facilitate various Philippine-Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP) activities such as a nationwide OGP campaign, the conduct of relevant meetings and workshops, the OGP Asia and the Pacific Regional Summit, and the holding of the Public Expenditure Management Network in Asia (PEMNA) Budget Community of Practice Conference.
- t. With regard to futures thinking, innovation, and governance reform, significant funding will be allocated to futures thinking endeavors, including relevant workshops, training modules, and research activities in SUCs and the Development Academy of the Philippines (DAP) as well as the operation of futures thinking offices in key agencies such as the DOH and the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). Meanwhile, under the budget of the UP System, funding for the establishment of so-called Governance Reform, Innovation and Transformation Laboratories (GRIT) Labs would be also be allotted.

#### **Manifestation of Senator Pimentel**

Senator Pimentel expressed his continuing objection to the use of a presidential certification when there is no emergency or calamity to be addressed by the certification. He then advanced his abstain vote to the bill.

#### **Status: Approved on Third Reading**

#### **Manifestation of Senator Hontiveros**

Senator Hontiveros stated that she would submit in writing the explanation for her yes vote.

## **2. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 869**

Resolution Expressing the Profound Sympathy and Sincere Condolences of the Senate of the Philippines on the Death of Hiroyuki Hosoda, Former Speaker of the House of Representatives Of Japan

**Sponsor : Sen. Juan Miguel “Migz” F. Zubiri**

**Sponsorship speech of Senator Zubiri**

Senator Zubiri expressed the Senate’s profound sympathy and sincere condolences on the death of Hiroyuki Hosoda, former speaker of the House of Representatives of Japan, calling the passing a great loss to the Japanese nation and an irreplaceable void. He stated that Speaker Hosoda's government career spanned a total of 50 years, interrupted only when he served as secretary to his father, former Transport Minister, from 1986 to 1990.

**Motion of Senator Villanueva that all members of Senate be made coauthors**

**Adopted, subject to style—Resolution No. 96**

**3. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 870**

Resolution Commending the Relevant National Government Agencies and Local Government Units for their Contributions in the Successful Hosting of the 31st Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum Held in Manila on 23-26 November 2023

**Sponsor : Sen. Juan Miguel “Migz” F. Zubiri**  
**Cosponsors : Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa**  
**Sen. Loren Legarda**  
**Sen.**

**Sponsorship speech of Senator Zubiri**

Senator Zubiri commended the relevant national government agencies and local government units for their contributions in the successful Hosting of the 31st Annual Meeting of the Asia Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) held in Manila from November 23 to 25, 2023. He also expressed his thanks to the hardworking men and women of the Senate Secretariat, the Senate Proper, the House of Representatives employees, and congressional staff for their invaluable work. He stated that the APPF 31 was a resounding success, bringing together 19 member-countries and unanimously approving 10 resolutions on political and security matters, economic and trade matters, regional cooperation, gender and development, and women leadership.

**Cosponsorship speech of Senator Dela Rosa**

Senator Dela Rosa stated the APPF is a premier parliamentary forum bringing together 28 countries to discuss pressing issues confronting the region. He expressed his gratitude to the efforts of various government agencies, and Senate officials and staff for ensuring that the event would be seamless and successful.

**Manifestation of Senator Cayetano (P)**

Senator Cayetano commended the Senate President, Senator Legarda who worked so hard in the Drafting Committee, her fellow senators, and everybody who made APPF 31 a success. She also mentioned that the APPF 31 gave the Philippines the opportunity to cultivate relationship with its neighboring countries. She said that to have good relationships was immeasurable and that events like the APPF may make or break crisis (water shortage, access to one's own bodies of water, use of resources, and food supplies, among others) in the future given that the countries that attended the event were represented by human beings governed by emotions, which include feelings of friendship and trust.

**Motion of Senator Villanueva that the respective cosponsorship speeches of Senators Legarda and Estrada be inserted into the *Record***

**Motion of Senator Villanueva that all members of Senate be made coauthors.**

**Adopted, subject to style—Resolution No. 97**

**4. Senate Bill No. 2492 under Committee Report No. 172**

An Act Declaring The Maritime Zones Under the Jurisdiction of the Republic of the Philippines

**Sponsor** : **Sen. Francis "Tol" Tolentino**  
**Co-sponsor** : **Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.**  
**Sen. Win Gatchalian**

**Sponsorship speech of Senator Tolentino**

Senator Tolentino stressed the the importance of maritime zones law in an archipelagic nation with a vast expansive waters. He said that understanding and upholding maritime zones law was not merely a legal obligation, but also a paramount necessity for the nation's security, economic prosperity, and environmental well-being. According to Senator Tolentino, the Philippine Maritime Zones Act would enable the Philippines to fully enforce applicable maritime laws and enjoy its rights over its territory and exclusive economic zone and pave the way for clarifying and updating maritime laws and policies that have been enacted prior to United Nations Convention of the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). This will further fortify the country's rights and entitlements over maritime zones and provide the country with a strong diplomatic negotiating tool in pursuing the country's interests therein.

Senator Tolentino summed up that the Maritime Zones Law would help the Philippines in numerous ways and could even serve as a foundational policy, namely: (1) it serves as the driving force for the Philippines to forge a comprehensive maritime security framework; (2) it advances the Philippine interest most especially in terms of protecting, sustainably harnessing, and maximizing the Philippines' marine resources; (3) it will provide guidance on the rights, duties, and entitlements of the

Philippines on different maritime zones; and finally, 4) it can be utilized to further the goals of other relevant maritime laws of the Philippines.

**Motion of Senator Villanueva that the respective cosponsorship speeches of Senators Zubiri and Legarda be inserted into the Record**

**Cosponsorship speech of Senator Gatchalian**

Senator Gatchalian stated that the bill was long overdue. He said that the moment had arrived for the Philippines to match its words with actions—not merely aligning with the UNCLOS and the 2016 arbitral ruling, but also by further enabling Filipinos to responsibly enjoy the abundant resources within the Philippines' vast maritime and archipelagic waters. He also said that the bill was a tribute to the country's heroes who fought and died for freedom and sovereignty, and to the brave men and women who continue to patrol and protect the country's waters and resources. He called for the passage of the bill. He called the bill a legacy to children and future generations who deserve to inherit a prosperous and secure nation.

**Cosponsorship speech of Senator Revilla**

Senator Revilla called the Maritime Zones Act a matter of public urgency whose consequences were too heavy to be ignored, amid threat to the country's sovereignty. He said filing the said bill was born out of an intense fire burning in his heart. Heeding what the experts who had helped craft the proposed measure said on doing both political and legal steps, Senator Revilla said that the bill on Philippine Maritime Zones was not only a good start in putting our foot down, but also a beginning of the end of all bullying.

**Cosponsorship speech of Senator Dela Rosa**

Senator Dela Rosa stated that the Philippine maritime zones were not just geographic delineations as they were the lifelines of the nation. He said that their proper management, protection, and strategic development are essential for the continued growth and security of the country.

**The session was adjourned at 5:43 p.m.**