



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

**Session No. 36**  
**Wednesday, 6 December 2023**

**1. Proposed Senate Resolution No. 852**

Resolution Recognizing the Enduring Amity and Cooperation Between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Norway, and Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of Their Diplomatic Relations

Sponsor: Sen. Win Gatchalian

**Sponsorship of Senator Gatchalian**

Senator Gatchalian sponsored a resolution celebrating lasting friendship and cooperation between the Republic of the Philippines and the Kingdom of Norway and commemorating the 75th anniversary of our diplomatic relations.

The Senator narrated that the Philippines and Norway have maintained strong bilateral relations since establishing diplomatic ties on March 2, 1948, with a focus on the maritime industry. Over the past 75 years, the cooperation and alliance have involved the consistent employment of Filipino seafarers on Norwegian-owned vessels, the creation of Norwegian maritime training schools, and the provision of training, education, and scholarships to Filipino seafarers in accordance with international standards.

The Senator added that the diplomatic relations between the Philippines and Norway have led to several significant agreements that span various sectors from trade and maritime transport to taxation, energy, textiles, and air transportation.

The Senator expressed gratitude and appreciation to the Norwegian government and its people for their invaluable contribution to the peace process and the development of our country

**Cosponsorship Speech of Senator Poe**

Senator Poe joined her colleagues and the Filipino-Norwegian community in celebrating 75 years of harmonious and productive partnership between the Philippines and the Kingdom of Norway.

As the country's longtime partner in the maritime industry, the Senator thanked Norway for employing thousands of our seafarers and for showcasing to the world the true metal and world-class skills of Filipino seafarers. As Chairperson of the Committee on Economic Affairs, she likewise thanked Norway for being a

valuable ally in the reinvigoration of our country's dynamic economy. Senator Poe expressed that she looks forward to more productive collaborations, particularly in harnessing the country's renewable energy sources.

In addition, the Senator thanked Norwegian community for providing refuge and hospitality to thousands of our countrymen.

**Motion of Senator Villanueva that all members of the Senate be made coauthors of P. S. Res. No. 852**

Adopted, subject to style—Resolution No. 98

**2. Conference Committee Report on S. No. 2001/H. No. 6510**

Senator Marcos, as Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations and the Chairperson of the Senate panel for the bicameral meeting, presented the highlights of the Conference Committee Report as agreed upon:

- The conferees agreed to use the Senate version as the working draft. There were merely minor changes in Section 3 of the bill, in the *Definition of Terms*, page 3, lines 1 and 2, “that performs consular and related functions” was deleted and replace the phrase “that performs consular and related functions” was deleted and replaced with WHERE PASSPORTING AND CONSULAR SERVICES ARE PROVIDED.
- In addition to the definition of the term “*Consular Services*”, it was modified by the addition of the phrase ENUMERATED UNDER ARTICLE 5 OF THE VIENNA CONVENTION ON CONSULAR RELATIONS, a more precise description.
- Section 5 was modified to include OR A REGISTERED, SIGNED, AND SWORN STATEMENT OF ELECTION OF PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP FOR THOSE WHO WERE BORN BEFORE JANUARY 17, 1973 OF FILIPINO MOTHERS AND WHO ELECTED PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP UPON REACHING THE AGE OF MAJORITY, as one of the acceptable documents.
- Section 11 on “*Passport Database*” was amended to add the word HAVE, to allow the DFA to outsource operations of the databases to a third party in view of the department’s lack of expertise in handling databases;
- Section 16 was amended to delete the clause on twenty percent (20%) discount for senior citizens and PWDs. DFA noted that no other government department grants such discount; and
- Section 22 (b) was modified to increase the penalty for offenses relating to forgery from 12 to 15 years. Section 22 (d) was likewise modified to increase

the penalty on offenses relating to improper use of passports and other travel documents from twelve (12) to fifteen (15) years.

- Section 22 (e) was modified to change the penalty for false statements from eighteen (18) months to six (6) years, to six (6) years to twelve (12) years.

### **Adopted**

### **3. Conference Committee Report on S. NO. 2028/H. NO. 7535**

Senator Marcos as Chairperson of the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development, reported the highlights of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the Disagreeing Provisions of Senate Bill No. 2028 and House Bill No. 7535, as agreed upon:

- The adoption of the Senate draft as the working bill.
- Section 1 of the working draft was adopted as Section 1 of the reconciled version and shall now read as follows:

ALL FILIPINOS, WHETHER RESIDING IN THE PHILIPPINES OR ABROAD SHALL, UPON REACHING THE AGE OF ONE HUNDRED (100) YEARS OLD, RECEIVE A CASH GIFT OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) AND A LETTER OF FELICITATION FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES CONGRATULATING THE CELEBRANT FOR HIS OR HER LONGEVITY.

ALL FILIPINOS, WHETHER RESIDING IN THE PHILIPPINES OR ABROAD, UPON REACHING THE AGES OF EIGHTY (80), EIGHTY-FIVE (85), NINETY (90), AND NINETY-FIVE (95) SHALL EACH RECEIVE A CASH GIFT OF TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00).

THE GRANTEES UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THE CASH GIFT WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM REACHING THE AGES OF EIGHTY (80), EIGHTY-FIVE (85), NINETY (90), NINETY-FIVE (95) AND ONE HUNDRED (100).

- Section 2-A. *ELDERLY DATA MANAGEMENT SYSTEM* of the working draft was adopted as Section 2 of the reconciled version.
- The title of House Bill No. 7535 was adopted with amendments as the title of the reconciled version to read as follows:

“AN ACT GRANTING BENEFITS TO FILIPINO OCTOGENARIANS AND NONAGENARIANS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10868, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘CENTENARIANS ACT OF 2016’, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.”

Senator Marcos stated that there was an agreement that in case of conflict between the statements and amendments in the Joint Explanatory Statement and of the provisions of the consolidated bill in the accompanying Conference Committee Report, the provisions of the latter shall prevail.

### **Adopted**

#### **4. Senate Bill No. 2432 under Committee Report No. 118**

An Act Defining the Crimes of Agricultural Economic Sabotage, Providing Penalties Therefor, Creating the Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Council, Repealing Republic Act No. 10845 or the Anti-Agricultural Smuggling Act of 2016, and for other Purposes

Sponsor: Sen. Cynthia Villar

### **Amendments of Senator Escudero**

Senator Escudero proposed, and the Body approved these amendments, to wit:

- On page 6, line 20, after the word “shall”, insert a comma (,) and the phrase UPON THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.
- On page 7, line 11, after the word “Act”, insert a proviso that reads as follows: PROVIDED THAT THE COLLECTION, STORAGE, UTILIZATION, AND TRANSMISSION OF SUCH RECORDS SUBMITTED TO THE COUNCIL SHALL BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10173 OR THE DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2021.

#### **5. Senate Bill No. 1470 under Committee Report No.9**

An Act Strengthening the Mechanism for Land Use Development and Infrastructure Planning and Budgeting for State Universities and Colleges, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 11396, Otherwise Known as the "SUCs Land Use Development And Infrastructure Plan (LUDIP) Act"

Sponsor : Sen. Francis G. Escudero  
Cosponsors : Sen. Pia S. Cayetano  
Sen. Alan S. Cayetano

### **Interpellations of Senator Pimentel**

Senator Pimentel inquired on how to ensure the real properties of the SUCs and LUCs will not all be dedicated to housing requirements. In reply, Senator Escudero stated that there is no specific provision in the bill which prohibits or limits the allocation of land for purposes of housing, and that the amendment that will be proposed would only affect the conservation and restoration of the biodiversity of the land use plan to be submitted by LUCs and by SUCs.

Senator Escudero stated that it would be proposed that projects under LUDIP would be by line item and not via a lump sum amount to be given to the LUCs and SUCs so that Congress may decide whether or not to fund housing projects. He added that most of the housing units are occupied by the retired teachers, who are difficult to evict after they have retired.

Senator Pimentel suggested that a provision can be inserted into the bill that will ensure that the professors and teaching staff, after their tenure, would vacate the housing units without the need of an ejection case.

Senator Pimentel added that he is not against any housing project, but the main idea is that a housing project is there to make the life of the incumbent professor, teaching staff, and even the nonteaching staff more convenient during the time they serve the university.

Senator Escudero agreed with Senator Pimentel. However, the former has reservations because placing such provision in the bill might violate the one subject matter rule per bill. He suggested that subsequent legislation specifically for that, or a memorandum from CHED, or a special provision in the budget to fund LUC and SUC projects can be inserted in the annual GAA, which will be carried over every year.

#### **Amendments of Senator Pimentel**

The following were some of the proposed amendments of Senator Pimentel, which were read Senator Escudero and approved by the Body, to wit:

- On page 2, line 2, after the phrase “geographical boundaries” add a comma (,) and the phrase AND TO GUARANTEE THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF BIODIVERSITY IN THE LAND USE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN OF SUCS.
- On page 3, lines 4 to 13, delete the entire Section 2 and replace with Section 3 to read as follows:

Sec. 2. A new Section 7 shall be inserted after Section 6 of Republic Act No. 11396 to read as follows:

SEC. 7. *APPROPRIATIONS.* - THE AMOUNT OF TWENTY-FIVE BILLION PESOS (P25,000,000,000.00) IS HEREBY APPROPRIATED YEARLY FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LAND USE AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE COMPREHENSIVE LUDIP AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 3 OF THIS ACT AND SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CHED, EXCEPT HOUSING PROJECTS NOT FOR THE EXCLUSIVE USE OF ACTIVE AND REGULAR FACULTY OF THE RESPECTIVE LUCS and SUCS.

THE AMOUNT NECESSARY FOR SUBSEQUENT PRIORITY INFRASTRUCTURE PLANS SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE SUCCEEDING ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.

## **Approved on Second Reading**

### **6. Senate Bill No. 2441 under Committee Report No. 122.**

An Act Mandating Private Higher Education Institutions to Waive College Entrance Examination Fees and Charges of Certain Students Qualified to Apply for College Admission

Sponsor: Sen. Francis G. Escudero  
Cosponsors: Sen. Joel Villanueva  
Sen. Christopher Lawrence T. Go  
Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.  
Se. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

#### **Manifestation of Senator Escudero**

Senator Escudero stated that this is the Free College Entrance Examinations Act which seeks to exempt from the payment of entrance examination fees the top 10% graduates of all public and private high schools, for as long they are classified as those that fall below the poverty threshold as defined by the National Economic and Development Authority or cannot afford in a sustained manner to provide for their minimum basic needs of food.

The Senator added that the waived payments to private schools are minimal, and the Association of Private Schools supports this measure.

#### **Interpellations of Senator Pimentel**

Senator Pimentel inquired who are entitled to the waiving of the fees and a representative sampling of the amounts of college entrance fee. In reply, Senator Escudero stated that natural-born Filipino citizens; graduate or graduating student must belong to the top 10% of his graduating class; and to a family whose income falls below the poverty threshold are entitled to the waiving of fees. The graduate or graduating student must apply for the college entrance examination; and must satisfy all the requirements before the waiver may be applied. The amount varies from anywhere between P2,000 to P5,000 one-time fee.

Senator Pimentel asked whether the private colleges would be compensated or reimbursed, to which Senator Escudero answered in the negative, stating that it is not part of the bill.

As to whether the committee receive any complaints from the affected private colleges, Senator Escudero replied in the negative.

Regarding the question on whether a high school graduate who is top 10% of his batch and an indigent can take as many private college entrance examinations as he wants. Senator Escudero stated that there is no limit provided in the bill.

## **Approved on Second Reading**

## **7. House Bill No. 7546 under Committee Report No. 135**

An Act Allowing the Incumbent President of the Mountain Province State Polytechnic College to Become the First President of the Mountain Province State University, Amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 10583, Entitled "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, Paracelis and Barlig, All Located in Mountain Province and Appropriating Funds Therefor"

Sponsor : Sen. Francis G. Escudero

### **Interpellations of Senator Pimentel**

On the purpose of the bill, Senator Escudero stated that it is to allow the incumbent president of the Mountain State Polytechnic College to become the first university president of the Mountain Province State University.

The intention is to maintain continuity, allowing the current president, who played a significant role in elevating the college to a university, to continue overseeing the institution and to provide continuity as well with the vision and plans of the Mountain Province State University. But with the limitation that he can only serve for one term given that he was not appointed or elected to this position as provided for in the CHED Law on the subject matter.

Senator Pimentel inquired whether to extend the concession to the college president, allowing him to serve as the inaugural university president for a single term lasting four years. Senator Escudero replied in the affirmative.

## **8. Senate Bill No. 2455 under Committee Report No. 153**

An Act Revitalizing and Strengthening the Self-Reliant Defense Posture Program and Promoting the Development of a National Defense Industry Pursuant Thereto and Providing Funds Therefor

Sponsor: Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

### **Amendments of Senator Zubiri**

Senator Zubiri proposed, and the Body approved, among others, these amendments, to wit:

- On page 2, in between lines 4 and 5, insert a new subsection (b) to read as follows:

(B) ALLIED INDUSTRIES – REFER TO VARIOUS INDUSTRIES WHICH ARE PART OF THE SUPPLY CHAIN IN THE MANUFACTURE, PRODUCTION AND ASSEMBLY OF DEFENSE MATERIEL

- On the same page, line 5, insert a new subsection (c).

(C) COUNTERTRADE A FORM OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE WHEREBY THE SUPPLIER COMMITS TO INTRODUCE INVESTMENTS, TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, TRAINING OR SKILLS UPGRADE, DONATIONS AND/OR RELATED ACTIVITIES INCLUDING IN-COUNTRY PRODUCTION ALL OF WHICH WILL ASSIST IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DEVELOPMENT OF LOCAL INDUSTRIES OR TECHNICAL FACILITIES OR EXPANSION OF TECHNOLOGICAL AND INDUSTRIAL CAPABILITIES OF THE DND AND THE PHILIPPINES.

- On the same page, line 17, delete the entire subsection (e) and replace with:

(E) IN-COUNTRY ENTERPRISE REFERS TO; (1) FILIPINO-OWNED ENTERPRISES ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING, SERVICING AND OPERATION OF MATERIEL IN THE PHILIPPINES, OR (2) A JOINT VENTURE BY A FILIPINO-OWNED ENTERPRISE TOGETHER WITH A FOREIGN ENTITY, OR (3) FOREIGN-OWNED ENTERPRISES ENGAGED IN THE MANUFACTURING, SERVICING AND OPERATION OF MATERIEL PROVIDED HOWEVER THAT SUCH FOREIGN-OWNED ENTERPRISE SHALL LOCATE A SUBSTANTIAL PORTION OF THEIR PRODUCTION AND SERVICING WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES;

- On the same page, line 25, after the word “support”, insert the phrase: TO BE ABLE TO ENSURE THAT DEFENSE MATERIEL, PERSONNEL, GOODS AND SERVICES ARE AT THE RIGHT PLACE AND AT THE RIGHT TIME.
- On page 3, Section 4, line 9, after the word “Philippines”, insert a new paragraph that will read as follows:

EXISTING OFFICES AND UNITS OF THE DND WITH SIMILAR FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE DTRID SHALL BE SUBSUMED AND/OR MERGED UNDER THIS OFFICE.

#### **Amendment of Senator Villanueva**

On page 3, line 29, after the word “savings”, insert a comma (,) and add the following phrase: IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 12, ARTICLE XII OF THE PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION. It is to emphasize the Filipino First principle to hire Filipinos first who are able, capable, and willing. So, Section 6 (a) will now read as follows:

#### **Amendment of Senator Estrada**

On page 4, line 13, subsection (g), after the word “program”, insert a comma and the phrase:

WITH EMPHASIS ON THE MODERNIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT ARSENAL, NAVAL SHIPYARDS, MILITARY BASES AND CAMPS

#### **Amendment of Senator Zubiri (continuation)**



Insert a new subsection to read as follows:

(M) IT SHALL PRIORITIZE THE PURCHASE OF LOCALLY MADE MATERIEL BY NATIONAL AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES FROM IN-COUNTRY ENTERPRISES.

**Amendments of Senator Estrada (continuation)**

- On page 4, line 31, Section 7, on the title of the section, remove the phrase “Formulation of”, and after the word “program”, insert the sentence: FORMULATION OF PROJECTS UNDER THE SRDP PROGRAM SHALL ADHERE TO THE POLICIES SET BY THE DTRID.
- On the next page, page 5, delete lines 1 to 15.
- On the same page, line 16, delete the phrase “SEC. 8. *Implementation of Projects under the SRDP.*”
- On the same page, line 29, after the word “materiel”, include a comma (,) and the phrase CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS AND ACCESSORIES.
- On page 6, line 4, after the word “mitigation”, add the phrase BY PROMOTING TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER, AND SOURCING LABOR AND PRODUCTION OF MATERIEL, CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS OR ACCESSORIES, LOCALLY.
- On the same page, between lines 10 and 11, insert a new section, to read as follows:

SEC. 11. COOPERATION OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES. – THE DTRID SHALL COORDINATE, COLLABORATE AND WORK WITH THE DOST, DTI, DOTR, NEDA, DILG, DBM, DOF, BOI, GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT POLICY BOARD (GPPB) AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES IN IMPLEMENTING THIS ACT.

THESE AGENCIES ARE MANDATED TO SUPPORT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT. THE DBM AND THE GPPB ARE MANDATED TO STRENGTHEN THE SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES FOR ACQUISITION OF MATERIEL UNDER THIS ACT.

**Amendments of Senators Estrada and Zubiri**

- On page 7, line 1, subparagraph (C) to read as follows:

(C) IN ADDITION TO THE INCENTIVES UNDER EXISTING LAWS, IN-COUNTRY ENTERPRISES ENGAGED IN THE DEVELOPMENT, MANUFACTURE, ASSEMBLY, SERVICING AND OPERATION OF MATERIEL REGISTERED WITH THE BOARD OF INVESTMENT—I will just include AND IPAs—SHALL ENJOY EXEMPTION FROM NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE TAXES, VALUE-ADDED TAX, AND CUSTOMS

DUTIES ON THEIR IMPORTATION OF CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, RAW MATERIALS, SPARE PARTS OR ACCESSORIES TO BE USED IN THE MANUFACTURE, ASSEMBLY, SERVICING AND—delete the word “OR”—OPERATION OF DEFENSE MATERIEL, ONLY IN CASES WHEN THE SAME ARE NOT LOCALLY AVAILABLE

- Insert a new Section 12:

SEC. 12. *PERMITS, LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS.* – ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS FROM NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SHALL STRICTLY ADHERE TO THE PERIOD PROVIDED FOR UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11032 OR THE "EASE OF DOING BUSINESS AND EFFICIENT GOVERNMENT SERVICE DELIVERY ACT OF 2018." IN ADDITION TO THIS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND OFFICES IN-CHARGE OF THE ISSUANCE OF PERMITS, LICENSES AND CERTIFICATIONS TO MANUFACTURE, PRODUCE, PROCESS, ASSEMBLE, SERVICING, REPAIR, AND DEVELOP OF MATERIEL, ORDNANCE, AMMUNITIONS AND EXPLOSIVES, CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS AND ACCESSORIES, ARE PROHIBITED FROM ORDERING TO CHANGE, RENOVATE OR MODIFY A PORTION OF A NEWLY-BUILT MANUFACTURING FACILITY IF THE CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH MANUFACTURING FACILITY HAD STRICTLY FOLLOWED THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN SUBMITTED TO AND APPROVED BY THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCY. SUCH CHANGES SHALL BE MADE PRIOR TO THE ISSUANCE OF THE BUILDING PERMIT AND THE ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION OF THE FACILITY: *PROVIDED*, THAT THE CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCY SHALL REVIEW THE LOCATIONAL, BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION PLAN OF THE FACILITY.

- On page 7, line 8, replace the phrase “is hereby authorized to negotiate with other governments for the manufacture, servicing or operation of materiel or components thereof, facilities, utilities and appurtenances thereto which are necessary for national defense” with: IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO ENTER INTO CONTRACTS, UNDER SUCH TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS MAY BE AGREED UPON, WITH ANY NATURAL OR JURIDICAL PERSON, FOR THE MANUFACTURE, SERVICING OR OPERATION OF MATERIEL OR COMPONENTS THEREOF, FACILITIES, UTILITIES AND APPURTENANCES THERETO WHICH ARE NECESSARY FOR THE MANUFACTURE, SERVICING OR OPERATING OF SUCH MATERIEL OR COMPONENTS THEREOF NECESSARY FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE, subject to style.

- On page 7, line 31, add the following subsections,

(3) WHILE HONORING DOMESTIC PREFERENCE, THE IN-COUNTRY ENTERPRISE SHALL MAINTAIN THE PRICE IT HAS SUBMITTED FOR THE BID.

(4) THE PROCURING ENTITY SHALL ISSUE A LETTER OF CREDIT IN FAVOR OF AN IN-COUNTRY ENTERPRISE: *PROVIDED*, THAT NO PAYMENT ON THE LETTER OF CREDIT SHALL BE MADE UNTIL DELIVERY AND

ACCEPTANCE OF THE GOODS AS CERTIFIED TO BY THE PROCURING ENTITY IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DELIVERY SCHEDULE PROVIDED FOR IN THE CONTRACT HAVE BEEN CONCLUDED.

#### **Amendment of Senator Villanueva**

- On page 8, line 3, after the word “production”, insert a colon (:) and add the following proviso:

PROVIDED, THAT FOREIGN ENTERPRISES PARTICIPATING PURSUANT TO THIS SUBSECTION SHALL FORMULATE AND UNDERTAKE AN UNDERSTUDY PROGRAM TO FACILITATE THE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND TRAIN FILIPINO WORKERS TOWARDS THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THIS OBJECTIVE.

#### **Amendments of Senators Estrada (continuation)**

- A new Section 15 to read as follows:

*SEC. 15. APPLICABILITY OF THIS ACT TO UNIFORMED SERVICES, OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS. - THIS ACT SHALL BE APPLICABLE TO UNIFORMED SERVICES, OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND GOCCS PROCURING MATERIEL, CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, SPARE PARTS AND ACCESSORIES, SUCH AS BUT NOT*

*LIMITED TO GUNS AND ITS ACCESSORIES, AMMUNITIONS, BULLETPROOF VESTS OR SIMILAR PROTECTIVE GEARS, ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS (APCS), TANKS, BOATS, SHIPS, UNMANNED AERIAL VEHICLES (UAVS) AND AIRCRAFTS, COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT, SOFTWARE, IN THE EXERCISE OF THEIR FUNCTIONS. THESE AGENCIES ARE THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (DILG), PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTR), THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI), BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR), AND THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION (BI) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (DOJ), NATIONAL MAPPING AND RESOURCE INFORMATION AUTHORITY (NAMRIA) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), BUREAU OF CUSTOMS (BOC) UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE (DOF), PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (PDEA) AND OTHER SIMILAR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND GOCCs, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE PHILIPPINE AEROSPACE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (PADC). THE HEAD OF THE AGENCY CONCERNED SHALL APPROVE THE PROCUREMENT OF MATERIEL UNDER THIS ACT IF THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF THE APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC) DOES NOT EXCEED ONE BILLION PESOS (PHP1,000,000,000), IF THE ABC EXCEEDS ONE BILLION PESOS, THE APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT IS REQUIRED. PROCUREMENT OF PRODUCTS, SUPPLIES, PROJECTS AND SERVICES NOT FALLING UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE COVERED BY THE*

REGULAR PROCESS OF PROCUREMENT UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184 OR THE “GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT.”

- On the same page, insert a new section to read as follows:  
**SEC. 16. PROHIBITION ON THE SALE OF MATERIEL TO PRIVATE ENTITIES.** — MATERIEL PRODUCED UNDER THE SRDP SHALL SOLELY BE FOR THE USE OF THE STATE’S UNIFORMED PERSONNEL AND OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. SALE OF MATERIEL TO PRIVATE ENTITIES, BOTH NATURAL AND JURIDICAL, SHALL BE PROHIBITED, UNLESS OTHERWISE ALLOWED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10591 OR THE “COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITIONS REGULATION ACT.” AND ALL SALES OF MATERIEL TO PRIVATE ENTITY SHALL BE SUBJECT TO VALUE-ADDED TAX AND OTHER APPLICABLE TAXES.

### **Manifestation of Senator Pimentel**

Senator Pimentel pointed out that the amendment makes reference to the Firearms Act and inquired whether it might create a loophole in the bill wherein firearms produced under the SRDP will find their way into the possession of civilians.

Senator Zubiri clarified that they are prohibited from selling. Under the Firearms Law, individuals can purchase firearms or ammunition, provided they adhere to the rules and regulations. These regulations specify that civilians cannot acquire high-powered firearms. Senator Zubiri emphasized that the Firearms Law permits the purchase of shotguns, 9mm handguns, and side arms for self-defense.

Senator Pimentel expressed the view that discussing the possibility of allowing civilians to purchase firearms under the SRDP is deviating significantly from the original intention of the bill. Senator Zubiri stated that the problem lies in the potential disadvantage for companies, like Armscor, which currently sell firearms to civilians and then participate in the SRDP program. They might face restrictions that could prevent them from joining the SRDP program, which would be an undue disadvantage to them since prior to this bill, they were permitted to sell to civilians under the Firearms Law.

Senator Pimentel suggested that the companies may create two corporate entities, one enrolled in the SRDP and one to continue with their ongoing activities.

### **Amendments of Senator Estrada (continuation)**

Senator Estrada proposed, and the Body approved, among others, these amendments, to wit:

- On page 8, line 19, insert a new section to read as follows:

**COUNTERTRADE.** – INTEGRATION OF COUNTERTRADE AS PART OF THE PROCUREMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON THE DND INCLUDING THOSE OF ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES, BUREAUS AND OFFICES WITH RESPECT TO ITS PURCHASE OR PROCUREMENT OF IMPORTED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY, SUPPLIES, MATERIAL

AND SERVICES AS AN ADDED VALUE IN THE SELECTION OF A SUPPLIER DURING THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES

- On the same page, insert a new section to read as follows:

*PROMOTION AND MARKETING SUPPORT.* – THE GOVERNMENT SHALL PROMOTE THE EXPORT OF LOCALLY MADE MATERIALS AND THE LOCAL ENTERPRISES TO OTHER COUNTRIES, AND IS ENCOURAGED TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL MARKETING SUPPORT FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUCH PROMOTION.

- On the same page, lines 19 to 28, delete the entire Section 14 and replace it with:

*SEC. 14. REPORTING AND OVERSIGHT.* – THE SECRETARY SHALL, NOT LATER THAN THE END OF THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE SUCCEEDING YEAR, SUBMIT TO THE PRESIDENT AND THE CONGRESS:

A. AN ANNUAL REPORT ON THE ACQUISITIONS MADE UNDER THIS ACT; AND

B. COPIES OF THE MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS, OBLIGATIONS AND OTHER AGREEMENTS ENTERED INTO BY THE DEPARTMENT AND ITS BUREAUS.

PURSUANT TO ITS CONSTITUTIONAL DUTIES, THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT, PARTICULARLY THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA), THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT, AND THE CONGRESS SHALL DISCHARGE OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS, TO WIT:

THE NEDA SHALL CONDUCT AN ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE STATUS OF ALL DEFENSE-RELATED ACQUISITIONS EXERCISED BY THE SECRETARY IN SECTION 8 OF THIS ACT, IDENTIFY CAUSES OF DELAYS, REASONS FOR BOTTLENECKS, COST OVERRUNS, BOTH ACTUAL AND PROSPECTIVE, AND CONTINUED VIABILITY, AND REPORT TO THE CONGRESS NOT LATER THAN JUNE 30 OF EACH YEAR;

THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT SHALL CONDUCT AN AUDIT ON EACH ONGOING, AND COMPLETED ACQUISITION AND RENDER A REPORT TO THE CONGRESS THEREON NOT LATER THAN JUNE 30 EACH YEAR; AND THERE SHALL BE A CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE COMPOSED OF THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF BOTH SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHO SHALL SERVE AS CO-CHAIRPERSONS OF THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE, THE CHAIRPERSONS OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS OF BOTH SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WHO SHALL SERVE AS CO-VICE-CHAIRPERSONS, FOUR (4) MEMBERS EACH FROM THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE REPRESENTING THE MAJORITY AND TWO (2) MEMBERS EACH FROM THE SENATE AND THE HOUSE REPRESENTING THE MINORITY TO BE DESIGNATED BY THE

LEADERS OF THE MAJORITY AND MINORITY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE CHAMBERS.

- On page 9, line 10, after the word “Act”, insert the sentence: THE AMOUNT NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT SHALL BE CHARGED AGAINST THE RESPECTIVE AGENCIES, SUBSEQUENT FUNDING SHALL BE INCLUDED IN THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT.

**9. Conference Committee Report on S. No. 1359/H. Nos. 6483 And 7584 (No Permit, No Exam Prohibition Act)**

**Manifestation of Senator Escudero**

Senator Escudero stated that the panels unanimously agreed on the Senate version, and that the measure is fully supported by the COCOPEA insofar as disadvantaged students are concerned, as may be defined by the DSWD and outlined in the proposed measure.

**Motion of Senator Escudero that the Joint Explanatory Statement of the Conference Committee on the Disagreeing Provisions of Senate Bill No. 1359 and House Bill Nos. 6483 and 7584 be inserted into the *Record***

**Approved**

**10. Senate Bill No. 2432 under Committee Report No. 118 (continuation) (Anti-Agricultural Economic Sabotage Act)**

**Amendments of Senator Escudero**

Senator Escudero proposed, and the Body approved, among others, the following amendments, to wit:

- On page 7, lines 21 and 22, after the word “is”, delete the phrase “at least One Million pesos (P1,000,000.00), using the DPI, computed” and replace it with the phrase AT LEAST THREE MILLION PESOS (P3,000,000.00) COMPUTED USING THE DPI.
- On page 10, lines 11 to 12, after the phrase “in excess of”, delete the phrase “their normal inventory level” and replace it with THIRTY PERCENT (30%) OF THEIR NORMAL INVENTORY LEVEL.
- The PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN TWO (2) YEARS BUT NOT MORE THAN FOUR (4) YEARS SHALL BE IMPOSED ON DRIVERS, WAREHOUSEMEN, TRUCK HELPERS, CLERKS, AND SIMILAR PERSONNEL WHO KNOWINGLY PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMISSION OF THE CRIME.
- On page 17, line 11, after the word “sector” and a colon (:), insert a provision that reads: *PROVIDED*, FURTHER THAT THE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES MUST HAVE PRIOR EXPERIENCE OR

KNOWLEDGE IN PRICING OR TRADING AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES PRODUCTS colon (:)

- On page 19, line 5, insert a new subsection (O) after subsection (n), to read as follows:

(O) ESTABLISH MECHANISMS TO COMPENSATE PERSONS WHOSE AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY PRODUCTS AND PROPERTIES HAVE BEEN SUBJECT OF WRONGFUL OR ILLEGAL SEIZURE, CONFISCATION, DESTRUCTION OR DISPOSAL: *PROVIDED*, THAT, THE COMPENSATION SHALL INCLUDE THE ACTUAL VALUE OF THE AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY PRODUCTS AND PROPERTIES AT THE TIME OF SEIZURE, CONFISCATION, DESTRUCTION OR DISPOSAL AND THE EARNINGS LOST BY REASON OF WRONGFUL OR ILLEGAL SEIZURE, CONFISCATION, DESTRUCTION OR DISPOSAL AS MAY BE DETERMINED BY THE COURTS

and renumber the succeeding sections accordingly.

- On page 21, line 30, delete the phrase “evidentiary purposes” and replace it with the phrase THE PURPOSE OF PRESERVING THE EVIDENCE AND DETERMINING THE VALUE OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY PRODUCTS AND PROPERTIES THAT WERE SEIZED OR CONFISCATED WHICH SHALL SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR DETERMINING THE AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION PURSUANT TO SECTION 16(O) OF THIS ACT.
- On page 23, line 4, after the word “informers” and the comma (,), insert the phrase AND THE COMPENSATION OF DAMAGES ARISING FROM WRONGFUL OR ILLEGAL SEIZURE, CONFISCATION, DESTRUCTION OR DISPOSAL OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY PRODUCTS AND PROPERTIES.

**Amendment of Senator Villar (C)**

Senator Villar (C) proposed, and the Body approved this amendment:

On page 11, between lines 8 and 9, insert a new sentence to read as follows:

PROFITEERING SHALL NOT APPLY TO RETAILERS WHO PURCHASE GOODS FROM WHOLESALERS, IMPORTERS, OR PRODUCERS AND DIRECTLY SELL IN SMALLER QUANTITIES TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC USUALLY IN WET MARKET, TALIPAPA, AND COOPERATIVE STORES WITH THE CAPITALIZATION NOT TO EXCEED TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00) AND TO FARMERS AND FISHERFOLKS SELLING THEIR OWN HARVEST, PRODUCE, OR CATCH.

**Approved on Second Reading**

**11. Conference Committee Report on S. No. 2243/H. No. 8278  
(Philippine Salt Industry Development Act)**

## **Report of Senator Villar (C)**

Senator Villar (C) stated that the Bicameral Conference agreed to adopt the Senate version as the working draft of the discussion. The changes in the working draft, which are stated on the Joint Explanatory Statement, comprise the content of the bicameral consolidated bill. The joint explanatory statement has been filed with the Bills and Index Service.

The Senator moved that the Joint Statement be read into the *Record* to form part of the report and that the result of the bicameral conference be ratified by the Body.

### **Approved**

## **12. Senate Bill No. 2455 under Committee Report No. 153. (continuation) (Self-Reliant Defense Posture Revitalization Act)**

### **Manifestation of Senator Hontiveros**

Senator Hontiveros manifested the withdrawal of her earlier proposed amendment to delete the entire paragraph (b) under Section 12, in anticipation of an amendment that will be presented later by the Sponsor.

### **Amendments of Senator Zubiri (continuation)**

Senator Zubiri proposed, and the Body approved, among others, the following amendments, to wit:

- On page 5, Section 7 subsection (b) after the word “project”, add the paragraph:

PROVIDED THAT PARTICIPANTS MUST OBTAIN AND MAINTAIN ISO 9001 CERTIFICATION AND OTHER APPLICABLE QUALITY CERTIFICATIONS CORRESPONDING TO PARTICULAR PRODUCTS AND SERVICES SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, AS 9100 FOR AEROSPACE. Provided FURTHER, that the Undersecretary shall not publish details, specifications, and such other information that must be kept confidential by reasons of national security.

- On page 7, line 16, add the following phrase after the word “requirement”:  
AND A REQUIREMENT OF A PRODUCT TO BE USED BY AT LEAST TWO FOREIGN MILITARIES.

### **Amendment of Senator Estrada**

- On page 8, line 19, insert a new section to read as follows:

COUNTERTRADE AND OFFSET. - INTEGRATION OF COUNTERTRADE AND OFFSET AS PART OF THE PROCUREMENT POLICY AND PROCEDURES ON THE DND INCLUDING THOSE OF ITS



ATTACHED AGENCIES, BUREAUS AND OFFICES WITH RESPECT TO ITS PURCHASE OR PROCUREMENT OF IMPORTED CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY, SUPPLIES, MATERIAL AND SERVICES AS AN ADDED VALUE IN THE SELECTION OF A SUPPLIER DURING THE PROCUREMENT OF GOODS AND SERVICES. IN ORDER TO REDUCE FOREIGN EXCHANGE OUTFLOW, GENERATE LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND ENHANCE TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER TO THE PHILIPPINES, THE SECRETARY OF NATIONAL DEFENSE SHALL, AS FAR AS PRACTICABLE, INCORPORATE IN EACH AGREEMENT INVOLVING THE GOVERNMENT IN MANUFACTURING, SERVICING, OR OPERATION OF MATERIEL SPECIAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE REDUCTION SCHEMES, OFFSET AND COUNTERTRADE IN- COUNTRY MANUFACTURE COPRODUCTION OR OTHER INNOVATIVE ARRANGEMENTS OR COMBINATION THEREOF.

### **Approved on Second Reading**

### **13. Senate Bill No. 2507 under Committee Report No. 177**

An Act Establishing the Negros Island Region

### **Sponsorship Speech of Senator Ejercito**

Senator Ejercito enumerated the key points of the bill, to wit:

- a. Creation of the Negros Island Region (NIR), to be composed of Negros Occidental, including the City of Bacolod, Negros Oriental, and Siquijor.
- b. Ensure the effective delivery of services; six clusters of regional offices will be divided between the two halves of the island. Negros Occidental will house the clusters for agriculture and land-related agencies, peace and order, among others. While Negros Oriental will house the clusters on human development, infrastructure, and industry and labor.
- c. Upon the enactment of this bill, a technical working group (TWG) will be constituted for the transition process. It will include the NEDA, DBM, DILG, representatives for the governors of the three provinces, and representatives of all elected members of the House from those provinces.

The Senator added that it will likewise result in an improved peace and order for Negros since the island will be placed under one command.

### **Cosponsorship Speech of Senator Zubiri**

Senator Zubiri expressed that being a son of Negros, his father coming from Barangay Talubangi, Kabankalan, Negros Occidental, it is his honor to cosponsor the long-awaited Negros Island Region Act.

The Senator stated that current administrative setup of Negros is needlessly complicated. The people live on one island but are governed under separate

administrative regions. This is entirely an inefficient way of serving the people. Thus, the Senator stated that it is their job to bring the government closer to them.

In addition, Senator Zubiri expressed that they are committed to reestablish the Negros Island Region which was already established under an executive order but unfortunately was rescinded.

Senator Zubiri requested support from the Body for the passage of this bill and help the people of Negros Oriental, Negros Occidental, and Siquijor to have easier access to the government services.

**Motion of Senator Legarda that her cosponsorship speech and coauthorship of Senate Bill No. 2507 be inserted into the *Record***

**Motion of Senator Ejercito that the cosponsorship speeches of Senators Gatchalian, Hontiveros, and Legarda be inserted into the *Record***

#### **14. 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" N. Tolentino  
Cosponsors: Sen. Joel Villanueva  
Sen. Loren Legarda  
Sen. Juan Miguel "Migz" F. Zubiri  
Sen. Win Gatchalian  
Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.  
Sen. Ronald "Bato" Dela Rosa

#### **Interpellations of Senator Pimentel**

At the outset, Senator Pimentel inquired whether the bill is necessary. In reply, Senator Tolentino stated that the measure will highlight the gains the country achieved in the 2016 arbitral ruling, as well as the recognition the country got from the international community and the daily plight of our fisherfolk and the troops onboard the BRP Sierra Madre.

As to the query on whether the enactment of a Maritime Zones Law by a state is required under any treaty or norm of international law, Senator Tolentino answered that UNCLOS encourages state parties to have their own Maritime Zones Law.

Senator Pimentel further asked whether the fact that a State does not have a Maritime Zones Law be taken against it. Senator Tolentino said that it would not diminish the standing of a State if it does not have a Maritime Zones Law. However, having a Maritime Zones Law would make the country more compliant with the obligations. It would also allow the exercise with clarity of the sovereign rights as well as enable to effectively enforce laws in the maritime zones.

Senator Pimentel stated in essence that there is no treaty or principle of international law that requires a State to enact a Maritime Zones Law. The decision

is solely driven by the country's own decision rather than a requirement imposed by international treaties or principles of law.

The Sponsor emphasized that the Philippines needs to enact the measure as a state party to UNCLOS and in order to preserve and protect our sovereign claims.

As to the repeal of RA 3046 or An Act to Define the Baselines of the Territorial Sea of the Philippines, with the exception of Section 1, Senator Tolentino stated that it has to be done in order to make the proposed measure current and compliant with UNCLOS obligations.

On the repeal Section 1 of PD 1596 and PD 1599, Senator Tolentino pointed out that it is necessary to make it in consonance with the Arbitral Ruling and with UNCLOS.

As regards Section 3 (e) and Section 3 (ai) of Republic Act No. 7942, known as the "Philippine Mining Act of 1995," the Sponsor mentioned that it needs to be modified to make it compliant with UNCLOS to enable the country to have mining and extraction rights in the extended continental shelf, which is beyond the 200 nautical miles exclusive economic zone.

As to the penal section of the measure, the Sponsor added that if there are violations committed within the territorial sea concerning immigration, customs, and sanitary laws, the penal provisions would apply. Through this, there will be a penal section that can be applied by Philippine Admiralty Courts.

Senator Pimentel inquired whether the Maritime Zones Law could be enacted even without the arbitral ruling. In reply, Senator Tolentino stated that there is a need to mention the 2016 Arbitral Ruling to highlight the country's compliance with the UNCLOS. If other countries would recognize Philippine Maritime Zones Law, they, in effect, recognize the effects of the arbitral ruling.

#### **15. Senate Bill No. 2386 under Committee Report No. 99 (continuation)**

An Act Instituting Reforms in Real Property Valuation and Assessment in the Philippines, Reorganizing the Bureau of Local Government Finance, and Appropriating Funds Therefor

Sponsor: Sen. Win Gatchalian

#### **Interpellations of Senator Pimentel**

Senator Pimentel inquired about the effect of the bill to the Bureau of Local Government Finance (BLGF). In reply, Senator Gatchalian stated that the BLGF will be empowered to set standards and supervise the updating of market values of the LGUs. It will also ensure that the updating of market values by the assessor complies with the standards. Likewise, the Office of the BLGF will be expanded since it will promulgate standards and will supervise the LGUs' updating of market values.

Senator Pimentel inquired whether there is a need to expand the BLGF when the bill becomes a law. Senator Gatchalian replied in the affirmative, stating that one of the powers to be vested with the BLGF is to develop, adapt, and maintain the Philippine Valuation Standards' regulation and specification for real property appraisal.

Senator Gatchalian added that one of the main thrusts of the bill is to mandate assessors to conduct updating of market values on a regular basis using the valuation standards.

Senator Pimentel inquired whether the bill is technically the same as a general revision of real property assessments mentioned in Section 219 of the Local Government Code. In reply, Senator Gatchalian said the bill is focused on the updating of the schedule of market value of land and improvements in the localities.

## **16. Privilege Speech of Senator Tolentino**

According to Senator Tolentino, a flotilla of 40 boats would sail towards the BRP Sierra Madre in the coming days. The boats are civilian in ownership and small in tonnage. It is a Christmas convoy to bring gifts, consisting of fruit cocktails, books, fresh vegetables, and new clothes.

**Motion of Senator Villanueva that the privilege speech of Senator Tolentino be referred to the Committee on Rules**

## **17. House Bill No. 4844 under Committee Report No. 93.**

An Act Creating a Barangay in the Municipality of Barobo, Province of Surigao Del Sur to be Known as Barangay Guinhalinan

Sponsor : Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

Cosponsor : Christopher Lawrence T. Go

### **Amendments of Senator Ejercito**

Senator Ejercito proposed, and the Body approved, among others, the following amendments, to wit:

- Insert a new Section 2 containing the territorial boundaries of Barangay Guinhalinan.
- Delete the entire Section 3 and replace with a new section, which shall read as follows:

**SECTION 3. CONDUCT AND SUPERVISION OF PLEBISCITE. – THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) SHALL CONDUCT AND SUPERVISE THE PLEBISCITE TO BE HELD IN BARANGAY GUINHALINAN, BAROBO, SURIGAO DEL SUR, WITHIN NINETY (90)**

DAYS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT. THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROBO SHALL SHOULDER THE EXPENSES FOR SUCH PLEBISCITE.

- Delete the entire Section 4 and replace with a new section, which shall read as follows:

SECTION 4. *APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM BARANGAY OFFICIALS* – THERE SHALL BE A PUNONG BARANGAY, SEVEN (7) SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY MEMBERS, A SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN CHAIRMAN, AND SEVEN (7) SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN MEMBERS IN THE NEWLY CREATED BARANGAY WHICH SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR. SUCH BARANGAY OFFICIALS SHALL SERVE UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS SHALL HAVE BEEN DULY ELECTED AND QUALIFIED.

### **Approved on Second Reading**

### **18. House Bill No. 5819 under Committee Report No. 117.**

An Act Dividing Barangay 176 also Known as Barangay Bagong Silang in the City of Caloocan into Six (6) Separate and Independent Barangays to be Known as Barangay 176-A, Barangay 176-B, Barangay 176-C, Barangay 176-D, Barangay 176-E, and Barangay 176-F

Sponsor : Sen. Joseph Victor G.Ejercito

Cosponsor : Sen. Christopher Lawrence T. Go

### **Amendments of Senator Ejercito**

Senator Ejercito proposed, and the Body approved, among others, the following amendments, to wit:

- Insert a new section containing the territorial boundaries of the six barangays.
- On page 1, Section 3, line 15, delete the phrase “thirty (30)” and replace it with the phrase NINETY (90)
- On page 1, after line 16, insert a new provision to read as follows:  
SEC. 4. *APPOINTMENT OF INTERIM BARANGAY OFFICIALS*. – THERE SHALL BE A PUNONG BARANGAY, SEVEN (7) SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY MEMBERS, A SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN CHAIRMAN, AND SEVEN (7) SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN MEMBERS IN EACH OF THE NEWLY-CREATED BARANGAYS WHICH SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE MAYOR. SUCH BARANGAY OFFICIALS SHALL SERVE UNTIL THEIR SUCCESSORS HAVE BEEN DULY ELECTED AND QUALIFIED.
- On page 2, line 3, delete the phrase “elected and qualified” and replace it with APPOINTED.

### **Approved on Second Reading**

**The session was adjourned at 10:24 p.m.**