

[VOL. III, August 12, 1986]

R.C.C. NO. 54

Tuesday, August 12, 1986

OPENING OF SESSION

At 9:44 a.m., the President, the Honorable Cecilia Muñoz Palma, called the session to order.

THE PRESIDENT: The session is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE PRESIDENT: Everybody will please rise to sing the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the National Anthem.

THE PRESIDENT: Everybody will please remain standing for the Prayer to be led by the Honorable Ahmad Domocao Alonto.

Everybody remained standing for the Prayer.

PRAYER

MR. ALONTO: *Wa qaala Rabbukum ud-'uunii 'astajib lakum.* And your Lord hath said: Call to Me that I may answer your call . . .

Bismillaahir-Rahmaanir-Rahilim. — In the name of Allah, Most Benevolent and Most Merciful.

We begin in Thy Holy Name, O God, to firm our hope for Thy Eternal Grace.

'Al-Hamdu Li'llaahi Rabbi'l-halamin; — *All Praise be to Allah, Lord of all the Worlds;*

Verily none is worthy of praise save Thou, O God, as Thou, and only Thou, is the Creator, Protector, Preserver and Sustainer of the Universe.

'Ar-Rahmaanin-Rahiim; — Most Beneficent, Ever-Merciful;

Thy ever-watchful and inexhaustible grace, O God, is what we need most to guide us in this period of crises and revolution, of restlessness and anguish, of anxiety and frustrations, to light our way amidst our nascent but sincere effort of nation-building.

Maaliki Yawmid-Diin! King of the Day of Judgment;

We, who are Thy obedient servants in this tiny corner of Thy Universe, O God, are fully aware and do firmly believe that one day everyone will have to render account of all his acts to Thee.

'Iyyaaka na'-budu wa 'iyyaaka nasta-'iin. — You alone we worship; and to You alone we turn for help.

We affirm that none is worthy of worship and devotion, submission and obedience, and subjection and servitude, except Thou, O God, and we affirm that we are Thy worshippers, Thy subjects and Thy slaves; keeping these relations with Thee and Thee alone; and so we ask Thy help as Thou art the Lord of the whole Universe and Thou hast all powers and Thou art the Master of everything; and verily, only Thee can give us help for the fulfillment of our cry for justice, freedom and democracy.

'Ihdinas-Siraatal-Mustaqiim — Guide us to the straight path,

We confess, O God, that events in this country in the past few years have confused our vision and made us lose sight of the right way — the way that can lead us aright in every walk of life and can keep us free from errors and evil consequences and bring success in the end, so "Thine Will be done."

Siraatal-laziina 'an-'amta 'alay-him — The path of those whom Thou hast favoured;

We affirm our commitment, O God, to the ways of those excellent exemplars of human behavior who have not deviated a jot away from Thy blessed way throughout the whole course of human history — the *Anbiyya* or the Prophets, the *Siddiqin* or the Faithful, the *Shuhada* or the Martyrs, and the *Salihin* or the Righteous —

Gayril-magzuubi 'alay-him wa laz-zaaalliin. — Not (the path) of those who earn Thine anger nor of those who go astray.

Rabbanaa las tuzig quluubanaa ba'-da 'iz hadaytanaa wa hablanaa milladuñka rahmattan 'innaka 'Antal-Wahhaab.

Our Lord! Cause not our hearts to stray after Thou hast guided us, and bestow upon us mercy from Thy Presence. Lo! Thou, only Thou, art the Bestower!

Our Lord! We pray for Thy guidance in framing the fundamental law of the land and grant that by it, we can establish *Ummattun yadu'una ila'l khayr wa ya' muruuna bil ma'ruuf wa yanha'una ani'l Munkar.* . . a nation that invites to goodness, enjoins what is right and forbids what is evil. *AMEEN. YA RABBAL'ALAMIIN.*

ROLL CALL

THE PRESIDENT: The Secretary-General will call the roll.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, *reading*:

Abubakar	Present*	Natividad	Present*
Alonto	Present	Nieva	Absent
Aquino	Present*	Nolledo	Present*
Azcuna	Present*	Ople	Present
Bacani	Present	Padilla	Present
Bengzon	Present*	Quesada	Present
Bennagen	Present	Rama	Present
Bernas	Present	Regalado	Absent
Rosario Braid	Present	Reyes de los	Present
Brocka	Present	Rigos	Present
Calderon	Present	Rodrigo	Present

Castro de	Present	Romulo	Present
Colayco	Present	Rosales	Present
Concepcion	Present	Sarmiento	Present [*]
Davide	Present	Suarez	Present
Foz	Present	Sumulong	Present
Garcia	Present [*]	Tadeo	Present
Gascon	Present	Tan	Present
Guingona	Absent	Tingson	Present
Jamir	Present	Treñas	Present
Laurel	Present [*]	Uka	Present
Lerum	Present	Villacorta	Present
Maambong	Present	Villegas	Present
Monsod	Present		

The President is present.

The roll call shows 36 Members responded to the call.

THE PRESIDENT: The Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

MR. CALDERON: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Assistant Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. CALDERON: I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of yesterday's session.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of the previous session? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

MR. CALDERON: Madam President, I move that we approve the Journal of yesterday's session.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

MR. CALDERON. Madam President, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

THE PRESIDENT. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary-General will read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary-General read the following Proposed Resolution on First Reading, Petition and Communications, the President making the corresponding references:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION ON FIRST READING

Proposed Resolution No. 538, entitled:

RESOLUTION FOR THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION TO CONGRATULATE SENATOR TAÑADA.

Introduced by Hon. Villacorta, Muñoz Palma, Bernas, Tan, Abubakar, Alonto, Aquino, Azcuna, Bacani Bengzon, Jr., Bennagen, Rosario Braid, Brocka Calderon, de Castro, Colayco, Concepcion, Davide, Jr., Foz, Garcia, Gascon, Guingona, Jamir Laurel, Jr., Lerum, Maambong, Monsod, Natividad Nieva, Nollado, Ople, Padilla, Quesada, Rama Regalado, de los Reyes, Jr., Rigos, Rodrigo, Romulo, Rosales, Sarmiento, Suarez, Sumulong Tadeo, Tingson, Treñas, Uka and Villegas.

To the Steering Committee.

PETITION

Petition of the Honorable Commissioners Decoroso R. Rosales, Jose D. Calderon, Teodoro C. Bacani, Eulogio R. Lerum, Hilario G. Davide, Jr., Adolfo S. Azcuna, Teodulo C. Natividad and Jose B. Laurel, Jr., expressing support of the Petition of the Honorable Commissioners Lugum L. Uka, Napoleon G. Rama, Florenz D. Regalado, Regalado E. Maambong, Jose N. Nollado, Ma. Teresa F. Nieva, Yusup R. Abubakar and Hilario G. Davide, Jr., asking the Committee on Human Resources to submit to the Constitutional Commission of 1986 a consolidated committee report.

(Petition No. 2 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communication from Mr. Dorentino Z. Floresta of the Knights of Columbus, Council 3722, Olongapo City, saying that if the Filipino people thru its President, Corazon C. Aquino, decides to extend the US military bases in the Philippines, he strongly recommends that the compensation given to the Philippine government by the U.S. government for the use of the bases be considered rental and the same shall be increased in accordance with the prevailing rentals paid by the United States to Spain, Korea, Japan, Turkey, and Germany; that the Labor Code of the Philippines shall be applied to the labor-management relationship inside the bases; that criminal offenses committed by American servicemen must be tried by the Philippine courts; and that the Philippine government shall have effective control over the bases including the operation of business establishments.

(Communication No. 524 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Preamble, National Territory, and Declaration of Principles.

Thirty-seven letters with eleven thousand seventy-nine (11,079) signatories with their respective addresses, all seeking to include in the Constitution a provision obliging the State to protect the life of the unborn from the moment of conception.

(Communication No. 525 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Preamble, National Territory, and Declaration of Principles.

Letter from Mr. Jaime Z. Bermudez of Agbannawag, Rizal, Nueva Ecija, urging the Constitutional Commission to include provisions on land reform that would enable

small landowners to recover their lands from their tenants.

(Communication No. 526 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Social Justice.

Communication from the Council of the Laity of the Philippines, CAP Bldg., 372 Cabildo Street, Intramuros, Manila, signed by its President, Henrietta Tambunting de Villa, seeking inclusion in the Constitution "the right to life from conception" and the integration of "religious instruction" into the primary and secondary educational system.

(Communication No. 527 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Steering Committee.

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. RAMA: I move that we continue consideration of Committee Report Nos. 21 and 25 on Proposed Resolution No. 511, the Article on Local Governments.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The honorable Chairman and members of the Committee on Local Governments are requested to occupy the front table.

MR. VILLACORTA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner Villacorta is recognized.

MR. VILLACORTA: In the Reference of Business, there was a petition submitted by the honorable Commissioner Decoroso Rosales, et al, requesting the Committee on Human Resources to submit to the Constitutional Commission a consolidated committee report. This puzzles the members of the Human Resources Committee because we had already a long time ago submitted a consolidated report. This gives a wrong impression to the public about the efficiency of our Committee. We do not fully understand the intention of this petition.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDENT: The session is suspended for a few minutes to check with the Secretariat.

It was 9:58 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:13 a.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDENT: The session is resumed.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. RAMA: Madam President, I ask that Commissioner Villacorta be recognized.