

[VOL. V, October 12, 1986]

R.C.C. NO. 106

Sunday, October 12, 1986

OPENING OF SESSION

At 10:30 a.m., the Presiding Officer, the Honorable Alberto M.K. Jamir, opened the session.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Jamir): The session is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Jamir) : Everybody will please rise to sing the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Jamir) : Everybody will please remain standing for the Prayer to be led by the Honorable Ambrosio B. Padilla.

Everybody remained standing for the Prayer.

MR. PADILLA: Almighty God, O Lord, for more than four months every morning before starting the deliberations of this Constitutional Commission we have implored Your Divine Providence for assistance and guidance. In the discharge of our far reaching responsibility, in formulating the 1986 Constitution for our dear country and beloved people, designated by our President from so many qualified in the different sectors of our enlightened society, we have responded to a call of duty and service-professional men and women, elder and younger members, blending experiences and enthusiasm. Undertaking further study and research on the Philippine Constitutions of 1935 and 1973, we have diligently attended public hearings, committee meetings, Commission caucuses and plenary sessions where we expounded on our views and opinions, our preferences and predilections including our prejudices and we expressed our suggestions and amendments in appropriate and precise terms. Some Commissioners, convinced of the soundness of their judgment and convictions, have debated and argued with eloquence, sometimes with passionate or obstinate fervor, to make them prevail over those of other Commissioners. But the common objective of all was to exert our best efforts to attain the formulation of a good Constitution, animated solely by patriotism, pro-country, nationalism, pro-people with principles, policies and aspiration for us and our descendants to enjoy the blessings of democracy, truth, justice, freedom peace

and prosperity.

The Constitution we have completed is far from perfect due to our own imperfections and shortcomings. It has flaws and defects, some of which could have been substantially improved without reporting to the suspension of our Rules of Procedures. Many of us are not fully satisfied, and some are even disappointed in few approved provisions, but in the exchange of views on the free market of ideas we have to respect and abide by the majority will.

Dear Lord, we praise and thank You for guiding us during the preparation and completion of this 1986 Constitution. "All is well that ends well." We trust that our sovereign people will accept and ratify our imperfect work and inadequate product. But we hope it will serve as the constitutional foundation of our political stability, economic reconstruction and national development, for the enduring happiness of our long suffering people. Amen.

ROLL CALL

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Jamir): The Secretary-General will call the roll.

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, *reading*:

Abubakar	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*	Natividad	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*
Alonto	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*	Nieva	Present
Aquino	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*	Nolledo	Present
Azcuna	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*	Ople	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*
Bacani	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*	Padilla	Present
Bengzon	Present	Quesada	Present
Bennagen	Present	Rama	Present
Bernas	Present	Regalado	Present
Rosario Braid	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*	Reyes de los	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*

Calderon	Present	Rigos	Present
Castro de	Present	Rodrigo	Present
Colayco	Present	Romulo	Present
Concepcion	Present	Rosales	Absent
			Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*</SUP>
Davide	Present	Sarmiento	
Foz	Present	Suarez	Present
	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*</SUP>		
Garcia		Sumulong	Present
	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*</SUP>		
Gascon		Tadeo	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*</SUP>
	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*</SUP>		
Guingona	Present	Tan	Present
Jamir	Present	Tingson	Present
	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*</SUP>		
Laurel		Treñas	Present
	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*</SUP>		
Lerum		Uka	Present
	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*</SUP>		
Maambong	Present	Villacorta	Present
Monsod	Present	Villegas	Present

The President is present.

The roll call shows 31 Members responded to the call.

MR. CALDERON: Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Jamir) : The Assistant Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. CALDERON: I move that we dispense with the reading of the Journal of the previous session.

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

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

MR. CALDERON: Mr. Presiding Officer, I move that we approve the Journal of yesterday's session.

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

MR. CALDERON: Mr. Presiding Officer, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Jamir) : 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 Communications, the Presiding Officer making the corresponding references:

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from Mr. Mauro P. Balingit of 37 Aldrin St., Doña Faustina Village, Culiat, Diliman, Quezon City, urging the Constitutional Commission to allow both President Aquino and Vice-President Laurel to complete their term of office because they were the real winners in the presidential election.

(Communication No. 1095 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Amendments and Transitory Provisions.

Letter from Mr. Felixberto M. Serrano, former Secretary of Foreign Affairs, submitting an article "Constitutional Commission Must Finally Remove Perplexities in Draft Constitution" in which he discussed the two issues disturbing him.

(Communication No. 1096 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Steering Committee.

Letter from one Antonio M. Clarion of 163 Punta Sta. Ana, Manila, urging the Constitutional Commission to adopt a provision that would uplift the living condition of the ordinary rice and corn farmers considering the fact that they are the people that feed the nation.

(Communication No. 1097 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

Letter from one Jose E. Edang of 520-H Juan Luna Street, Mandaluyong, Metro Manila, seeking a constitutional provision calling for a referendum in which the people will be asked whether or not they are in favor of the incumbent President and

Vice-President to continue in office up to six years reckoned from February 25, 1986.

(Communication No. 1098 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Amendments and Transitory Provisions.

Letter from one Consuelo Cuachon of 371 Grande Avenue, BF Parañaque, Metro Manila, suggesting "Republica ng Bagumbayan" as a name of our country.

(Communication No. 1099 — Constitutional Commission Of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Letter from one Calculus Rufino Datingaling of Nasugbu, Batangas, urging the Constitutional Commission to include in the Constitution a provision prohibiting the enactment of a law that allows the dissolution of marriage.

(Communication No. 1100 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

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

Letter from one C.D. de Guzman of Malate, Manila suggesting that in order that presidential appointees will not be beholden to politicians and for purposes of checks and balances, appointments of said appointees should be confirmed by the Supreme Court instead of Congress.

(Communication No. 1101 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the Executive.

Two letters expressing good wishes for the Filipino people and urging them to draft a constitution which stands for justice, peace, freedom, and solidarity, from:

(1) Twenty-eight residents of 1080 HV Amsterdam, Netherlands

(Communication No. 1102 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

(2) Thirty-two residents of 1156 BA Marken, Netherlands

(Communication No. 1103 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Archives.

MR. RAMA: Mr. Presiding Officer.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. Jamir) : The Floor Leader is recognized.