

# [ VOL. V, October 01, 1986 ]

## R.C.C. NO. 97

Wednesday, October 1, 1986

### OPENING OF SESSION

*At 10:08 a.m., the President, the Honorable Cecilia Muñoz Palma, opened the session.*

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 Hilario G. Davide, Jr.

*Everybody remained standing for the Prayer.*

### PRAYER

MR. DAVIDE: Dear Lord, this is the third time in plenary session that I have been given the mission to pray for all of us and the Commission.

I am sure this will be my last, for before October 15 we will be through with our task in formulating the fundamental Charter which shall guide the destiny of a country so dear to You. This then will be my opportune time to thank You for all things sublime which You in Your limitless goodness gifted 47 minds of varied approaches.

We thank You for Your patience in staying with us even beyond our original timetable;

For the constancy of Your divine inspiration without which we would have weakened or faltered;

For Your divine light without which we would have walked in the dark;

For Your divine strength without which we would have cowed in fear, yielded to pressures or intimidations;

For Your divine love without which we could not have kept our togetherness in the

search for ideals which shall bind our people in unity and understanding;

For Your divine wisdom without which we could not have adopted proposals reflective of the aspirations and dreams of our people, and assure them justice, freedom, equality and peace.

Definitely, our work does not end by our approval of the final draft. Our people will still render judgment on it.

We pray then, Dear Lord, that just as You have been very kind to us, You shower upon our people Your divine inspiration, light, strength, love and wisdom so that they will overwhelmingly approve, love, treasure and cherish the new Constitution.

This we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, Who lives and reigns forever. Amen.

### ROLL CALL

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

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, *reading*:

Abubakar	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*	Natividad	Present
Alonto	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*	Nieva	Present
Aquino	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*	Nolledo	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*
Azcuna	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*	Ople	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*
Bacani	Present	Padilla	Present
Bengzon	Present	Quesada	Present
Bennagen	Present	Rama	Present
Bernas	Present	Regalado	Present
Rosario Braid	Present	Reyes de los	Present
Calderon	Absent	Rigos	Present
Castro de	Present	Rodrigo	Present
Colayco	Present	Romulo	Present
Concepcion	Present	Rosales	Absent
Davide	Present	Sarmiento	Present
Foz	Present	Suarez	Present

Garcia	Present	Sumulong	Present
Gascon	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*	Tadeo	Present
Guingona	Present	Tan	Present
Jamir	Present	Tingson	Present <SUP STYLE="COLOR: RGB(255, 0, 0);">*
Laurel	Absent	Treñas	Present
Lerum	Present	Uka	Present
Maambong	Present	Villacorta	Present
Monsod	Present		

The Secretariat is in receipt of official advice of absence of Commissioner Villegas.

The President is present.

The roll call shows 35 Members responded to the call.

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

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. RAMA: 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 yesterday's session? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

#### APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

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

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection that we approve the Journal of yesterday's session? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

MR. RAMA: 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 Communications, the President making the corresponding references:*

### COMMUNICATIONS

Communication from one Sol Rombuena, President, Parish Council, Immaculate Conception Cathedral Parish, Ozamiz City, seeking inclusion in the Constitution of a provision making religion a required subject in the public and private elementary and high schools.

(Communication No. 1028 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Communication from Ms. Arabella Alano of Maryknoll College Foundation, Inc., Katipunan Road, Loyola Heights, Quezon City, expressing doubts why until now the U.S. military bases in the Philippines have not been dismantled.

(Communication No. 1029 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

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

Communication from one W. Lorenzo of 1763 Dumas St., Makati, Metro Manila, expressing opinion on the country's reported negative economic growth rate saying that "we are poor because . . . too much of our money and the jobs and industries it could have created were stolen from us."

(Communication No. 1030 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Floor Leader is recognized.

### CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 531 (Article on General Provisions) *Continuation*

### PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

MR. RAMA: I move that we resume consideration of Proposed Resolution No. 531 on the Article on General Provisions.

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

The honorable chairman and members of the Committee on General Provisions are requested to occupy the front table.

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

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner Romulo is recognized.

MR. ROMULO: Madam President, upon consultation with my co-sponsors, Commissioners Rigos, Aquino and Rosario Braid, we are withdrawing our proposed amendment to Section 13 on the understanding that the absence of a provision on population welfare and responsible parenthood will not prevent the government from proceeding with these programs, and further on the understanding that Section 3 (d) of the section on family rights would allow prospective parents, through their participation in planning and implementation of policies and programs that affect them, to acquaint themselves with their choices in this regard and thus arrive at an informed conscience.

Thank you, Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you.

Let it be noted that said proposed amendment has been withdrawn.

MR. RAMA: Madam President, there is a last section in the Article on General Provisions.

THE PRESIDENT: We are still on the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

MR. RAMA: This is on the police force. There are no registered speakers on this particular section.

MR. DE LOS REYES: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner de los Reyes is recognized.

MR. DE LOS REYES: Will it still be in order to ask a few questions of Commissioner Natividad before I introduce an intended amendment?

MR. NATIVIDAD: Gladly, Madam President.

MR. DE LOS REYES: As conceptualized, Section 22 means that the police force will be separated from the Philippine Constabulary. Is that correct?

MR. NATIVIDAD: Yes, Madam President, because the Philippine Constabulary has a dual character. It is both the national police under a commonwealth act and a military force, being a major command of the armed forces.

Here in our draft Constitution, we have already made a constitutional postulate that