

# [ VOL. IV, September 10, 1986 ]

## R.C.C. NO. 79

Wednesday, September 10, 1986

### OPENING OF SESSION

*At 9:52 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 Napoleon G. Rama.

*Everybody remained standing for the Prayer.*

### PRAYER

MR. RAMA: Lord Almighty, You are the first Law-maker Who fashioned the fundamental laws for nature, which nature may not disobey, and for man — an insurgent atom could touch off a doomsday disaster and which, under Your scheme, only man with his gift of free will may accept or not accept at his own risk — touch us with a spark of Your wisdom in the making of laws so that we may shape the fundamental law of our land, true to the aspirations of the people and the common good and acceptable to them.

You wanted remembered and celebrated and acknowledged by all as special the event of Your decreeing the Ten Commandments — as a milestone in the history of mankind. It was not without a dash of drama. You sent Your servant Moses to Mt. Sinai before You handed him, amid thunder and lightning, the commandments inscribed in tablets of stone. Moses descended godlike from the summit, exploding in anger at an ungrateful and idolatrous people, smashing the tablets into small pieces — a scene the world will not likely forget. In a few weeks, Lord, we, too, will deliver the constitutional commandments to the people.

To Moses who led Your people out of the land of tyranny to the edge of the land of milk and honey, You gave the gift of leadership, wisdom, courage and anger. We need all of these gifts, Lord, and a little more for our mission is wider, our responsibility greater, than that of Moses, as lawgiver.

Moses came down the mountain to decree upon the people the laws he did not write. Your Constitutional Commissioners will come down from the Batasang Pambansa to render upon our people the fundamental law that we ourselves have written.

This we ask through Christ, Your Son. Amen.

## ROLL CALL

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

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, reading:

|               |          |              |          |
|---------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| Abubakar      | Present* | Natividad    | Present* |
| Alonto        | Present* | Nieva        | Present  |
| Aquino        | Present* | Nolledo      | Present* |
| Azcuna        | Present* | Ople         | Present* |
| Bacani        | Present* | Padilla      | Present  |
| Nengzon       | Present  | Quesada      | Present  |
| Bennagen      | Present  | Rama         | Present  |
| Bernas        | Present* | Regalada     | Present* |
| Rosario Braid | Present  | Reyes de los | Present* |
| Calderon      | Present* | 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* | Tadeo        | Present  |
| Guingona      | Present  | Tan          | Present  |
| Jamir         | Present  | Tingson      | Present  |
| Laurel        | Present  | Treñas       | Present  |
| Lerum         | Present* | Uka          | Present  |
| Maambong      | Present* | Villacorta   | Present  |
| Monsod        | Present  | Villegas     | Present  |

The President is present.

The roll call shows 30 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 the previous session.

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

## APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

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

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection? (*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

Letter from Ma. Felicidad Q. Lagarde, submitting Resolution Nos. 24 & 25 of the Senior Citizens Association, Tacloban City Chapter, P. Paterno St., Tacloban City, seeking, respectively, inclusion in the Constitution of a provision on the right of the elderly poor and aging persons to enjoy their right to social and material relief, free medical services, old age financial grants and other related terminal services; and a provision on the right of the potential elderly persons with knowledge, skills, experience and expertise, as reservoir of human resource, for involvement in cultural enrichment, social development, instead of being alienated, deprived and downgraded.

(Communication No. 800 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Social Justice.

Letter from Mr. Maimpok N. Ongchangco, 17 Osmeña Industrial Valley Subdivision, Marikina, Metro Manila, expressing doubts whether the new Constitution will be ratified because of the inclusion of controversial and divisive issues.

(Communication No. 801 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Amendments and Transitory Provisions.

Communication signed by twelve physicians from the U.S.T. Hospital, expressing objection against the retention of the U.S. military bases in the Philippines.

(Communication No. 802 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

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

Telegram from BAYAB PCCC Kamkem ACT Ozamiz, requesting for redeliberation of a provision on national economy and urging the Constitutional Commission to adopt a nationalist constitution to protect Filipino business industries against foreign competition.

(Communication No. 803 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

Communication from Rev. Homer A. Clavecilla of Union Theological Seminary, Palapala, Dasmariñas, Cavite, opposing vigorously the proposed compulsory religious instruction in public schools, supporting instead the retention of the old constitutional provision on optional religious instruction.

(Communication No. 804 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Letter from Ms. Amherstia Paez of the Institute of Public Health Student Council, University of the Philippines Manila, Ermita, Manila, containing specific recommendations for the proposed Article on Education, Science, Technology, Sports, Arts and Culture.

(Communication No. 805 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Letter from Mrs. Ramona Rodriguez Tan, Associate Professor, University of the Philippines, and Mrs. Pura Tianco Badoy, President, PWU College of Education Alumnae Association, expressing support for a provision providing free and compulsory education up to the secondary level.

(Communication No. 806 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Letter from Mr. Enrique L. Victoriano of 4427 Int. Old Sta. Mesa, Manila, submitting proposals which are believed to provide sufficient interpolation at the discussions to at least pave the way for modifications of the educational system by legislation.

(Communication No. 807 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Communication from the Provincial Fiscal of Bohol, Enrique B. Inting, Tagbilaran City, containing comments as well as recommendations on Section 3 of the proposed Article on the Bill of Rights.

(Communication No. 808 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Citizenship, Bill of Rights, Political Rights and Obligations and Human Rights.

Letter from the Philippine Medical Association of Metropolitan Washington, D.C., Inc., 10210 Norton Road, Potomac, Maryland, U.S.A., signed by its President, Dr. Cresenciano C. Lopez and fifteen (15) other officers and members, endorsing the resolution adopted by the Association of Philippine Physicians in America, Inc., seeking inclusion in the Constitution of a provision that would make a natural-born citizen of the Philippines who has lost his/her Philippine citizenship a transferee of private lands.

(Communication No. 809 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

Communications urging the Constitutional Commission to incorporate in the Constitution the provision that the separation of the Church and the State shall be inviolable as embodied in the 1973 Constitution and as understood historically and jurisprudentially in the Philippines, each from the following:

- 1) Rev. Ruth Barnard  
Christian Rendezvous, San Jose Street  
Dumaguete City

(Communication No. 810 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

- 2) Rev. Jose M. Artajo and one hundred one other  
signatories, Faith Tabernacle (Charismatic Center)  
Bayawan, Negros Oriental

(Communication No. 811 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

- 3) Rev. Hermes Guiritan and thirty-six other  
signatories, Foursquare Gospel Church,  
Tiguib, Ayungon, Negros Oriental

(Communication No. 812 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

- 4) Pastor Francis P. Anthony  
c/o Kabulusan Baptist Church  
Kabulusan, Pakil, Laguna

(Communication No. 813 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

- 5) Rev. Dioscoro P. Sales  
Faith Island Mission, Inc.  
P.O. Box 2, Bais City  
Negros Oriental

(Communication No. 814 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

- 6) Mr. Bonifacio Portugal, Jr. and three other  
signatories, Corpus Christi Community  
Foundation, Inc., P.O. Box AC-65,  
Quezon City

(Communication No. 815 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

- 7) Rev. Ernie P. Lao  
Davao Baptist Church  
Araullo Street, Tionko Subdivision  
Davao City

(Communication No. 816 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

- 8) Rev. Gideon B. Caselan and two hundred fifty-four  
signatories, Lagao Alliance Church, Lagao,  
General Santos  
City

(Communication No. 817 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)