

[VOL. III, August 15, 1986]

R.C.C. NO. 57

Friday, August 15, 1986

OPENING OF SESSION

At 9:51 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 Teodoro C. Bacani.

Everybody remained standing for the Prayer.

PRAYER

BISHOP BACANI: God our Father, as we begin our work once more today, we ask You to give us a deeper consciousness of the fact that we are Filipinos, whom You have called not only to own our land and our natural resources, but to protect them not only for the present generation but for our posterity.

Grant, O Lord, that conscious of this, we may enact in this Constitution provisions that will truly be for the welfare of our people, and it will not only be class interest that we will promote, but the interest of the entire nation and of our future generations. We ask You this in the name of Jesus, the Lord. 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
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		

Commissioner Ahmad Domocao Alonto is on official mission.

The President is present.

The roll call shows 34 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 the previous session.

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

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

MR. CALDERON: 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. 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 Communications, the President making the corresponding references:

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from Mr. Guillermo A. Castasus of 127 R. Berroya St., San Vicente, San Pedro, Laguna, suggesting that in the acquisition of lands, particularly agricultural lands, and on retaining ownership of landholdings, anyone who cannot guarantee the land's productivity has no reason for holding on that land, much less to acquire more.

(Communication No. 552 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony.

Letter from Mr. Luis A. Quibranza of 1564 Labra Street, Caballes Compound, Guadalupe, Cebu City, transmitting his proposal on National Covenant for consideration by the Constitutional Commission.

(Communication No. 553 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Steering Committee.

Communication from Ms. Marisse C. Reyes, Correspondence Secretary, Office of the President of the Philippines, Malacañang, transmitting the following letters from: Mr. Prudencio S. Serrano, 748 Don M. Marcos Ave., Mati, Davao Oriental, submitting suggestions for consideration in the Constitutional Commission; Mr. Eliezer J. Fortunato, 83 Chico St., Quirino District, Quezon City, proposing a federal form of government; Mr. Ramon Santillan, 303 Ziga Ave., Tabaco, Albay, suggesting inclusion of a provision in the Constitution regarding increased pension and government-subsidized health care program for elders; and Mr. Troadio Fuentes, Immaculate Conception Parish, Ozamis City, suggesting the inclusion of religion in the school curriculum.

(Communication No. 554 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Steering Committee.

Communication from Mr. Victor A. de la Cruz and three others, all of Filamer Christian College, Roxas City, urging the Constitutional Commission to incorporate in the Constitution the inviolability of the separation of the Church and State.

(Communication No. 555 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on General Provisions.

Letter from Minister Candu I. Muarip of the Office of Muslim Affairs and Cultural Communities, N. de la Merced Bldg., corner West and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City, submitting a compilation of proposals and resolutions adopted by Muslim professionals, academicians and scholars, and expressing the hope that these proposals which embody the general sentiments and common aspirations of the people be incorporated in the Constitution.

(Communication No. 556 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Communication from Mr. Isabelo F. Magalit of KONFES, 4 Malinis St., U.P. Village, Diliman, Quezon City, and thirty-nine (39) other signatories, submitting a position paper recommending that the text of the 1973 Constitution (Art. XV, Sec. 8) on the teaching of religion in public schools be retained and incorporated in the new Constitution.

(Communication No. 557 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Eighteen letters with eight thousand eight hundred sixteen (8,816) 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. 558 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

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

Letter from Mr. Ishmael F. Mohammed of Suite 4 QB, ODC Bldg., Legaspi Village, Makati, Metro Manila, seeking the adoption of measures that will give the prisoners among the Filipino Muslims the privilege to observe fasting inside the prison during the month of Ramadan, exempting them from hard labor for thirty days, feeding them at dawn and at sunset and secluding them from other prisoners of another faith.

(Communication No. 559 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Human Resources.

Letter from Bishop La Verne D. Mercado, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in the Philippines, 879 EDSA, Quezon City, transmitting the NCCP's various proposals for the resolution of the problems and issues besetting our nation today.

(Communication No. 560 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Steering Committee.

Communication from the Misamis Oriental Public School Teachers and Employees Association, Inc., Cagayan de Oro City, requesting provisions in the Constitution prohibiting incumbent elective officials to run for any elective position unless resigned and that political campaigns be sponsored by the COMELEC and financed by the parties of the candidates.

(Communication No. 561 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

To the Committee on Constitutional Commissions and Agencies.

Communication with one hundred fifty signatories with their respective addresses, all seeking to include a referendum/plebiscite on the issue of statehood U.S.A. in a proclamation calling for local elections.

(Communication No. 562 — Constitutional Commission of 1986)

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

Letter from Mr. Vicente A. Galang, Presidential Staff Director, Malacañang transmitting Resolution No. 3 of the Antique Small Landowners Association, requesting the Constitutional Commission to incorporate in the Constitution the specific number of hectares of land a private person or corporation may possess.

(Communication No. 563 — 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. 496
(Article on National Economy and Patrimony)
Continuation

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

MR. RAMA: I move that we take up for consideration the Article on National Economy and Patrimony in the period of amendments.

THE PRESIDENT: Is there any objection that we proceed to consider on Second Reading the proposed Resolution on the National Economy and Patrimony? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

MR. RAMA: Madam President, in accordance with our procedure to enable the Commissioners who desire to present amendments to have a conference with the Committee Chairman and Committee members, I move that we suspend the session.

THE PRESIDENT: The session is suspended.

It was 10:02 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:40 a.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDENT: The session is resumed.

MR. RAMA: Madam President.

THE PRESIDENT: The Floor Leader is recognized.

MR. RAMA: Madam President, I ask that Commissioner Ople be recognized to present amendments.

THE PRESIDENT: Commissioner Ople is recognized.

MR. OPLE: Thank you, Madam President.

May I propose an amendment to Section 1. May I also make of note that I have consulted the Committee on the National Economy and Patrimony concerning this proposed amendment to Section 1, and the text that I will read is the negotiated result, subject to confirmation by the Chairman of the Committee. It reads as