

**JOURNAL NO. 109**

Wednesday, October 15, 1986

PROCESSIONAL

At 9:41 a.m., the processional began with the entry into the Session Hall of the Members of the Constitutional Commission of 1986 preceded by the Sergeant-at-Arms bearing the Mace.

CALL TO ORDER

At 9:42 a.m., the President of the Constitutional Commission, the Honorable Cecilia Muñoz Palma, called the session to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRAYER

The National Anthem was sung followed by a prayer led by President Cecilia Muñoz Palma, to wit:

Almighty God of the Universe, Lord of Wisdom and Light, we have felt your Divine Presence in our midst during these past four months while we pursued and labored as instruments of your Divine Wisdom to complete a fundamental law for our people, a Constitution that will serve as the foundation of a just, humane and democratic society for Filipino generations to come.

Today, an important chapter of our work is done.

We are confident in our hearts and minds that the document we have written is imbued with your beneficent influence and blessings and will bring love and peace to our troubled land,

Lord God, another chapter remains to be met.

We implore You to come to our aid once more when we appear before our people and present to them the new Constitution for their approval.

Let the light of this document shine forth clear and bright so that our people may see in it the hope for a promised land of peace and prosperity.

In the Book of Genesis it is written, and I quote:

"God said all He had made, and wished it was very good . . . Thus, heaven and earth were completed with all their array. On the seventh day God completed the work He had been doing. He rested on the seventh day after all the work He had been doing."

Yes, we have completed our work, having reached our own Sabbath Day. But can we rest, O Lord, after today? You said: "My Father goes on

working and so do I." Thus, Lord, there can be no rest for each of us nor for our people, because there is still work to be done.

After its ratification, we pray that this covenant of the people be not shattered by evil forces as it was when Moses at Mount Sinai broke the tablet of Your Ten Documents at the sight of evil among his people.

Merciful God Almighty, I thank You most specially for the completion of the Constitution on this 15th day of October, in the year of Our Lord, 1986, the Feast of St. Theresa of Avila, First Woman Doctor of the Church whose way of perfection and that of St. Therese of the Child Jesus have been my constant inspiration since I was a child.

We glorify Our Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, for she willed that our mission be completed in the month of October, dedicated to the devotion of the Holy Rosary which is the key to peace for mankind.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, cover with your benediction the Members of the Constitutional Commission and their loved ones; the sick, the weary, the disillusioned, and the hopeful amongst us; bless the Filipino people and our leaders in government, bless most kindly our brothers fighting in the hills that we may all be reconciled in love, peace, and unity for the survival of the Filipino nation and for your greater glory here on earth.

With all my being, I exult and praise You my God for the grace you bestowed upon this your humble daughter to be part of our struggle to liberate the nation from despotism and tyranny, and now again, to be your instrument towards regaining our rights and freedoms.

Dear Lord, remember the day when You cleansed ten lepers and only one came back to thank You and You said: "Where are the other nine " Today, not only one but all the 47 men and women stand before You and lift their hearts in gratitude for giving them this day in history, the day when we stamp our signatures on the Charter You kindly helped us to frame.

All for the glory of God Almighty.

Amen.

#### ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary-General of the Commission called the Roll and the following Members responded:

Abubakar, Y. R.

Alonto, A. D.

Aquino, F. S.

Azcuna, A. S.

Bacani T. C.

Bengzon, J. F. S.

Bennagen, P. L.

Bernas, J. G.

Rosario Braid, F.

Natividad, T: C.

Nieva, M. T. F.

Nolledo, J. N.

Ople, B. F.

Padilla, A. B.

Muñoz Palma, C.

Quesada, M. L. M.

Rama, N. G.

Regalado, F. D.

Calderon, J. D.  
De Castro, C. M.  
Colayco, J. C.  
Concepcion, R. R.  
Davide, H. G.  
Foz, V. B.  
Garcia, E. G.  
Gascon, J. L. M. C.  
Guingona, S. V. C.  
Jamir, A. M. K.  
Laurel, J. B.  
Maambong, R. E.  
Monsod, C. S.

De los Reyes, R. F.  
Rigos, C. A.  
Rodrigo, F. A.  
Romulo, R. J.  
Sarmiento, R. V.  
Suarez, J. E.  
Sumulong, L. M.  
Tadeo, J. S. L.  
Tan, C.  
Treñas, E. B.  
Uka, L. L.  
Villacorta, W. V.  
Villegas, B. M.

With 44 Members present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

The following Members appeared after the Roll Call:

Lerum, E. R.  
Tingson, G. J.

Mr. Rosales was sick.

#### READING AND APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

On motion of Mr. Rama, there being no objection, the reading of the Journals of October 12 and 13, 1986 was dispensed with and the said Journals were approved by the Body.

#### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

On motion of Mr. Rama, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the Reference of Business.

#### REFERRAL TO THE STEERING COMMITTEE OF RESOLUTIONS AND TO THE ARCHIVES OF COMMUNICATIONS

Upon direction of the, Chair, the Secretary-General read the titles of the following Resolutions which were referred by the Chair to the Steering Committee as well as communications which were referred by the Chair to the Archives.

Proposed Resolution No. 549, entitled:

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE VICE-PRESIDENT AND THE FLOOR LEADER AND HIS ASSISTANTS, FOR THEIR DISTINCTIVE AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION AND STEADFAST LEADERSHIP WHICH ENABLED THE COMMISSION TO FINISH THE IMPORTANT TASK OF FRAMING THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW

Introduced by Hon. Romulo, Treñas, Rigos, Abubakar and Aquino Proposed Resolution No. 550, entitled:

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE HIGH REGARD AND APPRECIATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION FOR ITS ILLUSTRIOUS PRESIDENT, THE

HONORABLE CECILIA MUÑOZ PALMA, FOR THE WISE, ABLE, FAIR AND DIGNIFIED MANNER BY WHICH THE BUSINESS AND DELIBERATIONS OF THE COMMISSION HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED

Introduced by Hon. Padilla, Rama, Aquino, Bengzon, Jr., Concepcion, Bernas, Monsod, Villegas, Rodrigo, Romulo, Tan, Nieva, Gascon and Suarez

Proposed Resolution No. 552, entitled:

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE CHAIRMEN AND VICE-CHAIRMEN OF ALL COMMITTEES FOR THEIR DISTINCTIVE AND VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION AND STEADFAST LEADERSHIP WHICH ENABLED THE COMMISSION TO FINISH THE IMPORTANT TASK OF FRAMING THE FUNDAMENTAL LAW

Introduced by Hon. Sarmiento, Lerum, Maambong and Aquino

## COMMUNICATIONS

Communication No. 1104 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Telegram from the students, faculty, staff and administration of Assumption College, Iloilo City, congratulating the Constitutional Commission for its magnificent achievement.

Communication No. 1105 — Constitutional Commission of 1986

Letter from the Honorable Ramon A. Diaz, Deputy Minister, Presidential Commission on Good Government, expressing, on behalf of the PCGG, deep appreciation for the vote of confidence shown during the session of the Constitutional Commission on October 7, 1986.

Thereafter, on motion of Mr. Rama, the Chair recognized Mr. Guingona, Chairman of the Committee on Sponsorship, for a manifestation on the final draft of the Constitution.

## MANIFESTATION OF MR. GUINGONA ON THE APPROVAL OF THE FINAL DRAFT OF THE CONSTITUTION

Mr. Guingona, on behalf of the Sponsorship Committee, officially announced that on October 12, 1986, the Constitutional Commission had completed the drafting of a Constitution and approved the same on Third Reading, which instrument reflects the spirit of the time; of nationalism, of liberation and rising expectations, and of confidence of the Filipino people. He stated that the draft Constitution is a practical instrument suited to the circumstances of the times which is broad enough to allow future generations to respond to challenges that the present generation cannot foretell and a Charter which seeks to establish a community characterized by social progress, political stability, economic prosperity, peace, justice and freedom for all.

## CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 549

On motion of Mr. Rama, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to the consideration of Proposed Resolution No 549, the title and text of which read:

Resolution commending the Vice-President and the Floor Leader and his Assistants, for their distinctive and valuable contribution and steadfast leadership which enabled the Commission to finish the important task of framing the fundamental law.

WHEREAS the Constitutional Commission, created under Proclamation No. 9, dated April 23, 1986, has terminated the mandated task of proposing a new charter that is "truly reflective of the ideals and aspirations of the Filipino people";

WHEREAS, the success of the Constitutional Commission in achieving its goal within the shortest possible time is largely attributable to the very efficient and creditable yeoman's work of the Vice-President, the Floor Leader and his assistants: Now, therefore, be it;

RESOLVED BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COMMISSION, To commend, as it hereby commends, the Vice-President and the Floor Leader and his assistants for their distinctive and valuable contribution and steadfast leadership which enabled the Commission to finish the important task of framing the fundamental law.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Mr. Romulo.

#### REMARKS OF MR. ROMULO

Mr. Romulo stated that it saddened him to address the President for the last time and requested that the Body consider this Resolution commending the Vice-President, the Floor Leader and the Assistant Floor Leaders for their distinctive and valuable contributions and steadfast leadership which enabled the Commission to finish the important task of framing the fundamental law.

#### APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION NO. 549

Submitted to a vote, and with 45 Members voting in favor and none against, Resolution No. 549 was unanimously approved by the Body.

#### RESPONSE OF MR. PADILLA

On behalf of the Floor Leader, Mr. Rama; and the Assistant Floor Leaders, Messrs. Calderon and Alonto, Mr. Padilla expressed profound gratitude for Resolution No. 549 commending their humble contributions to the delicate task of formulating and completing the 1986 Constitution. As recipients and beneficiaries of the Resolution, he stated that they believe that such commendation should be extended to all the Members who have labored daily and exerted their best efforts to complete the new fundamental law, which they hoped would be accepted and ratified by the sovereign people.

#### CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 552

On motion of Mr. Rama, there being no objection, the Body proceeded to consider Proposed Resolution No. 552, the title and text of which read:

Resolution commending the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of all committees for their distinctive and valuable contribution and steadfast leadership which enabled the Commission to finish the important task of framing the fundamental law.

WHEREAS, the Constitutional Commission, created under Proclamation No. 9, dated April 23, 1986, has terminated the mandated task of proposing a new charter that is "truly reflective of the ideals and aspirations of the Filipino people";

WHEREAS, the success of the Constitutional Commission in achieving its goal within the shortest possible time is, to a large extent, attributable to the efficient and valuable performance of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of all Committees;