

SENATE  
P. S. Res. No. 372

---

Introduced by Senators Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Ralph G. Recto,  
Franklin M. Drilon, Sonny Angara, Ma. Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Pia  
S. Cayetano, Ronald "Bato" M. dela Rosa, Sherwin Gatchalian,  
Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid, Imee R. Marcos, Emmanuel D. Pacquiao,  
Grace L. Poe, Ramon Bong Revilla Jr., Joel Villanueva and  
Cynthia A. Villar

---

### RESOLUTION

#### AMENDING RULE XI, SECTION 22 AND RULE XIV, SECTION 41 OF THE RULES OF THE SENATE TO ALLOW THE CONDUCT OF PLENARY SESSIONS AND COMMITTEE HEARINGS THROUGH TELECONFERENCE, VIDEO CONFERENCE, OR OTHER RELIABLE FORMS OF REMOTE OR ELECTRONIC MEANS

1           **WHEREAS**, on 8 March 2020, President Rodrigo R. Duterte issued Proclamation  
2 No. 922, declaring a state of public health emergency throughout the Philippines due to  
3 the outbreak of the Corona Virus Disease (Covid-19) and enjoining all government  
4 agencies and local government units to "render full assistance and cooperation, and  
5 mobilize the necessary resources to undertake critical, urgent, and appropriate response  
6 and measures in a timely manner to curtail and eliminate the Covid-19 threat";

7           **WHEREAS**, on 16 March 2020, the President also issued Proclamation No. 929  
8 declaring a state of calamity throughout the Philippines for a period of six (6) months,  
9 unless earlier lifted or extended as circumstances may warrant. The Proclamation also  
10 imposed an Enhanced Community Quarantine throughout Luzon, including the National  
11 Capital Region, beginning midnight of 17 March 2020 until 11:59 p.m. of 12 April 2020;

12           **WHEREAS**, the imposition of Enhanced Community Quarantine prohibits mass  
13 gatherings, and mandates the suspension of mass public transport facilities, observance  
14 of strict home quarantine in all households, and restrictions on movement and travel  
15 except those relating to accessing basic necessities like food and medicine, or the  
16 provision of health and emergency frontline services, border control, banking and  
17 finance, public utilities, and other critical services;

18           **WHEREAS**, despite government interventions, the number of confirmed cases of  
19 Covid-19 continues to rise, with the latest count of confirmed cases at 7,579 as of 26  
20 April 2020, and this is expected to continuously increase following the broadening of the  
21 country's capacity to test more patients not only in the capital but in other regions as  
22 well;

23           **WHEREAS**, the imposition and extension of an Enhanced Community Quarantine  
24 in the National Capital Region and specified provinces, until the 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2020, and its

1 attendant limitations should not prevent Congress from exercising its Constitutional  
2 mandate to enact laws and authorize appropriations, especially those necessary for the  
3 National Government to respond to this national emergency while ensuring the safety  
4 and well-being of the affected population;

5 **WHEREAS**, Article VI, Section 16(3) of the Constitution allows each House of  
6 Congress to determine the rules of its proceedings. Now therefore be it,

7 **RESOLVED**, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, to amend  
8 Rule XI, Section 22 and Rule XIV, Section 41 of the Rules of the Senate, to read as  
9 follows:

10 **RULE XI**

11 **MEETINGS AND REPORTS OF THE COMMITTEE**

12 Sec. 22. Every committee shall determine the frequency of its regular  
13 meetings. If it so desires, a committee may choose to hold its meetings or  
14 hearings on a weekend.

15  
16 **THE COMMITTEE MAY CONDUCT MEETINGS OR HEARINGS**  
17 **THROUGH TELECONFERENCE, VIDEO CONFERENCE, OR OTHER RELIABLE**  
18 **FORMS OF REMOTE OR ELECTRONIC MEANS, USING APPROPRIATE**  
19 **INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS IN CASE**  
20 **WHEN THERE IS FORCE MAJEURE OR OCCURRENCE OF AN EMERGENCY**  
21 **WHICH MAY PREVENT THE SENATORS FROM PHYSICALLY ATTENDING**  
22 **THE COMMITTEE MEETINGS OR HEARINGS.**

23 xxx

24 xxx

25 **RULE XIV**

26 **SENATE SESSION**

27 xxx

28 **SEC. 41. The President [may postpone], after consultation with the**  
29 **Majority Leader and the Minority Leader, respectively, MAY:**

30 **(A) POSTPONE the holding of the session on a day to day**  
31 **adjournment, OR**

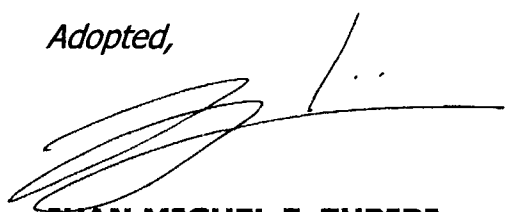
32 **(B) WITH THE CONSENT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,**  
33 **CONVENE AND HOLD THE SESSION THROUGH TELECONFERENCE, VIDEO**  
34 **CONFERENCE, OR OTHER RELIABLE FORMS OF REMOTE OR ELECTRONIC**  
35 **MEANS, USING APPROPRIATE INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS**  
36 **TECHNOLOGY SYSTEMS, due to force majeure or the occurrence of an**

1 emergency which may prevent the convening of the Senate OR THE  
2 PHYSICAL PRESENCE OF ITS MEMBERS IN THE SESSION HALL.

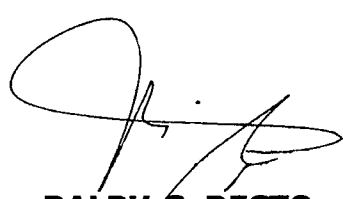
3  
4 **RESOLVED FURTHER**, That the Secretary of the Senate shall recommend the  
5 appropriate information and communications technology system and, upon the Senate  
6 President's approval, oversee the setting up thereof;

7 **RESOLVED FINALLY**, That the Secretary of the Senate shall provide for relevant  
8 safety measures to protect the integrity of the plenary session and committee hearings,  
9 the security and reliability of the technology used, and the proper archiving of the audio-  
10 visual or electronic recording of the sessions and hearings as part of the records of the  
11 Senate.

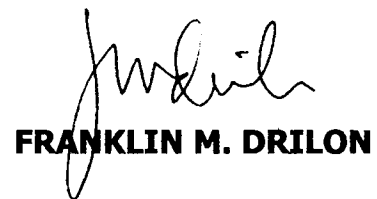
*Adopted,*



**JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**



**RALPH G. RECTO**



**FRANKLIN M. DRILON**




**SONNY ANGARA**



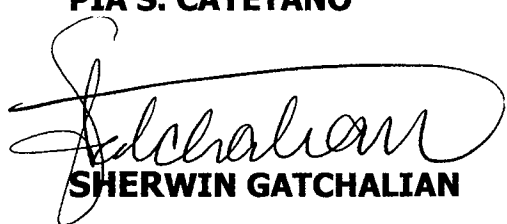
**MA. LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**



**PIA S. CAYETANO**



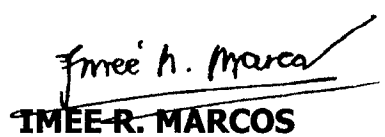
**RONALD "BATO" M. DELA ROSA**



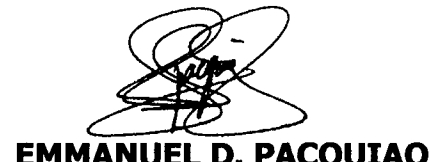
**SHERWIN GATCHALIAN**



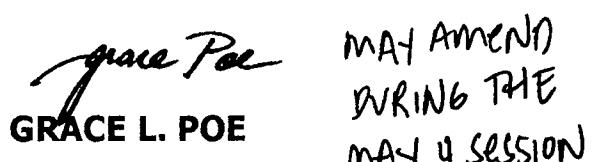
**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**



**IMEE R. MARCOS**



**EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO**



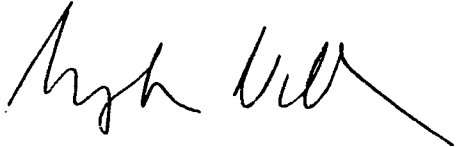
**GRACE L. POE** MAY AMEND DURING THE MAY 4 SESSION



**RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.**



**JOEL VILLANUEVA**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cynthia Villar". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail on the final letter.

**CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**