

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECHES

Upon motion of Senator Zubiri, there being no objection, the following cosponsorship speeches of Senators Cayetano (A) and Tulfo (E) on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 618 were deemed read into the *Journal and Record of the Senate*:

By Senator Cayetano (A)

"For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:1

Guided by GOD's promise of hope and a prosperous future, we honor HIM by trusting HIS plans, using our position with purpose, and serving the people as we work toward a future filled with hope.

It is in this spirit that I rise today to co-sponsor the resolution creating the Reinvigorate Investment and Sustainable Economic Growth Ad Hoc Committee, or the RISE Ad Hoc Committee.

Our country is facing an economic slowdown at a time when disruptions and armed conflicts abroad threaten the safety and livelihoods of our OFWs and overseas Filipinos. Their effects also reach our shores, affecting investments, businesses, workers, consumers, and Filipino families in different ways.

While we cannot control every conflict, disruption, or economic shock happening around the world, we can determine how prepared, responsive, and resilient our country will be.

The creation of the RISE Ad Hoc Committee will allow the Senate to bring together the different areas of government that influence our economy and formulate a coordinated response.

Hindi maaaring kanya-kanyang diskarte ang bawat ahensya habang iisa lamang ang problemang hinaharap ng ating mga kababayan.

- *Kapag bumagal ang negosyo, trabaho ng Pilipino ang nanganganib.*
- *Kapag tumaas ang presyo ng bilihin, badyet ng bawat pamilya ang nababawasan.*
- *Kapag humina ang kumpiyansa ng mga mamumuhunan, mas kaunti ang negosyong nagbubukas at mas kaunti rin ang trabahong nalilikha.*

This is why the RISE Ad Hoc Committee will adopt a whole-of-government approach in examining the policies needed to strengthen investments, protect workers and consumers, preserve macroeconomic stability, and promote inclusive growth.

The government must learn to anticipate problems, not merely react when Filipino families are already suffering.

The work of this committee must go beyond temporary relief. Immediate assistance is necessary during a crisis, but it cannot correct the structural weaknesses that leave our people vulnerable each time another crisis arrives.

This is why we propose that the committee prioritize long-term legislative reforms and sustainable policy interventions instead of relying on temporary or "band-aid" measures. Its work must contribute to an economy that creates quality and sustainable jobs and advances the pursuit of a living wage for Filipino workers. A job should allow a Filipino to provide food, education,

healthcare, and a secure future for the family, because when families prosper, we build communities that are stronger and more resilient.

Economic growth must be measured not only by figures reported by the government but by the lives that Filipino families are able to build. We must also recognize our fiscal limitations. The national deficit and government debt continue to rise while interest payments consume a considerable portion of the national budget.

These conditions should not prevent the government from helping households and businesses, but every proposal must be carefully weighed against its cost, revenue implications, and long-term effect on our fiscal health.

We cannot solve today's difficulties by simply passing the cost to the next generation.

Timing is also important. If the committee's recommendations can help shape the FY 2027 national budget, its preliminary findings must reach the Senate before the budget is finalized. We therefore propose the submission of an interim report before the ratification of the FY 2027 General Appropriations Act so that urgent measures may still be considered for inclusion in the national budget, followed by a final and comprehensive report before the adjournment sine die of the Second Regular Session, unless the Senate grants an extension.

The hearings of the RISE Ad Hoc Committee must lead to concrete legislation, responsible budget decisions, and policies that businesses, workers, and Filipino families can rely on.

Hindi lamang natin layuning makaahon sa kasalukuyang paghina ng ekonomiya. We must transform the nation by building a country that is better prepared for future challenges and capable of creating lasting opportunities for every Filipino.

I urge our esteemed colleagues to support the resolution creating the Reinvigorate Investment and Sustainable Economic (RISE) Growth Ad Hoc Committee.

GOD bless us all.

