



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 18th CONGRESS, THIRD REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives and Senate



JOINT PUBLIC SESSION TO CANVASS THE VOTES CAST FOR
PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IN THE MAY 9, 2022 ELECTIONS

Vol. 4

Tuesday, May 24, 2022

JPS No. 1

CALL TO ORDER

At 10:14 a.m., Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III and Speaker Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco called the Joint Session to order.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. On the part of the Senate, this Joint Public Session is called to order.

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House of Representatives, the Joint Public Session is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. The Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives, including the audience, are requested to rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

THE SPEAKER. Everybody, please remain standing for the Invocation to be led by the honorable Deputy Speaker Kristine Singson-Meehan.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. SINGSON-MEEHAN.

*In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Almighty God, we praise and honor*

You for gathering us today as we embark on this very important task of canvassing the votes cast by the Filipino people for the President and Vice President of our beloved country.

We pray that You guide us to be faithful to their will as we are to Yours. Let every vote be counted and heard, so that we may respect and uphold the ideals of democracy. It is Your will that was spoken through the people.

We pray that we may be able to carry out our mandated duty with fairness and accuracy. We pray that those proclaimed will serve the people and govern our country with wisdom, strength, compassion and sincerity.

Lord, we know that every Filipino looks forward to reforms and programs that are for the good of the country. May our new leaders, full of hope and enthusiasm, carry us through a better Philippines. As Members of the Congress of the Philippines and the Representatives of Your people, we will also do our share in healing this nation and in bringing forth trust, harmony and cooperation.

Bless our country, the Philippines, and bless the Filipino people.

ROLL CALL

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. On the part of the Senate, the Senate Secretary is directed to call the roll.

The Secretary of the Senate called the roll, and the result is as follows, per Journal of the Joint Public Session of Congress, dated May 24, 2022.

PRESENT

Sen. Sonny Angara
 Sen. Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay
 Sen. Pia S. Cayetano
 Sen. Leila M. De Lima
 Sen. Ronald “Bato” M. dela Rosa
 Sen. Franklin M. Drilon
 Sen. Win T. Gatchalian
 Sen. Christopher Lawrence T. Go
 Sen. Richard J. Gordon
 Sen. Risa Hontiveros
 Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson
 Sen. Manuel “Lito” M. Lapid
 Sen. Imee R. Marcos
 Sen. Emmanuel “Manny” D. Pacquiao
 Sen. Francis “Kiko” N. Pangilinan
 Sen. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III
 Sen. Grace Poe
 Sen. Ralph G. Recto
 Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.
 Sen. Francis “Tol” N. Tolentino
 Sen. Joel Villanueva
 Sen. Cynthia A. Villar
 Sen. Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Senate President Sotto III is present.

Mr. President, the roll call shows that 13 answered the roll, physically present; and seven answered the roll, virtually present.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. On the part of the Senate, there being 20 Members who responded to the roll call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House of Representatives, the Secretary General is directed to call the roll of Members.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is as follows, per Journal of the Joint Public Session of Congress, dated May 24, 2022.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 296 Members responded to the call.

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House

of Representatives, there being 296 Members who responded to the roll call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

REMARKS OF THE SENATE PRESIDENT

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Before we begin the canvass of votes for President and Vice President, I would like to place on record some preliminary activities done by the Senate prior to the convening of this Joint Public Session.

As provided for by Article VII, Section 4 of the Constitution, the duty of Congress in every election for President and Vice President is to receive the election returns, “open all the certificates in the presence of the Senate and the House of Representatives in joint public session, and x x x upon determination of the authenticity and due execution thereof in the manner provided by law, canvass the votes” and proclaim the duly elected President and Vice President.

On May 9, 2022, at 5:21 in the afternoon, the Consolidation and Canvassing System or CCS was initialized so that the Certificates of Canvass would be or could be transmitted electronically to Congress.

Present during the initialization activity were Speaker Lord Allan Velasco, along with the distinguished Members of the House of Representatives, the official representatives of the Commission on Elections, the lawyers and representatives of the candidates, the political parties and the citizens’ arms.

During the initialization process, the CCS server was activated and accessed using security tokens. An initialization report was then generated containing the following information:

- The number of COCs reported;
- The total number of COCs;
- The number of registered voters;
- The number of voters actually voted;
- Total valid ballots counted;
- The names of each candidate; and
- The total votes garnered for the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections.

The report showed zero, “0,” in the number of COCs reported, the actual number

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

of ballots counted and the votes obtained by each of the candidates for the President and Vice President. After having read into the record such information contained in the initialization report, I affixed my signature on the said report.

The first COC received electronically in the CCS was from San Juan City on May 9, 2022 at 10:28 p.m. The first ballot box purportedly containing a COC was from Malabon City, which was delivered to the Senate last May 10 at 6:56 p.m.; the first Overseas Absentee Voting COC was from the Philippine Embassy in Cambodia, which was delivered to the Senate last May 11, 6:59 a.m.; and the breakdown of the total number of Certificates of Canvass so far delivered to the Senate is, as follows: Region/Province/City, 108, and seven places have two ballot boxes; Overseas Absentee Voting, 46, and one has two ballot boxes from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia; Local Absentee Voting, three, for a total of 157.

Out of the 173 COCs, the Senate is still expecting 16 COCs which still have to be delivered in the coming days.

To enable Congress to perform its constitutional duty, we need to adopt the rules that would govern the conduct of the canvassing.

The primordial task of Congress is to ensure that the sovereign will of the people, expressed through the ballot, is respected and upheld. Thus, Congress shall determine the authenticity and due execution of the Certificates of Canvass submitted to it in accordance with applicable laws in an orderly and transparent manner.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SPEAKER. Thank you, Senate President.

Also, before we continue, I would like to deliver a few remarks.

REMARKS OF THE SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. In a challenging year marked by a worldwide pandemic, the Philippine Congress stayed open to show us the way to recover. Your Congress in Joint Session now opens to show that democracy continues to thrive in our country.

Senate President Sotto, fellow Members of Congress, congressional officials, administration and staff, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

We are here to take part and bear witness to our mandate. Today, Congress shall perform its constitutional duty and canvass the votes for President and Vice President. Within these hallowed halls, we, as the National Board of Canvassers, shall canvass the Certificates of Canvass for President and Vice President, and thereafter proclaim the winning candidates of the 2022 National Elections for President and Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines.

We owe our presence here today to the fact that we are the chosen Representatives of our people, acting as one body to ensure that the will of the people in choosing the two highest officials of our country is respected.

On May 9, together with Senate President Vicente "Tito" Sotto III, we initialized and confirmed that the Consolidation and Canvassing System or CCS reflected zero votes garnered for any of the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates and is ready to canvass votes. The electronically transmitted Certificates of Canvass received by our CCS machine since then—from the Boards of Canvassers from the provinces, cities and overseas posts are now ready to be canvassed.

Ito po ay ang iniatang na sagradong tungkulin ng ating Konstitusyon: ang magbantay at siguruhin ang wastong pagbilang ng mga boto para sa susunod na mamumuno ng ating bansa. Sa isang demokratikong bansa, ang boses ng mamamayan ang siyang masusunod. Ang tanging layunin natin ay pagkakaroon ng isang tapat, kapani-paniwala at mapayapang eleksiyon, kung saan ang pagkabanal at pagkalihim ng mga balota ay napapangalagaan, at ang kagustuhan at kapasiyahan ng mga bumoto ay hindi pinahina o nabigo, bagkus, ang siyang mananaig.

Let democracy reign in our country. Let the voice of the people be heard.

Mr. President.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just for the record, we would like to congratulate you for the new interior of the House of Representatives.

THE SPEAKER. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. The Majority Leader of the Senate, please.

SEN. ZUBIRI. Thank you very much, Mr. President, and to our distinguished Speaker.

Before I make the proper motion, we just like to put on record, Sen. Panfilo “Ping” Lacson has been waiting in the chat room to be allowed in. And if he is in, he should be marked “Present,” Mr. President, for the record.

Mr. President, on the part of the Senate, I move that we adopt the proposed Rules of the Joint Public Session of Congress on the Canvassing of Votes for Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates in the May 9, 2022 Elections, copies of which have been previously distributed to our Members.*

I so move, Mr. President.

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

THE SPEAKER. The Majority Leader of the House is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, on the part of the House of Representatives, I move that we adopt the proposed Rules of the Joint Public Session of Congress on the Canvassing of Votes for the Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates in the May 2022 Elections.*

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

SEN. ZUBIRI. Mr. President, on the part of the Senate, I move that we create a Joint Committee to canvass the votes of the President and Vice President, pursuant to the Rules of the Joint Public Session of Congress

on the Canvassing of Votes for Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates in the May 9, 2022 Elections.

May I also request that the Senate President appoint seven Members from the Senate, including its Chairperson, as well as four alternate members, to constitute the Senate panel.

I so move, Mr. President.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There being none, on the part of the Senate, the following are appointed as members of the Joint Committee: Senators Zubiri, Binay, Drilon, Marcos, Poe, Recto and Cayetano. Senator Zubiri is designated as the Chairperson and the following are likewise appointed as the four alternate members of the Senate panel: Senators Lapid, Hontiveros, Pimentel and Dela Rosa.

The alternate members shall attend the Joint Committee meetings in the absence of the regular members and shall have the right to participate and vote.

Thank you.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, on the part of the House of Representatives, I move that we create the Joint Committee, together with the Senate panel, to canvass the votes for the President and the Vice President, pursuant to the Rules of the Joint Public Session of Congress on the Canvassing of Votes for the Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates in the May 9, 2022 Elections.

May I also request the Speaker to appoint seven Members of the House, including the Chairperson, as well as four alternate members, to constitute the House panel.

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

On the part of the House, the following are appointed as members of the House panel: Honorable Romualdez (F.), Remulla, Tolentino, Singson-Meehan, Garin (S.), Dalipe and Ferrer (J.).

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Rep. Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez is designated as the Chairperson of the House panel.

The following are appointed as alternate members of the House: Representatives Bondoc, Pimentel, Garbin Jr. and Quimbo.

The alternate members shall attend the Joint Committee meetings in the absence of the regular members and shall have the right to participate and vote.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. We now proceed with the opening of the electronically transmitted Certificates of Canvass or the COCs from the Consolidation and Canvassing System.

The operators of the Consolidation and Canvassing System are directed to open the electronically transmitted COC from the CCS in the order they arrived in the CCS.

Once you have done so, please show the public through the video screens.

All right, please continue flashing this on the video screens.

DIR. DAGDAG. Those places with green lights are online now and ready to print.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Again, will you repeat that, please? Director, will you please repeat what you said.

DIR. DAGDAG. What is projected now on the screen—those areas with green lights are now online and ready for printing.

DIR. GOROSPE. On the part of the House, all the COCs are indicating—I mean, all the regions are indicating that the COCs have arrived and it is also indicating a green light, meaning that the CCS is connected to the COMELEC server.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. All right, so, we may proceed.

We now proceed with the opening of the ballot boxes.

The Plenary Pages, please, you are directed to bring to the center table, one by one, the ballot boxes in the order that they arrived.

Please bring the ballot box containing the COC from Cambodia.

All right, the Senate Secretary is directed to open the ballot box containing the COC from Cambodia and describe its condition and the envelope containing the COC, the individual seals and the serial numbers of the COCs.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Before us is Ballot Box No. 002 containing the COC. It has two plastic strip locks with COMELEC No. 0503; the first one has COMELEC No. 0543004, Serial No.—COMELEC No. 0543002 and COMELEC No. 0543003.

We now proceed to cut open the locks.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Just for the record, what we are doing here is the manually counted and physically delivered Certificates of Canvass, not those electronically transmitted to the CCS. This is the first one that we received.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. We now open the ballot box which contains one envelope which is officially marked “Commission on Elections.” It contains the first copy from the post in Phnom Penh, from the country of Cambodia. The envelope has Serial No. 0007. It has a seal that is signed—a paper seal that is signed by all three members of the Board, thumbmarks of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson and the Member Secretary from Cambodia. Inside the envelope is the minutes of canvass and a sealed copy of the—as we are now breaking the seal, the paper seal number is 0760411, and it is also signed by all members. Okay. This contains the Certificate of Canvass of votes, page one, No. 000019, signed by all the members and thumbmarked by all the members as well.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. The Senate Secretary and the House Secretary General are authorized to alternately open all the manually counted and physically delivered COCs in the order that they arrived and describe their condition and the envelope containing the COCs’ individual seals, and the serial number of the COCs.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Okay. Then, may I read also, Paper Seal Serial No.

0760434, also signed by all the members of the Canvassing Board. We will break the seal. And this one is the Statement of Votes by Precinct, and it is also signed by all the members and thumbmarked as well by the Special Board of Canvassers.

We shall return all the documents inside the brown envelope, trying to attach the seal again, and put it back in the ballot box.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. We now turn over the ballot box or envelope purportedly containing the COC from Cambodia to the Chairpersons of the Senate panel and the House panel of the Joint Committee.

The Senate Secretary and the Secretary General are likewise directed to turn over all the COCs and supporting documents to the Joint Committee pursuant to Section 9 of Rule VI of the Rules on Canvassing of the Votes for the Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates in the May 9, 2022 Elections.

With that directive, on the part of the Senate, the Joint Committee is authorized and directed to canvass the votes for the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates immediately after all the manually counted and physically delivered COCs have been opened. The canvassing shall be held right here at the plenary hall of the House of Representatives.

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House of Representatives, the Joint Committee is authorized and directed to canvass the votes for the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates immediately after all the manually counted and physically delivered COCs have been opened. The canvassing shall be held at the plenary hall of the House of Representatives.

SUSPENSION OF JOINT SESSION

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. As we have turned over the COCs, on the part of the Senate, the session is deemed suspended upon the manifestation on record by the Senate Secretary and the House Secretary General that the task assigned to them has been completed.

The Joint Public Session will reconvene once the Joint Committee is prepared to submit the report of the Joint Public Session.

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House, the session is deemed suspended upon the manifestation on record by the Senate Secretary and the House Secretary General that the task assigned to them has been completed.

The Joint Public Session will reconvene once the Joint Committee is prepared to submit the report of the Joint Public Session.

It was 10:50 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF JOINT SESSION

At 11:10 a.m., the session was resumed with the Senate Secretary and the House Secretary General opening the manually counted and physically delivered COCs in the order of their arrival and describing their condition in the envelope containing the COCs, individual seals and the serial number of the COCs.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. We are now placing the contents back in the ballot box and resealing it with the National Canvass Seal with Control No. 001.

May I request the Plenary Page to return the ballot box in the storage shelf.

We would like to request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Vietnam.

Before us is the ballot box from Vietnam with Serial Nos. CE0543005 and 0543006. We are now cutting the plastic seal. Inside the ballot box is an envelope with Serial No. 0760123, duly signed by the members. We are now returning the envelope inside the ballot box and we will reseal it with the National Canvass Seal with Control No. 002.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. May we ask the Page to please bring the next ballot box. Okay, so, this ballot box before us today is from Amman, Jordan with Serial No. CE10-01335, with self-locking seals 0543007 and 0543008. As we open the ballot box, inside are two envelopes purportedly containing two big brown envelopes and one small envelope. The

envelope purportedly contains the Certificate of Canvass, has a paper seal and bears the Seal Nos. SN0389428, SN0389432 and SN0389429. The envelopes are signed by the Chairman and members of the Board of Canvassers and we are now placing them back—the envelopes, the contents—in the ballot box and we seal it with the National Canvass Seal with Control No. 003.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. May we request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Papua New Guinea.

We now—before us is a ballot box from Papua New Guinea with Serial No. CE101242343, with Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543010 and 0543009.

Upon inspection, the seals match the received copy.

We are now cutting the plastic seals.

Inside the box is one envelope with Serial No. 0829428 signed by the Chairpersons and the members of the Board of Canvassers.

We are now placing the envelope back into the ballot box together with the seals.

May we request the Plenary Page to bring in the ballot box from Austria.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Okay, before us is the ballot box from Austria with Serial No. CE10-00213, with self-locking seals 0543011 and 0543012, and per inspection, the numbers correspond to the attached actual self-locking seals.

Inside the ballot box is just one envelope properly sealed with a paper seal containing the certificate—purportedly containing the Certificate of Canvass—Paper Seal No. SN0829239.

It is signed by the Chairman and the members of the Board of Canvassers and we are now placing it back inside the ballot box, and resealing it with the National Canvass Seal with Control No. 005.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. May we direct the Page to bring the ballot box from the Netherlands.

Before us is the ballot box from the Netherlands with Ballot Box No. CE-10-01391, with Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543014 and 0543013.

Inside the box are two envelopes, properly sealed, with Serial No. 0759409, signed by the Chairperson and the members of the Committee; and Serial No. 0759401, signed by the Chairman and the members.

We are now returning the envelopes inside the box.

We will reseal it with the National Canvass Seal with Control No. 006.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. No. 006?

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. No. 006, Ma'am.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. May we ask for the next ballot box, please.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. May we request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Russia.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Okay. Before us is the ballot box from Russia with Serial No. CE-10-04821, with Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543020 and 0543019, and it is verified to be the correct self-locking seal here.

Inside the ballot box are ...

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. One envelope.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. ... it is just one envelope, properly sealed with SN0758821, paper seal number. We are now putting it back inside the ballot box and we will seal the ballot box with the National Canvass Seal Control No. 007.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Okay.

May I request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Belgium, with Ballot Box Serial No. CE-10-12515, and with Self-Locking Seals, Serial Nos. 0543021 and 0543022, which match.

We are now opening the plastic seals. We shall now open the ballot box containing one envelope, properly sealed, signed by the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson and the third member, with Serial No. 0829011.

We are now returning the envelope inside the ballot box with the plastic seals and seal it

with the National Canvass Seal with Control No. 008.

Okay. May I request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Turkey.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Okay. Before us is the ballot box from Turkey, Ankara, with Serial No. CE-10-04386, with Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543026 and 0543027, verified to be the same numbers appearing in the actual self-locking seals here.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Iyan.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Iyan. We are now cutting the plastic seal open.

Inside the ballot box is one envelope purportedly containing the Certificate of Canvass and the Statement of Votes properly sealed with Paper Seal No. SN0757422, signed by the Chairman and members of the Board of Canvassers, Turkey.

We are now placing back the contents inside the ballot box and resealing the same with the National Canvasser Seal Control No. 009.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. May I request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from France, with Ballot Box No. 100354.

Mali iyan.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Ang 3533 iyan.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Ito ay 3533 e.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Cairo.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. This is from Cairo, yes. This is from Cairo.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. France. The ballot box from France pero number 39 ito.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Number 39.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. So can we check?

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Forty, Ma'am, number 40. It is number 40.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Forty.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Forty.

Okay, this is the ballot box from France with Ballot Box Serial No. CE-10-03549, which matches the Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543034, 0543033 and 0543035. It matches the records.

We are now opening the—breaking the plastic seals. We are now opening the ballot box. It contains one envelope with Serial No. 0759149. It matches. It is signed by the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and the poll clerk. We are now returning the envelope inside the ballot box and seal it with the national—with the seal, and we shall seal it with another Canvassing sticker, with Control No. 010.

May we request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Cairo.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Okay, before us is the ballot box from Cairo, with Serial No. CE-10-03533, with Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543031, 0543032 and 5043030. Okay, these are confirmed to be the actual numbers of the seals.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. We will break it.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. We are now opening—breaking the seal. Inside the ballot box is one envelope purportedly containing the Certificate of Canvass and Statement of Votes, properly sealed, with Paper Seal No. SN0756692, signed by the Chairman and members of the Canvassing Board. We are now putting it back inside the ballot box, together with the seals, and we will seal it with the National Canvass Seal with Control No. 011.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. One-one.

May we request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Indonesia.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Indonesia...
(inaudible)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Yes, Ballot Box No. CE-10-10863, with Self-Locking

Seal Nos. 0543036 and 0543037. We are now breaking the seal. We are now opening the ballot box with one envelope inside, with Seal No. 0829364, duly signed by the Chairperson and the members of the Board. Okay. We are now returning the envelope inside the box with the seals, and now sealing it with the National Canvassing Seal No. 012. Okay, thank you.

May I request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Germany.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Okay. Before us now is the ballot box from Germany with Serial No. CE-10-12537, with Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543042 and 6543043, confirmed to be the same numbers as the actual self-locking mechanisms here. We are now breaking open the seals. Okay. Inside the ballot box is just one envelope, properly sealed with Paper Seal No. SN0828979, signed by the Chairman and the members of the Canvassing Board, and we are now returning it together with the seals inside the box and resealing it with National Canvass Seal with Control No. 013.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. May we request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Sweden. With Ballot Box No. CE-10-0824, it matches the record with Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543045 and 0543044. We are now breaking the seals. We are now opening the box with one envelope with Seal No. 0829176, properly sealed and duly signed by the Chairperson and the members of the Canvassing Board. We are now returning the brown envelope inside the box with the seals, and sealing it with the National Canvassing Seal No. 014.

May I request the Plenary Page to bring in the ballot box from Angola.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Before us is the box from Angola with Serial No. CE-10-02109 and Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543047 and 0543046 verified to be the same numbers of the seals here. We are now opening the plastic seals, and inside the ballot box is one envelope properly sealed with Paper Seal No. 0758397, and signed by the Chairman and members of the Board of Canvassers, and we

are now returning the same into the ballot box and resealing it with National Canvass Seal Control No. 00—I mean, 015.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. May we request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Switzerland.

Ballot Box No. CE-10-03864 and Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543049 and 0543048, match the records. We are now breaking the self-locking seals. Inside the box is one envelope, properly sealed, Seal No. 0757825, duly signed by the Chairperson and members of the Board. We shall return the envelope inside the box, with the plastic seals and seal it with National Canvassing Seal No. 016.

May I request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box for the Local Absentee Voting.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Okay. Before us is the ballot box for the local absentee voting, two boxes, 088-A and 088-B, with three locks each—oh no, four keys per ballot box.

We are now trying to open them with the keys.

The serial numbers of the ballot boxes are 10-12997 and 10-12321, Cable No. 0102820.

Okay, that is for Ballot Box 088-A.

We are now opening the locks with the keys. We will open it using our bolt cutter. We will break the locks.

Okay. So, we opened the box and there is one more lock inside which we will also break.

Okay. We have broken all the locks and we opened the ballot box which contains one envelope, properly sealed with Paper Seal No. SN2989854, signed by the Chairman and members of the Board of Canvassers. It does match.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Local lang—local absentee voting.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. We are now putting it back inside the ballot box and sealing the same with the national...

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. With the padlocks.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. ...or with the

padlocks, the other seals and the keys. We shall seal it with the National Canvass Seal Control No. 000—ah, sorry—017. Iyan.

Okay, we are now breaking the seal of Ballot Box No. 088-B, also for local absentee voting. Okay, Ballot Box Serial No. 10-12997 with four keys. We are now breaking the locks. We are now opening the ballot box. Oh, yes, I mean the serial number is 10-12997.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Yes, correct.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. We are also breaking the lock inside. We are now opening the ballot box, and it contains the Certificates of Canvass but they are not inside a brown envelope.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Oh, no seal.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. We, therefore, observe that these Certificates of Canvass are not inside an envelope and not sealed but are wrapped by a rubber band.

FEMALE VOICE. Wala iyong ano?

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Walang seal, Ma'am.

FEMALE VOICE. We will just make it of record na lang.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Yes.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Yes. Oo. Yes, we will put that on record.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Wala, boss, e.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. No seal. No seal. And so now we are putting it back inside the box and resealing it together with the locks and keys. We will reseal the ballot box, and we will reseal it with the National Canvass Seal with Control No. 017—ah no. 018.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Can I request our Plenary Page to bring the ballot box of persons deprived of liberty, with Ballot

Box Serial No. CE-81-002923, Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0435812 and 0435811. It matches the records.

We have two brown envelopes inside, properly sealed, with Serial Nos. 4105068 and 4105056, and two envelopes duly signed by the Chairperson and members of the Committee. We are now returning the envelope with the seal inside the box and sealing it with National Canvassing Seal No. 019.

May I request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from India.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Okay, before us is the ballot box from India with Serial No. CE-10-10909, with Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543241 and 0543240, confirmed to be the same numbers from the record.

We are now opening and breaking the plastic seals or locks. Okay, inside the ballot box is one envelope, properly sealed with Paper Seal No. SN0829371, signed by the Chairman and members of the Board of Canvassers. We are now putting it back inside the ballot box and reseal the same with National Canvassing Seal Control No. 020.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. We request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from the 63 barangays of the BARMM, Ballot Box 134.

Okay, ballot box with Serial Number CE-02017657. We shall cut the padlock. We shall open it. Parang galing sa dagat ito ah.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Oh, ayan. Oh, e, nasaan ang ano nila?

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Iyan.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Ah, iyon.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. We have a takip, cover, cover siya. Same thing.

We have a brown—one brown envelope with Seal No. 4104474, and duly signed by the Chairperson and the members of the Committee, and two rolls of several documents inside. We are now returning the documents inside, including the brown envelope, with the padlock inside. We shall seal it with the National Canvassing Seal No. 021.

May I request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Hungary.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Okay, before us is the ballot box from Hungary with Serial No. CE-10-12448, and with Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543361 and 0543362.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Six-two and six-one.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Six-two and six-one.

We are now breaking the plastic seals. Inside the ballot box are—one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight brown envelopes, all properly sealed. Let me read them, the seals, one by one.

The first one has Paper Seal No. SN0758291, signed by the Chairman and members of the Board of Canvassers.

The next envelope has Paper Seal No. 0758285, properly signed by the Chairman and Board of Canvassers.

The next envelope has Paper Seal No. 0758269, properly signed by the Chairman and members of the Board.

The next one is also properly sealed with Paper Seal No. 0758277, signed by the Chairman and members of the Board; Paper Seal No. 0758296, signed by the Chairman and members of the Board; Paper Seal No. 0758303, signed by the Chairman and members of the Board; and Paper Seal No. 0758156, signed by the Chairman and members of the Board.

The last envelope contains the original specimen signatures and thumbmarks of the SBOC members, Budapest. It is sealed as well.

We are now putting everything back inside the ballot box and we shall seal the same with National Canvass Seal Control No. 022.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. May we request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Poland with CE-10-03711.

It matches the records, with Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543363 and 0543364, which match. We are now breaking the seals. We shall open it.

We have six brown envelopes, properly sealed and duly signed, with Seal Nos. 0759747, 0759734, 0759731, 0759741 and

0759714, and one envelope with the original specimen signatures and thumbmarks of the SBOC members, duly sealed and duly signed.

We shall return it inside the box with the plastic seals and seal it with the National Canvassing Seal No. 023.

May I request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Laos.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Okay. Before us is the ballot box from Laos with Ballot Box Serial No. CE-10-11176; it is verified to be correct, with serial—with Self-Locking Seal Serial Nos. 0543366 and 0543367, verified also to be correct, the correct serial number—that matches. It is correct.

We are now opening the ballot box—I mean, the seal, breaking the seal to open the ballot box. Inside the ballot box, we have four brown envelopes, all properly sealed and signed. The first one has Serial No. 0756276, duly signed by the Chairman and the members; Paper Seal No. 0760669, also duly signed by the Chairman and all members; Paper Seal No. 0760692, also properly signed by the Chairman and members; and the last envelope has the label “Original specimen signatures and thumbmarks of the SBOC members from Vientiane.” We are now returning everything inside the ballot box, envelopes and the seals, and we will reseat the same with National Canvass Seal Control No. 024.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. 024.

May I request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from the Vatican City.

Ballot Box No. CE-10-11020, it matches with the plastic seals, 0543368 and 0543369. They match. We shall break the seals. We shall open it. We have three envelopes: two brown envelopes and one white envelope. The brown envelope has Seal No. 08229213, duly signed by the members of the Committee. The white envelope with Seal No. 0759539 is duly signed by the Chairperson and the members. There is one brown envelope containing original specimen signatures and the thumbmarks of the SBOC members of the Vatican.

We shall return them to the ballot box with the plastic seals, and seal it with National Canvassing Sticker No. 025.

May I request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Norway.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Before us is the ballot box from Norway, Ballot Box No. CE-10-09517 and Self-Locking Seal Nos. 0543370 and 0543371 – verified to be correct as per records. We are now breaking the – cutting the plastic seals.

Inside the ballot box are five brown envelopes, all properly sealed with Paper Seal No. 0758912, signed by the Chairman and members; Paper Seal No. 0758885, signed by the Chairman and members; Paper Seal No. 0758860, signed by the Chairman and members; Paper Seal No. 0758935, signed by the Chairman and the members; and one envelope containing original specimen signatures and thumbmarks of the SBOC members of Oslo, duly sealed as well.

We are now returning everything – the envelopes and the seals – inside the ballot box and we shall seal the same with National Canvass Seal Control No. 026. Okay.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. May I request the Plenary Page to bring the ballot box from Denmark, Ballot Box No. CE1004463 – ah no, no, no, CE-10-01320, sorry, and Self-Locking Lock Nos. 0543380, 0543379 and 0543381.

We are now cutting the plastic seals. We will open it.

We have four brown envelopes inside, with the numbers 0758310, 0758335 and 0758362, all sealed and duly signed by the members, and one envelope containing the original specimen signatures and thumbmarks of the SBOC members. We are now returning the envelopes inside the ballot box with the plastic seals and seal it with National Canvassing Seal No. 027.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. May I just, Your Honors, make a manifestation at this point. I would like to make a manifestation at

this point, on behalf of the Senate, to inform Your Honors that there are, in fact, eight more ballot boxes or Certificates of Canvass received by the Senate just this morning, before lunch, and they are now in the process of being recorded and transported to the House of Representatives for our canvass. They are from the following foreign posts: Prague, Czech Republic; Abuja, Nigeria; Nairobi, Kenya; Islamabad, Pakistan; Santiago, Chile; Mexico; Timor-Leste; and from Pretoria, South Africa, Your Honors.

We should be receiving them within the day and perhaps once we resume, I mean, convene the Canvassing Board, we can open them also later, depending on Your Honors' pleasure at that point. Thank you.

In the meantime, we will suspend our procedure for opening at this time while waiting for the transfer and receipt of the remaining boxes.

At this point, in view of my previous manifestation, Honorable SecGen, that the Senate is still in the process of transporting and transmitting the remaining eight COCs from the eight posts.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. We concur with the manifestation of the Senate Secretary.

SUSPENSION OF THE OPENING OF THE BALLOT BOXES

THE SENATE SECRETARY. May we move to suspend at this point our opening of the ballot boxes. Are there no objections?

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. There are no objections.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Okay. We, therefore, suspend the opening of the ballot boxes at this point.

Thank you very much, SecGen.

It was 12:13 p.m.