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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

Wednesday, May 25, 2022

JPS No. 1a

RESUMPTION OF JOINT PUBLIC SESSION

At 5:40 p.m., the Joint Session was resumed with Senate President Vicente C. Sotto III and Speaker Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco presiding.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. On the part of the Senate, the Joint Public Session is resumed.

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House of Representatives, the Joint Public Session is resumed.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Majority Leader.

CONSIDERATION OF THE REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE ON THE CANVASS OF VOTES FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IN THE MAY 9, 2022 ELECTIONS

SEN. ZUBIRI. Mr. President, on the part of the Senate, I move for the consideration of the Report of the Joint Committee and its accompanying Resolution of Both Houses No. 1, Proclaiming the Candidates Obtaining the Highest Number of Votes for President and Vice President.

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

THE SPEAKER. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, on the part of the House of Representatives, I move for the consideration of the Report of the Joint Committee and its accompanying Resolution of Both Houses No. 1, proclaiming the candidates obtaining the highest number of votes for President and Vice President.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the title of the Report of the Joint Committee and the Resolution of Both Houses No. 1.*

With the permission of the Body in Joint Session, and since copies of the Joint Committee Report and Resolution of Both Houses No. 1 have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record of the Joint Public Session.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Report of the Joint Committee on the canvassing of votes for the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates in the May 9, 2022 elections.

Resolution of Both Houses No. 1, entitled: "RESOLUTION OF BOTH HOUSES APPROVING THE REPORT OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE, DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE NATIONAL ELECTIONS HELD ON MAY 9, 2022 FOR THE OFFICES OF PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT, AND PROCLAIMING THE DULY ELECTED PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES."

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Thank you. Majority Leader.

SEN. ZUBIRI. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

May I be recognized to sponsor the said measure.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. The Majority Leader is recognized as Chair of the Joint Panel.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SEN. ZUBIRI

SEN. ZUBIRI. Mr. Senate President, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues in the Senate and the House of Representatives, ladies and gentlemen:

What we have witnessed in the last National and Local Elections, for me, was one of the most credible, orderly, and peaceful in our nation's elections history. Do not just take it from me, as this is reflected in the assessments of different media outfits, election watchdogs, and civil society organizations, including the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting.

In just more than two weeks after the May 9, 2022 elections, we are about to proclaim the duly elected President and Vice President of the Republic. Quite fast, indeed.

The result of this election is historical in several ways. First, it has the highest number of votes cast in our nation's elections history, with an 82 percent voter turnout, totaling 55,197,306 votes. *(Applause)* Second, Mr. President, since the 1987 Constitution, this is the first time that we elected a majority President and Vice President *(Applause)* – a phenomenon, indeed, in a multiparty system under a presidential republican government. The duly elected President garnered a total of 58.77 percent of the total votes cast in the last May 9, 2022 elections; *(Applause)* and the duly elected Vice President gathered a total of 61.53 percent of the total votes cast; *(Applause)* and third, the canvassing of Congress in Joint Public Session took only two days to finish. I would like to take note that this canvassing is the fastest in our nation's history of elections – another milestone for Philippine Congress. *(Applause)*

However, we would like to emphasize that we did not sacrifice the transparency and the authenticity of the results for a speedy count. The process was hastened due to several factors.

Early on in the canvassing of the Joint Committee, we appreciated the manifestations of the counsels of several Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates, notably, the counsel of Vice President Leni Robredo, a Presidential candidate, who manifested that they have a continuing manifestation that they interpose no objection for the canvassing of all the COCs brought before us in this Body. *(Applause)* The same manifestation was made of record by the counsel of Vice Presidential candidate Senator Kiko Pangilinan and Presidential candidate Mayor Isko Moreno. That, ladies and gentlemen, was a magnificent show of statesmanship on their part, and we sincerely thank them for that. It shows the importance of uniting as a people and healing the emotional wounds brought about by this very emotionally charged election.

The Joint Committee conscientiously examined the Certificates of Canvass, both the manually transmitted and the printed copy of the electronically transmitted COCs, and painstakingly determined their authenticity and due execution as required by law and by our rules. The canvassing went on smoothly, except for some instances when the manually prepared Certificates of Canvass were not found in the ballot boxes submitted to the Senate President by several Provincial Election Supervisors and City Election Officers. Thus, under our rules, we summoned the concerned Provincial Election Supervisors and City Election Officers to explain the non-inclusion of the COCs in their submission to the Senate President, and asked them to locate the COCs and bring them henceforth to Congress. I have, in many times in public, expressed my frustration for such failure during the proceedings of the Joint Committee.

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, at this juncture, I would like to urge the Commission on Elections to take remedial steps in ensuring that these glaring mistakes would not happen again, hopefully, in 2028.

For the record, the Joint Committee did not want to sacrifice the accuracy of the count or disenfranchise any province or LGU from this historic process. That is why we even waited for the results of the special elections of Lanao del Sur and several Overseas Absentee Voting areas to complete the canvass of votes.

Another factor which truly helped make the canvassing of votes so efficient, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, was the masterful handling of my co-Chair, the honorable House Majority Leader Martin Romualdez. (*Applause*) I would like to say this, ladies and gentlemen, that he never left his post throughout the proceedings, not even for lunch, not even for dinner, not even a bathroom break. He truly leads Congress by example and I salute you, Sir. (*Applause*) I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the hardworking members of this Joint Committee, my colleagues in the Senate: Sen. Nancy Binay, Sen. Franklin M. Drilon, Sen. Imee Marcos, Sen. Ralph Recto, Sen. Grace Poe, Sen. Pia Cayetano; and our alternate members, Sen. Lito Lapid, Sen. Risa Hontiveros, Sen. Koko Pimentel, Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa; and our colleagues, as well from the House of Representatives: Rep. Jesus Crispin Remulla, Rep. Abraham Tolentino, Rep. Kristine Singson-Meehan, Rep. Sharon Garin, Rep. Manuel “Mannix” Dalipe, Rep. Juliet Ferrer; and alternate members, Rep. Juan Pablo Bondoc, Rep. Johnny Pimentel, Rep. Alfredo Garbin Jr., and Rep. Stella Quimbo.

With that, Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, it is my distinctive honor and privilege to sponsor the Report of the Joint Committee on the Canvass of Votes for Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates in this historic May 9, 2022 National and Local Elections.

The Joint Committee, Your Honors, canvassed a total of 171 COCs from provinces, highly urbanized cities, local absentee voting, overseas absentee voting and found all of them to be authentic and duly executed.

The results, Your Honor, of the canvass show that Ferdinand “Bongbong” Romualdez Marcos Jr. obtained the highest number of votes for the position of President, garnering a total of 31,629,783 votes, (*Applause*) with a lead of 16,594,010 over the second placer.

On the other hand, Mme. Inday Sara Zimmerman Duterte obtained the highest number of votes for Vice President with 32,208,417 votes, (*Applause*) with a lead of 22,879,210 over her closest opponent.

Allow me to add, Mr. President, matagal-tagal na rin po ako sa politika at maraming eleksiyon na rin po ang aking napagdaanan, both local and national elections, at ngayon lang po ako nakakita nitong dalawang kandidato na kapag nagmo-motorcade ay kilo-kilometro po ang taong nag-aabang sa kainitan ng araw at hindi alintana ang init. May mga rallies din po kami na kasagsagan ng ulan pero nananatili po ang mga tao. Iyan ang masasabi natin, umulan at umaraw man ay kasama pa rin po natin ang ating mga kababayan. May mga nakaugnayan po tayo na pami-pamilya ang nag-aabang at nagdadala pa ng sariling baon para sa kanilang tanghalian, at mga galing pa sa kanayunan, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President. Talagang nakamamangha at ngayon ko lang nasaksihan ang ganyang pagtanggap ng ating mga kababayan sa ating dalawang kandidato.

In this election, Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, President-elect Bongbong Marcos and Vice President-elect Sara Duterte were truly rock stars. However, the greater task of the victors today is to unite our countrymen for nation-building. That begins today. This weighs heavily on their shoulders. (*Applause*)

Mr. President, Mr. Speaker, Ecclesiastes 3 says, “There is a time for everything, for everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.”

Today, let me urge our kababayan, sa ating mga kababayan na nakikinig po ngayon, that it is a time to heal from this divisive campaign. It is a time to respect the will of the majority of our electorate and, most importantly, it is a time to unite for the welfare and progress of our people and rally behind our flag and our country.

Mr. President, with an overwhelming victory of our President-elect Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. and Vice President-elect Inday Sara Duterte, I am convinced that the Filipino electorate heeded the clarion call to unite for progress and to get out of the suffering caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is a resounding affirmation of the Filipinos' desire to move forward and jump-start our economy.

Finally, today, is a triumph of our democracy. Mabuhay ang ating demokrasya.

Maraming, maraming salamat po.
(Applause)

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, may I be recognized to sponsor the Report of the Joint Committee.

THE SPEAKER. The Majority Leader and Chairperson of the House panel of the Joint Committee is recognized to deliver his sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH
OF REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.)

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Senate President, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, guests, ladies and gentlemen:

The Joint Public Session of Congress to canvass the votes for the duly elected President and Vice President in the elections of May 9, 2022 is honored and privileged to submit its Report to the honorable Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives in Joint Public Session.

Pursuant to the constitutional mandate of Congress and the instruction of the Joint Session of Congress, the Joint Committee convened on May 24, 2022 to canvass and tally the votes for the President and the Vice President.

After just a day of canvassing, the task had been completed and we were set to proclaim the duly elected President and Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines.

The proceedings of the 2022 Joint Public Session have been the fastest canvassing of the Presidential and Vice Presidential elections' results in the country since it adopted the Automated Election System.

Foremost, due recognition must be given to the members of the Joint Committee who worked round-the-clock to canvass the votes

in order to proclaim the winners in the soonest possible time without sacrificing accuracy and fairness – the Senate panel headed by the Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel “Migz” F. Zubiri, Sen. Maria Lourdes “Nancy” S. Binay, Sen. Franklin M. Drilon, Sen. Imee R. Marcos, Sen. Grace L. Poe, Sen. Ralph G. Recto, and Sen. Pia S. Cayetano, as members; and Sen. Manuel “Lito” M. Lapid, Sen. Risa Hontiveros, Sen. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, and Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa, as alternate members.

Likewise, we also take note of the diligence of the members of the House panel: Rep. Jesus Crispin C. Remulla, Rep. Abraham “Bambol” N. Tolentino, Rep. Kristine Singson-Meehan, Rep. Sharon S. Garin, Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe, and Rep. Juliet Marie De Leon Ferrer, as members; and Rep. Juan Pablo “Rimpy” P. Bondoc, Rep. Johnny Ty Pimentel, Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr., and Rep. Stella Luz A. Quimbo, as alternate members.

Credit must also be given to the offices and staff of the Commission on Elections that were able to immediately respond to the directives of the Joint Committee to explain the missing physically delivered COCs.

The concerned Provincial Board of Canvassers through their Provincial Election Supervisors were able to explain before the Joint Committee through virtual communication the whereabouts of the COCs. The Chairpersons proceeded with the canvassing of the electronically transmitted COCs and required the Provincial Election Supervisors to submit the actual original copies of the COCs.

We also commend the members of the Secretariat and the Joint Committee, both from the Senate and the House of Representatives, for their support and assistance, and the members of the media who were with us throughout the proceedings.

We also express our gratitude and appreciation to the counsels of the candidates who have manifested the graciousness of their respective candidates in recognizing the integrity of this election. Indeed, the healing of the country has begun and we urge everyone to unite as a nation.

Finally, credit is due to the more than 55 million Filipinos, out of more than 66 million

registered voters who amidst the threat of the COVID-19 braved the long queues to exercise their right of suffrage, resulting in a record-breaking 83.11 percent voter turnout. Indeed, our democracy is alive and vibrant.

The ever-growing political interest shown by our electorate is symbolic of the people's clamor for change, prosperity and progress.

The Joint Committee canvassed a total of 171 COCs, 132 COCs which were electronically transmitted to the Consolidation and Canvassing System by the Board of Canvassers of the provinces, cities and overseas absentee voting countries, wherein 39 COCs were physically delivered to the Senate of the Philippines from the Special Board of Canvassers for overseas absentee voting, local absentee voting and detainee voting. With all the 171 COCs tallied, Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Romualdez Marcos Jr. and Davao City Mayor Sara Zimmerman Duterte obtained the highest number of votes among the candidates for President and Vice President, respectively.

Senator Marcos Jr. received 31,629,783 votes or a lead of more than 16,593,010 votes over his nearest rival, Vice President Maria Leonor Robredo. For the Vice Presidency, Mayor Sara Duterte received 32,208,417 votes and had a margin of over 22,879,210 votes over her closest rival, Sen. Francis Nepomuceno Pangilinan.

The 2022 electoral campaign period has been polarizing. With the country reeling from the impact of a global pandemic and other major calamities and disasters, it was evident that the nation was divided as to what direction to take in order to move forward, but the majority has spoken. It is high time that we listen to their voice and uphold the outcome of our democratic process. Let us heal the wounds of political division, brace ourselves for the challenges ahead, and move forward as a strong and united Philippines. Let us be prepared to work harder for the nation and give our full support to the new leadership.

At the end of the day, we are all Filipinos, and we want nothing else than to see our beloved nation chart its own course and ultimately triumph.

On this note, I urge the Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives in this Joint Public Session to approve the Report of the Joint Committee, embodying the Resolution of Both Houses, proclaiming Hon. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Romualdez Marcos Jr. as President, and Hon. Sara Zimmerman Duterte-Carpio as Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines. *(Applause)*

Maraming salamat. Mabuhay ang Pilipinas at ang buong sambayanang Pilipino. *(Applause)*

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Majority Leader.

SEN. ZUBIRI. Thank you.

On the part of the Senate panel, Mr. President, we respectfully recommend that Congress, as the National Board of Canvassers in Joint Public Session, approve the Report of the Joint Committee and its accompanying Resolution of Both Houses No. 1, declaring the results of the National Elections held on May 9, 2022 for the Offices of the President and the Vice President, and proclaiming Ferdinand "Bongbong" Romualdez Marcos Jr. as the duly elected President and Inday Sara Zimmerman Duterte as the duly elected Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines. *(Applause)*

Thank you, Mr. President. Mr. President, out of my excitement on my speech, I forgot to make the same motion.

I so move, Mr. President.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Majority Leader, we would like to entertain ...

SEN. ZUBIRI. Yes.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. ... a formal motion for the adoption of the Resolution.

SEN. ZUBIRI. Yes. Mr. President, we are now ready to proceed to vote for the adoption of the Joint Committee Report and its accompanying Resolution.

On the part of the Senate, I move for the approval of the Report of the Joint Committee and the adoption of the accompanying Resolution of Both Houses No. 1.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Distinguished Members of the Senate, there is a motion by the Majority Leader to approve the Report of the Joint Committee and to adopt the accompanying Resolution of Both Houses No. 1.

As many as are in favor of the motion, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. As many as are against, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF THE REPORT
OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON THE CANVASS OF VOTES
FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL AND
VICE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES
IN THE MAY 9, 2022 ELECTIONS
ON THE PART OF THE SENATE

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. They *ayes* have it; on the part of the Senate, the Report of the Joint Committee is approved and the Resolution of Both Houses No. 1 is adopted. (*Applause*)

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, may we now proceed to vote for the approval of the Report and its accompanying Resolution. On the part of the House of Representatives, I move for the approval of the Report of the Joint Committee and the adoption of the accompanying Resolution of Both Houses No. 1.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE SPEAKER. Distinguished Members of the House of Representatives, there is a motion by the Majority Leader to approve the Report of the Joint Committee and to adopt the accompanying Resolution of Both Houses No. 1.

As many as are in favor of the motion, please say *Aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE SPEAKER. As many as are against, please say *Nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF THE REPORT
OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE
ON THE PART OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

THE SPEAKER. The *ayes* have it; on the part of the House of Representatives, the Report of the Joint Committee is approved and the Resolution of Both Houses No. 1 is adopted. (*Applause*)

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. The Majority Leader of the Senate is recognized.

PROCLAMATION OF
THE PRESIDENT-ELECT AND
THE VICE PRESIDENT-ELECT

SEN. ZUBIRI. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

On the part of the Senate, pursuant to the adopted Resolution of Both Houses No. 1, I have the honor to move for the proclamation of the ...

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Duly elected President.

SEN. ZUBIRI. ... duly elected President of the Republic of the Philippines and the duly elected Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Yes.

SEN. ZUBIRI. It was blank, Mr. President. I wanted to make sure that one was not ahead of the other. (*Laughter*) So, I was worried about that blank.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. I have it. (*Laughter*)

SEN. ZUBIRI. Thank you, Mr. President.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears

none; on the part of the Senate, I proclaim Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. as the duly elected President of the Republic of the Philippines, (*Applause*) and Sara Zimmerman Duterte-Carpio as the duly elected Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines. (*Applause*)

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

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, on the part of the House of Representatives and pursuant to the adopted Resolution of Both Houses No. 1, I have the honor to move for the proclamation of Ferdinand “Bongbong” Romualdez Marcos Jr. as the duly elected President of the Republic of the Philippines and Sara Zimmerman Duterte-Carpio as the duly elected Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; on the part of the House of Representatives, I proclaim Ferdinand “Bongbong” Romualdez Marcos Jr. as the duly elected President of the Republic of the Philippines, and Sara Zimmerman Duterte-Carpio as the duly elected Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines. (*Applause*)

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. We shall now proceed to the approval of the Journal of the Joint Public Session and, for this purpose, the Senate Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF THE JOINT PUBLIC SESSION

SEN. ZUBIRI. Thank you very much, Mr. President.

On the part of the Senate, I move that the honorable Senate President be authorized to approve the Journal of the Joint Public Session, and that such approval be considered as the action of the Senate of the Philippines.

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

THE SPEAKER. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, on the part of the House of Representatives, I move that the honorable Speaker be authorized to approve the Journal of the Joint Public Session, and such approval be considered as the action of the House of Representatives.

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

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. The Senate Secretary is now directed to turn over the Consolidation and Canvassing System, the machine, and return all the ballot boxes as well as all the pouches containing the Certificates of Canvass and Election Returns to the Commission on Elections.

So directed.

SEN. ZUBIRI. Mr. President.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Majority Leader.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE NOTIFICATION COMMITTEE

SEN. ZUBIRI. On the part of the Senate, I move that we designate the members of the Senate panel to the Joint Committee as members of the Notification Committee.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. If there is no objection, the Chair designates the members of the Senate panel to the Joint Committee as members of the Notification Committee.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, on the part of the House of Representatives, I move to designate the members of the House panel to the Joint Committee as members of the Notification Committee.

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

The members of the House panel of the Joint Committee are designated as members of the Notification Committee.

SEN. ZUBIRI. Mr. President.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Yes, go ahead, Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF JOINT SESSION

SEN. ZUBIRI. On the part of the Senate, I move to suspend the Joint Public Session to notify the duly elected President and Vice President of their proclamation and invite them to the rostrum.

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

On the part of the Senate, the Joint Public Session is suspended.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, on the part of the House of Representatives, I move to suspend the Joint Public Session to notify the duly elected President and Vice President of their proclamation and invite them to the rostrum.

THE SPEAKER. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) There being none; the motion is approved.

On the part of the House of Representatives, the Joint Public Session is suspended.

It was 6:11 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF JOINT SESSION

At 6:21 p.m., the Joint Session was resumed.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. On the part of the Senate, the Joint Public Session is resumed.

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House of Representatives, the Joint Public Session is resumed.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. To our duly elected President, President Ferdinand Marcos

Jr. and to our duly elected Vice President, Vice President Sara Zimmerman Duterte, congratulations.

You have been placed by God in this position for a reason. May He lead you into your purpose, and may you live it courageously.

In every step you take, may God protect you and I pray for God's blessings for your leadership, for you and your family.

Congratulations. (*Applause*)

THE SPEAKER. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate our President-elect, President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Romualdez Marcos Jr.

Maligayang pagbati po, President BBM.

To our Vice President-elect, Vice President Sara Zimmerman Duterte-Carpio, congratulations, Ma'am Inday.

Congratulations also, and thank you to the Joint Canvassing Committee led by House Majority Leader Ferdinand Martin Romualdez and Senate Majority Leader Juan Miguel Zubiri for the swift and fair canvassing that guaranteed the people's faith in our electoral process.

Thank you to all the honorable members of the Joint Canvassing Committee and the Secretariat for your hard work and invaluable support in ensuring a historic canvassing that was finished in two days.

Ngayong araw na ito, Congress bears witness to the unity of our country, a true partnership between the North and the South that has become the unity of all corners of the country.

In previous elections, Filipinos voted for President and Vice President from different parties. Finally, this year, we will learn the importance of voting for a tandem—a UniTeam that can work together, a UniTeam that can collaborate with each other, and a UniTeam that can push for shared national agenda.

The people have spoken decisively. This is not just your sweeping electoral victory; this is an overwhelming victory for all Filipinos. This is a victory of our democracy.

The gracious acts extended by the camps of other candidates yesterday, which greatly

facilitated our proceedings, showed the best of what Filipinos can be even in the most divisive of elections.

Nakikita po natin ngayon ang tunay na lakas sa pagkakaisa at pagsasanib-pwersa. We need a catalyst, and there is no better example than the unifying force that we have seen and we will see in a government led by President BBM and VP Inday Sara. The Philippines looks forward to your leadership.

It is my great honor and privilege to congratulate you both today.

Mabuhay po kayo. *(Applause)*
Secretary General.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Eighteenth Congress, Hon. Sara Zimmerman Duterte, the duly elected Vice President of the Republic of the Philippines. *(Applause)*

THE SPEAKER. May we request the duly elected Vice President, Sara Zimmerman Duterte-Carpio, to proceed to the rostrum.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. May we also request the family of the duly elected Vice President, Inday Sara Duterte, to accompany her to the rostrum, please. *(Applause)*

At this juncture, Vice President-elect Sara Zimmerman Duterte-Carpio ascended the rostrum.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. The Senate Secretary.

THE SENATE SECRETARY. Ladies and Gentlemen of the Eighteenth Congress, Hon. Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., the duly elected President of the Republic of the Philippines. *(Applause)*

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. May we request the duly elected President, President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr., to proceed to the rostrum.

THE SPEAKER. May we also request the family of the duly elected President, President Ferdinand “Bongbong” Romualdez Marcos Jr., to accompany him to the rostrum. *(Applause)*

At this juncture, President-elect Ferdinand “Bongbong” R. Marcos Jr., together with his family, ascended the rostrum.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. Majority Leader.

ADJOURNMENT OF JOINT SESSION

SEN. ZUBIRI. Yes, Mr. President. Out of all the excitement, we forgot that we have to adjourn. *(Laughter)* Therefore, Mr. President, on the part of the Senate, I move that we adjourn this historic Joint Public Session.

THE SENATE PRESIDENT. On the part of the Senate, this Joint Public Session is hereby adjourned.

THE SPEAKER. Majority Leader of the House of Representatives.

REP. ROMUALDEZ (F.). Mr. Speaker, on the part of the House, I move to adjourn the Joint Public Session.

THE SPEAKER. On the part of the House of Representatives, this historic Joint Public Session is adjourned. *(Applause)*

It was 6:35 p.m.

