



**Republic of the Philippines
CITY COUNCIL
City of Manila**

REGULAR SESSION NO. 29
13TH CITY COUNCIL

**RESOLUTION NO. 393
Series of 2025**

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COMMITTEE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ETHICS RELATIVE TO THE PRIVILEGE SPEECH DELIVERED BY COUNCILOR EUNICE ANN DENICE G. CASTRO ON OCTOBER 9, 2025, SUBSEQUENTLY SAID COMMITTEE REPORT SHALL TAKE EFFECT AFTER FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM RECEIPT

PRINCIPAL AUTHORS:

HON. ATTY. JAYBEE S. HIZON

and

HON. RAYMUNDO "Mon" R. YUPANGCO
Majority Floor Leader



WHEREAS, on 09 October 2025 Councilor Eunice Ann Denice G. Castro delivered a privilege speech detailing alleged sexual harassment she received from Councilor Kuya Ryan B. Ponce;

WHEREAS, a committee hearing was then conducted on 16 October 2025, which was attended by the members of the Committee who achieved a quorum and was further attended by councilors from the different districts of the city;

WHEREAS, the Committee Chairman then manifested that the proceedings were adversarial in nature and as such, both parties were given an opportunity to manifest their side and provide the committee with additional information, if they so desire, to help with its deliberation;

WHEREAS, after hearing both sides, the Committee Chairman then explained that the Committee is constrained to hear the instant case only under the provisions of the City Council's Internal Rules of Procedure. This is due to the fact that the instant complaint was initiated through a privilege speech and not through a verified complaint as required by the local government code. As such, the only penalty which can be recommended, should the committee desire to do so, are only those which are found within the internal rules itself;

WHEREAS, during deliberations, the Committee was appraised of the ruling of the Honorable Supreme Court in *Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Valenzuela City Et. Al., vs SK Federation President Janine Alexandra R. Carlos* (G.R. No. 255453, 24 November 2021) wherein it was held that a City Councilor can only be expelled through a Court Order. As such, the maximum penalty that can be imposed by the Committee is suspension of sixty (60) days based on the City Council's Internal Rules of Procedure;

WHEREAS, given the foregoing, the Committee hereby recommends the following actions before the City Council:

1. To **IMPOSE** the **MAXIMUM PENALTY** of **SUSPENSION** for sixty (60) days, without pay in accordance with the Internal Rules of Procedure of the City Council; and
2. As a result of Councilor Ponce's suspension to **REORGANIZE** the committee memberships of the City Council, and to assign the Committee Chairmanship of Councilor Ponce to the Majority Floor Leader;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it

RESOLVED, by the City Council of Manila to adopt, as it hereby adopts the Committee Report of the Committee on Rules and Ethics relative to the Privilege Speech delivered by Councilor Eunice Ann Denice G. Castro on October 9, 2025, subsequently said Committee Report shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from receipt.

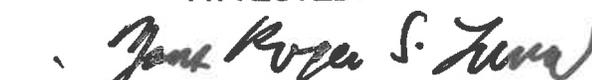
PRESIDED BY:



ANGELA LEI "Chi" I. ATIENZA
Vice-Mayor and Presiding Officer
City Council, Manila

This Resolution was adopted by the City Council of Manila at its regular session on October 16, 2025.

ATTESTED:



HANS ROGER S. LUNA
City Government Department Head, III
(Secretary to the City Council)

CLN: acl/jok/cpf/jmt/hpr/ey