



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

# Journal

**SESSION NO. 47**  
Monday, December 13, 2010

**FIFTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**SESSION NO. 47**  
Monday, December 13, 2010

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:31 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, led the prayer, to wit:

*Mahal naming Panginoon, sa huling linggo ng aming pagpupulong sa taong ito, nawa'y maging makabuluhan ang aming mga talakayan. Ang panukalang batas para sa pambansang badyet na ipapasa ng Senado sa linggong ito nawa'y maging isang regalo ng ating pamahalaan tungo sa kaunlaran at kabutihan ng ating mga mamamayan.*

*Ngayong nalalapit na ang araw ng kapanganakan ng ating Poong Maykapal, buksan Po Ninyo ang aming mga puso upang maging mapagpatawad at mapagbigay sa aming mga kapwa. Sa lahat ng aming biyayang tinanggap at tinamasa sa taong ito, ito lamang Po ang aming maibabalik bilang pasasalamat at pagpuri sa Inyo.*

*Sana, sa mga darating na araw, kami Po ay buong nagpapakumbabang naha-handa na harapin ang mga pagsubok na darating sa amin. Buo Po ang aming tiwala na sa Inyong paggabay ay matibay naming malalampasan ang mga ito.*

*Ang lahat Pong ito ay hinihiling namin sa pangalan ng Inyong bugtong na Anak.*

*Amen.*

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

The De La Salle Voices from the De La Salle Lipa led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song, entitled "*Dakilang Adhikain.*"

**ROLL CALL**

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Emma Lirio-Reyes, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Arroyo, J. P.	Marcos Jr., F. R.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Osmeña III, S. R.
Cayetano, C. P. S.	Recto, R. G.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Enrile, J. P.	Sotto III, V. C.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Zubiri, J. M. F.
Honasan, G. B.	

With 13 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Angara, Guingona, Pangilinan and Villar arrived after the roll call.

Senator Drilon, who came from the Conference Committee meeting on the national budget, likewise arrived after the roll call.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

Senators Lacson, Lapid and Legarda were absent.

Senator Trillanes was unable to attend the session as he was under detention.

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**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

At this juncture, the Chair greeted Senators Osmeña and Villar on the occasion of their birthdays.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

With the permission of the Body, the Chair suspended the session to allow the Members to greet the birthday celebrants.

*It was 3:39 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:40 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada presiding.

**MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO**

Senator Sotto congratulated Senator Cayetano (A) for being named as one of the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) by the Philippine Jaycees.

Senator Ejercito Estrada congratulated Senator Cayetano (A) likewise.

**APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 46 and considered it approved.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

*It was 3:41 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:41 p.m., the session was resumed.

**APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 78 ON THIRD READING**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, Senate Bill No. 78, printed copies of which were distributed to the senators on December 7, 2010.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Secretary of the Senate read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PROTECTION TO THE HOUSEHELPERS THEREBY AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLES 141, 142, 143, 148, AND 151 OF CHAPTER III OF P.D. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

The Senate Secretary called the roll for nominal voting.

**RESULT OF THE VOTING**

The result of the voting was as follows:

*In favor*

Arroyo	Marcos
Cayetano (A)	Osmeña
Cayetano (P)	Recto
Ejercito Estrada	Revilla
Enrile	Sotto
Honasan	Zubiri

*Against*

None

*Abstention*

None

With 12 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared Senate Bill No. 78 approved on Third Reading.

**REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

The Secretary of the Senate read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

**MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Letters from Speaker Feliciano Belmonte Jr. of the House of Representatives, all dated 21 September 2010, designating the following

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Representatives as Members of the House panel to the following Oversight Committees:

Representatives Fernandez (D. R.), Ocampo (R. A.), Angping (Ma. Z.), Alcala (I.), and Cajayon (M. M.) for the Oversight Committee on the Philippine Clean Air Act;

Representatives Garcia (A. R.), Mandanas (H.) and Mendoza (M. L.) for the Oversight Committee on the Safeguard Measures Act (COCSMA); and

Representatives Fernandez (D. R.), Herrera-Dy (B.), Ilagan (L.), Romulo (R.) and Velasco (L. A.) for the Oversight Committee on the Philippine Clean Water Act.

**To the Committee on Rules**

**BILLS ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 2623, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10000 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE AGRI-AGRA REFORM CREDIT ACT OF 2009

Introduced by Senator Pangilinan

**To the Committee on Agriculture and Food**

Senate Bill No. 2624, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING TAX DEDUCTIONS TO PARENTS AND LEGAL GUARDIANS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Introduced by Senator Villar

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 308, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS

AND CONDITION OF AIRPORTS IN THE PHILIPPINES, BOTH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROMOTING PHILIPPINE TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE

Introduced by Senator Villar

**To the Committees on Public Works; and Tourism**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 309, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE/S TO ASSESS, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PRESENT DRUG DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY VIS-À-VIS THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF HEALTH RESEARCHES IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE OBJECTIVES OF DEVELOPING HEALTH ALTERNATIVES AND PROVIDING COST EFFECTIVE MEDICINES FOR THE PEOPLE

Introduced by Senator Villar

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Trade and Commerce**

**COMMUNICATION**

Letter from the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, dated 23 November 2010, furnishing the Senate with a certified true copy of BSP Circular No. 699, series of 2010, dated 17 November 2010, in compliance with Section 15(a) of Republic Act No. 7653 (The New Central Bank Act).

**To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

**INQUIRY OF SENATOR ARROYO**

Upon query of Senator Arroyo, Senator Zubiri stated that he was availing himself of the privilege hour again to speak about Philippine sports, which is close to his heart, and the problems confronting it.

## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Zubiri spoke about the plight of the Philippine football team as it goes into the semifinals of the AFF Suzuki Cup 2010:

### THE AZKALS AND THE STATE OF PHILIPPINE SPORTS: HAS IT GONE TO THE DOGS?

I rise today to congratulate the Azkals, no, not your everyday street-dogs of mixed breed. They are the young men who are converting basketball-loving Filipinos over to football. Their team play is winning glory for the country. They are:

Ian Araneta	Roel Gener
Jerry Barbaso	Robert Gier
Yanti Barsales	Christopher Greatwich
David Mark Basa	Peter Jaugan
Joebel Bermejo	Ray Jonsson
Alexander Borromeo	Nestor Margarse
Emelio Caligdong	Reymark Palmes
Christopher Camcam	Kristopher Relucio
Jason de Jong	Eduard Sacapaño
Anton del Rosario	James Youngusband
Neil Etheridge	Phil Youngusband
Mark Ferrer	

Also, to Simon Alexander McMenemy, Edwin Cabalida, Edzel Bracamonte, Rolando Piñero, Walfred Javier, Josef Malinay, Dan Palami and Rick Olivares who consist the coaching staff, management and media unit.

*These men are teaching us three traits: Passion, Skill and Joy.* That is the football mantra. *Leidenschaft, Geschick, Freude*, in the language of the late Paul, the German Octopus.

Our football players display this mantra in and out of the football field. Sadly, some officials and pretenders in the Philippine Football Federation (PFF) do not display, anymore, the football mantra of *Passion, Skill and Joy*.

Because of the lack of passion and possible corruption in the PFF and other sports agencies, and wrong policies and politics in our sports program, we are not going to be able to host the Philippine leg of the Asian Football Federation Suzuki Cup — depriving Filipino fans their opportunity to cheer our teams.

It is final. All arrangements regarding the coming Indonesia-Philippines game is directed towards Indonesia — at the Gelora Bung Karno Stadium. Once again, we are leaving our Azkals

team to fend for themselves. That is the big, big disappointment of our football players and millions of Filipino fans. Most important is that it has come to represent the lack of foresight of our sports agencies. I am not blaming the officials of this new Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) administration but the lack of foresight in the policies of the past administration which we do not want to be carried over in the present administration. It also tells us that our athletes are often left to fend on their own. And that, combined with the centralized character of sports development, poor to no funding and the lack of a clear policy, spells disaster.

As in many cases, mostly the generosity of benefactors — like Dan Palami and Manny Pangilinan — pushed our teams on and in the process covered up the shortcomings of our government sports program.

This sad state of affairs in no way refers to the Filipino athlete's mettle. Allow me to say a few things about our football players.

The best scoring ability in football history is held by a Filipino — Paulino Alcantara, an Ilonggo who became a doctor. No one has surpassed his scoring ability. From 1912 to 1916, he scored 356 goals in 357 game appearances. From 1921 to 1923, he scored six goals in five appearances. He is the all-time best goal scorer. His goal in April 20, 1922, is also one of the strongest balls, so strong, my friends, that it punched a hole through the net. Without doubt, football players want to emulate him. He is up there in football history where the likes of Johan Cryuff, the flying Dutchman, and the lovable Pele of Brazil belong. Ballack, Beckham and Rooney have yet to kick up goals to achieve the feat of Spanish Ilonggo Paulino Alcantara.

In the present crop of our football players, we already see that glimmer of hope — hope that Filipinos will once more gain glory for the country through football — the only sports called “The Beautiful Game.”

Our team has improved the country's standing. We occupy rank 175, on the average, but these young men have improved our ranking by leaps and goals. In the FIFA's own words after three successive Filipino wins: “Every cloud has a silver lining. Even the Philippines, long considered to be one of Asia's abject underdogs, had their day as the island nation shot up 13 places in December's FIFA/Coca-Cola world ranking following a second-place finish in qualifying for the ASEAN Football Federation (AFF) Championship in November.”

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And then: "The Philippines pulled off one of the biggest shocks in the history of the AFF Suzuki Cup with a 2-0 win over defending champion Vietnam."

Our team is on a winning run.

Meanwhile, deep in our hearts, we know we have failed, fair and square, to bring our team to play in their home court. After studying the book *FIFA Football Stadiums Technical Recommendations and Requirements*, I found out FIFA has 10 prerequisites to be considered for international matches. Briefly, they are:

1. Pre-construction decisions such as stadium location, field orientation, multi-purpose facilities
2. Safety
3. Parking
4. Playing area
5. Players and match officials — dressing rooms, media rooms, showers
6. Spectators
7. Hospitality
8. Media
9. Lighting and power supply
10. Communication and additional areas

After reading these lines from the FIFA guidebook, the first thing that came to my mind was our *Panaad Stadium* from my father's home province of Negros Occidental since it has already hosted past international games. With rumors being passed around in the internet that we do not have a venue to host our home and away game, friends and football fans asked for help. I frantically called PSC Chair Richie Garcia last Thursday night and asked him for his assessment on the use of the stadium. According to the PSC Chair, being a fellow Negrense and a football fan himself, he was as excited with the prospect of hosting it there but after a check with the custodians of the stadium, he found out that we cannot get accreditation because the lighting was inadequate and has to be doubled and that the field was not properly maintained. I was immediately frustrated with this reply. I even offered my PDAF as a source of funds to fix the lights; however, he answered that it would still be physically impossible to do that all in a week's time especially on the preparations of the football field which could take weeks. Unbelievable. I just cannot believe that a country like ours has no accredited facility to host an international football game. Ironically, with no offense meant to basketball and its fans, we have PBA and NBA certified courts in most of our provinces, all across the country, from north to south.

Unbelievable but unfortunately true. It seems that we are so predisposed to the fact that our football teams cannot win and therefore we need not prepare our stadiums for championships. That is a shame, as our smaller neighbors like Cambodia and Laos have accredited facilities and we do not have any.

On top of the physical inadequacies of our stadium, there is disunity in the ranks of sports officials in charge of football. They have to get their acts together. Clean house, as the *Federacion Internationale de Football Association*, or FIFA, said. Pay your coaches in time and pay them well, the athletes say this too.

An international sports federation calls for transparency and accountability. So we should not just respond to their call but to generate optimism in football and consequently in other sports.

The Philippine Football Federation is the recognized national sports association — or NSA — of football in the Philippines. The NSA is "organized for their respective sports in the Philippines and affiliated with their respective international federations and with the Philippine Olympic Committee which have exclusive technical control over the promotion and development of the particular sports for which they are organized."

As the football NSA, the PFF is authorized to receive assistance from the Philippine Sports Commission. It is also the FIFA-accredited NSA and has also received financial support from FIFA.

It is dawning on us that money will solve a lot of our problems, but it is not the only ingredient to the solution. There is a brewing word war among the directors and officers of the PFF — where the extreme position calls for the replacement of its head.

There are so many questions in my mind:

1. What happened to the funds support given to the PFF all these years?
2. How much was given? And was it enough to maintain an honest-to-goodness sports program or at the very least a well maintained stadium from our existing stadiums?
3. What is with all the politics in the NSA? Should we review the system we have in order to create a super sports program similar to our nation's basketball team — *Smart Gilas*, who, as a team, has been training together the past two years to try to achieve basketball greatness in the international arena?

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4. Did this type of politics call for the ouster of the PFF head, Jose Mari Martinez, during the duration of Suzuki Cup tournament creating a stir with the ASEAN Football Federation? Was the timing off? What were the reasons of these changes? And can the new leadership assure us that this was for the good of the sport?
5. And most importantly, for the PFF and the PSC, why do we not have an accredited venue to allow us football fans a chance to cheer for our team, for our country and for our glory?

So many more questions come to my mind but I will save them for a congressional hearing in the near future to find out how we can help our country's sports program.

I know there are many sports-minded individuals in this august Chamber, one of them happen to be our healthiest senator, Sen. Pia S. Cayetano.

For a moment, we may leave this issue of the missed football match in the home court. However, it is inevitable that the football story will force us to look into what is ailing our sports programs nationwide.

We must look at the big picture of how often we just pay lip service to sports and athletics development. Slim medal harvest and low ranking generally describe the Philippines despite laws creating the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) and the constitution of the Philippine Olympic Committee (POC).

For example, there was a 188-member national delegation to the 16<sup>th</sup> Asian Games in Guangzhou, China. Our athletes brought home three gold, four silver and nine bronze medals. I wonder how many of them were athletes, coaches, trainers, doctors and others directly inputting into the performances? And how many were on junkets paid for by public money?

It has been announced by the PSC that P400 million will be used "to fund the country's various athletic and grassroots programs next year."

The PSC will get P168 million for operating expenses from the GAA and the rest to be divided among NSAs. In addition, the DBM has approved P30 million for the 2011 Southeast Asian Games in Indonesia, Philippine National Games, and the *Batang Pinoy*.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Amusements and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) will provide the balance of P202 million via their monthly

remittances to the National Sports Development Fund (NSDF). Likewise, the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) will contribute from revenues generated from lottery draws.

Although they are mandated to do so in their charters, the PCSO and PAGCOR are also part of the problem as they do not accurately remit the amounts due to the PSC for their sports programs.

In addition to all these travails in the sports sector, the PSC, the PAGCOR and the PCSO are also embroiled in a conflict regarding the interpretation of the NSDF and the shares that should be remitted by the two revenue-earning government bodies, which I believe should also be part of the investigative inquiry.

Accordingly, the NSAs have to submit their plans and programs, or requests, to the PSC. Attached to it should be an endorsement from the POC. Either the NSAs are inefficient or the PSC and the POC are negligent, or, both, that our sports programs are inadequate to fulfill not only our international commitments but our constitutional mandate to fulfill the needs of our youth.

And finally, I am appealing to the current government, particularly to our President, President Benigno Aquino III, to stand up for Philippine sports. Just on the issue of the stadium alone, if P-Noy wants it to happen, he can make it happen. All he has to do is just get involved.

You may ask: Why should our President have to get involved? Well, it is for our nation's glory and for the unity of our people. Heck, look what Rep. Manny Pacquiao has done to our country in terms of national pride, unity and even tourism. But he cannot fight for us forever and there can only be one Manny Pacquiao. Let us learn from the superpowers such as China, the U.S., France, Germany, England and even our neighbors, Japan and Korea, that used sports to rally their people to unite behind their nation and behind their flag.

Some unsolicited advice for the President, and I know that President Noy does not like to be given unsolicited advice but here it comes anyway.

Please watch the movie *Invictus*. It is the story of the great Nelson Mandela, elected as the first black President of South Africa. He was facing threats and disunity by the minority white South African population that controlled the business and economy of the nation. In order to unite his people, he turned to sports and

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supported the white South African rugby team which was considered by his black countrymen as a white man's sport. In the end, he earned the respect of the white population and united the people behind their team and their flag, rallying their outclassed rugby players to a world championship. It is a lesson we should all learn and, if I may, this movie should be made a required viewing for all our Presidents to infuse energy to our low-batt sports programs. And to quote English poet William Ernest Henly:

Out of the night that covers me,  
black as the pit from pole to pole,  
I thank whatever God's may be for my  
unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance  
I have not winced nor cried aloud  
under the bludgeonings of chances.  
My head is bloody but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and  
tears, looms but the horror of the shade,  
and yet the menace of the years finds,  
and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,  
how charged with punishments the  
scroll, I am the master of my faith, I am  
the captain of my soul.

Let this be an inspiration to all of us that  
have to go through the darkness that we should  
not leave them alone. *Mabuhay ang Team  
Azkals! Mabuhay ang Pilipinas!*

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests:

- His Eminence, Ricardo Cardinal Vidal;
- Representative Rachel Del Mar; and
- Mrs. Fenny Tatad, wife of former Sen. Francisco S. Tatad.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada welcomed the guests to the Senate.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

With the permission of the Body, the Chair suspended the session.

*It was 4:08 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 4:19 p.m., the session was resumed with Senator Honasan presiding.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)**

At the outset, Senator Cayetano (P) expressed sympathy for the plight of Filipino athletes who do not get the attention and accolade they deserve, as she pointed out that Manny Pacquiao was already being honored in other countries before his own countrymen recognized his accomplishments and Nonito Donaire seemed to be going through the same experience. Noting that there is more politics in Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) than in the actual world of politics, she hoped that the PSC leadership would have the political will to study and decide just how much is needed and how much it will take to groom Olympians and possibly replicate the feat of Australia. Australia, she pointed out, came up with a very respectable finish in the last Olympics despite the fact that it has a small pool of athletes compared to the United States and China.

Without meaning any disrespect to basketball players and the basketball-loving Filipinos, Senator Cayetano (P) stressed that there are sports other than basketball in which Filipinos are genetically predisposed to excel and which could be easily sustained financially such as swimming and football. With the PSC taking the lead, she believed that the Filipinos could learn to love football which is also a team sport and a crowd drawer. But still, she expressed frustration over the continuing squabbles among the NSA, the PSC and the POC, as she recalled the controversies that beset the basketball and cycling teams and recently the dragon boat team.

Senator Zubiri expressed hope that with Peping Cojuangco at the helm of POC and Ritchie Garcia at PSC, there is a chance the warring factions could come together to thresh out their differences and discuss an honest-to-goodness sports program. Furthermore, he said that while funding is essential, there should also be proper utilization of funds, as he noted the accusations of fraud and corruption in the Philippine Football Federation and other NSAs. He shared the frustration of the dragon boat team that despite clocking the best time in the qualifications at Manila Bay, was not sent to the Asian games because of the squabble between the NSA and the PSC.

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Senator Cayetano (P) feared that the cycle would just be repeated, with the *bata-bata* or *padrino* system rearing its ugly head. However, she expressed gladness for the support of Manny Pangilinan and his companies for Philippine sports, as she cited his donation of a million pesos to the football team.

Senator Cayetano (P) believed that if funds from the private sector can be pooled, Philippine sports could move faster but, she asserted, there must be a cohesive plan as to where and how the funds are to be spent. She pointed out that in the United States, the amateur sports development program was built into the public school system, with schools fielding teams in football and swimming; besides, there are recreational areas with courts and swimming pools. The national teams, she said, are being trained, equipped and taken care of by sponsors from the private sector.

Senator Cayetano (P) expressed the view that the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC) should take the lead and resolve the problems and conflicts besetting Philippine sports so that the basic needs of athletes such as proper training, adequate equipment and support could be provided.

Senator Zubiri agreed that U.S. colleges and universities give sports scholarships to athletes and they are also supported by funds from the private sector so that they can train well, and they, in fact, provide the pool for the national teams. In the case of Philippine amateur players, he lamented that private universities like De La Salle University and Ateneo de Manila University focus their programs on basketball, spending huge amounts to scout and recruit tall players who play not for the love of the sport but for monetary consideration. He agreed that sports in general really need the help of the government and private institutions, especially to sponsor core sports events and expose select athletes to regional and international competitions to hone their skills and techniques to bring them at par with the world's high caliber players.

The appropriate Senate committee, he agreed, should conduct a hearing to ask the PSC, POC and public and private entities and individuals involved in sports for their inputs into a sports development plan so that the performance of Philippine athletes can be improved even for a regional event like the Asian Games.

Acknowledging that resources for sports are not enough, Senator Cayetano (P) suggested that the LGUs, especially the affluent cities and provinces, must recognize their role as breeding grounds of athletes and must set aside a sizeable portion of their budgets for sports development and the sponsorship of amateur and professional athletes who can compete in international meets or events. In this connection, she cited Camarines Sur Gov. LRey Villafuerte, who embarked on the development of sports tourism that included the construction of very good roads and facilities so that it could host sports events like triathlons. She said that athletes and tourists from all over Asia and other parts of the world flock to the province either to take part in competitions or simply enjoy the facilities.

As to the role of the academic institutions, Senator Cayetano (P) stated that she filed Senate Bill No. 2620 creating the Philippine High School for Sports and a certain amount was allocated to the National University for Sports in the 2011 GAB. She underscored that the Filipinos must be aware that there are sports, other than basketball, where Filipinos can excel.

Agreeing thereto, Senator Zubiri emphasized that what is really needed is an honest-to-goodness national sports program like those pursued by South Korea, Japan, and China whose athletes compete for gold with the support of the citizenry.

#### INQUIRY OF THE CHAIR

At this juncture, the Chair inquired whether it would be prudent for the Senate committee to conduct a hearing or host a summit, starting with a performance audit of all sports programs from *Gintong Alay* down the line, to determine the actual state of Philippine sports and on the basis of which a comprehensive sports development plan could be drawn up.

Senator Zubiri agreed, saying that it could also come up with strategies to achieve priority programs like the rehabilitation of the Teachers' Camp in Baguio City that could house athletes while they are being trained. He also mentioned the proposal to create the Philippine Sports Institute and the Philippine High School for Sports where athletes can train and, at the same time, obtain world-class education.

Senator Cayetano (P) supported the Chair's proposal for the Senate to conduct a hearing or a

summit because they, as senators, can bring into the discussion their impartiality because there is so much politics these days in Philippine sports.

#### INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR EJERCITO ESTRADA

Asked by Senator Ejercito Estrada whether football is governed by a national sports association (NSA), Senator Zubiri answered that the Philippine Football Federation (PFF) is the governing body of football. As regards the financial help the PFF was receiving from the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), he said that he did not have that information.

Senator Ejercito Estrada recalled that in an investigation he conducted on the PSC a few years ago, he learned that the Commission was giving incentives or training allowances to all athletes under the NSAs.

Asked about the financial support for basketball, Senator Zubiri said that he was not aware of any but he knows that *Smart Gilas* is 80% sponsored by Manny Pangilinan. Boxing, he added, also gets support from corporations.

Stating that basketball and boxing are the two most popular sports in the country, Senator Ejercito Estrada recalled that during his tenure as president of the Basketball Association of the Philippines (BAP), now the *Samahang Basketbol ng Pilipinas (SBP)*, the association did not receive any financial help or allowance from the NSA.

As to how much the SBA was receiving from the NSA, Senator Zubiri said that he did not have the information.

Senator Ejercito Estrada reasoned that government money should be spent on a sport, like boxing, where Filipinos can excel. He believed that football is not a sport for the Filipinos who have a small physique. Senator Zubiri disagreed as he pointed out that football players do not have to be tall, except the goalie who is usually a six-footer. He cited the Spanish national team that just won the World Cup whose members averaged 5'7" in height. He stressed that agility and speed are more important as proven by Team Azkals that made a record in the Suzuki Cup by beating the defending champion Vietnam and managing a draw with Singapore and Myanmar.

As to which is the more popular sport, Senator Zubiri said that football is more popular than basketball in the Visayas, particularly in the Ilonggo-speaking area like Negros. He pointed out that a week after creating the "Azkals' Fan Page" on Facebook, it had 10,000 fans and that could have increased to a million which just shows that the team has rallied many Filipinos to support it. He lamented that Team Azkals has lost the opportunity to play against Indonesia on home soil for the quarterfinals scheduled on December 16, 2010 because the country does not have even one accredited facility. Moreover, he said that it would be more frustrating for the Filipinos to see their team play the finals on the pit of the opposing team. He clarified that he has nothing against basketball, in fact, he is a big basketball fan and supported the naturalization of Marcus Douthit so that he could play for *Smart Gilas*.

Senator Zubiri said that many people who were watching that day's session on livestream were so appreciative that the Senate was looking into the problems of Philippine sports, football in particular. If the country wanted to excel in football, he reiterated that height is not that important because South American players from Bolivia, Ecuador and Brazil are, on the average, 5'8" or 5'9."

Senator Ejercito Estrada said that in spite the fact that football is the most popular sport in the world, its training allocation from the Philippine government is a far cry from that of Spain.

Asked why the Philippine team is named "Azkals," the Filipino slang for street dogs of mixed breed, Senator Zubiri said that it is the name the players, six of whom are British-Filipino, adopted because like the *askals*, they felt that they had been abandoned or had been neglected by the government.

As to the request of Senator Ejercito Estrada to be furnished with a copy of the expenses of the team and the financial help given to it by the PFF, Senator Zubiri said that his office would provide the same.

Senator Cayetano (P) interjected that one of the coaches of the triathlon team informed her that the standard monthly incentives for athletes were as follows: P15,000 — medalists; P8,000 — Class B athletes, top performers but not medalists; P6,000 — team members. Moreover, she said that when Harry Angpin was chair of PSC, he gave the

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athletes a P3,000 Christmas bonus. She stated that she supports the Chair's suggestion that the Senate should be a third party mediator as she pointed out that it is the athletes who suffer while the NSA officials were mired in politics.

#### MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Saying that he was active in sports for almost 20 years, Senator Sotto warned that the situation might be exacerbated if the government stepped in. He noted that the Philippine Bowling Congress was a strong organization that produced world champions in the mid-'70s up to the early '80s when it was on its own. He recalled that in the 1977 Southeast Asian Games held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, the Philippine team, of which he was a member, won seven out of the eight gold medals. He lamented that when the PSC came in, the country did not win even a single medal in bowling in the last Southeast Asian Games. He reiterated that Philippine sports under the NSA should not be under the umbrella of the PSC so that private financial assistance from the likes of Danding Conjuangco would be readily available to athletes without government intervention.

Reacting thereto, Senator Zubiri believed that the PSC should just be a policy-making body and on its part, the NSA could solicit funds from business entities. However, he pointed out that government intervention might not necessarily be harmful, as he recalled that the country won the most number of medals in regional competitions during the life of the *Gintong Alay*, the sports body created by the Marcos Administration. He stressed that the government should just assess its existing sports programs and do away with politics.

Senator Sotto maintained that government should just concentrate on enhancing sports programs where Filipinos can win because more often than not, there are certain sports where Filipino athletes, in spite of the money put into their training, fail miserably in international competitions.

In the field of basketball, Senator Sotto said that although many Filipinos play good at home, they are nothing compared to foreign players who are much taller. In the field of swimming, he said that Filipino swimmers always occupy the side lanes at trial heats and as a consequence, they swim in the wake of speedier and more powerful swimmers who occupy the center lanes.

Reiterating that the government should assess its sports program, Senator Sotto said that it should focus on billiards because it is the number one sport where the Filipinos excel anywhere. Noting that any Filipino can play billiards at almost any street corner, he asserted that Filipinos have a fighting chance of becoming number one in billiards in the world, noting that many Filipinos are into the game because it is cheap. He asked why the PSC cannot venture into sports like table tennis where it can just set up ping pong tables anywhere and he expressed confidence that most likely, good players will emerge. He noted that getting Filipinos into sports where they have no chance of making it big in the world arena is just a waste of money, especially so when government and politics intervene. He hoped that the Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports would include the issue in the committee hearing.

Senator Cayetano (P) reiterated that she filed a bill creating the national high school for sports and Senator Angara filed a bill creating a sports university that has an allocation in the 2011 GAB.

Senator Zubiri opined that Filipinos are good in billiards because of constant practice, noting the proliferation of billiard tables, just like basketball courts, in almost all corners of the country. However, he stated that the Filipinos are not predisposed genetically to compete in basketball against the best in the world. He assumed that Filipinos can excel in sports where size and built are not important, like chess, where Wesley So excels, or in billiards and football. He recalled how the Mexican ambassador wondered why Filipinos did not excel in football when they have the same built and height of players from football giants Mexico, Spain and Italy. He believed that Filipinos do have the skills and the speed which are needed to excel in football. But to achieve that goal, he stated that the country must have an accredited football playing venue that can host international competitions; the sports program must be properly planned; and President Aquino must get involved in sports. He recalled that President Arroyo showed support for athletes whom she welcomed to Malacañang after they competed in international competitions. Also, he noted how South African leader Nelson Mandela, recounted in the movie *Invictus*, used sports to unite his people. Lastly, he hoped that the hearing of the Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports could help move the sports program forward.

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## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended to allow the Members to go into a caucus.

*It was 5:16 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:58 p.m., the session was resumed with the Senate President presiding.

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON HOUSE BILL NO. 3101

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 3101, entitled

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY ONE, TWO THOUSAND ELEVEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Chair recognized Senator Drilon to sponsor the report.

## SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR DRILON

Senator Drilon submitted to the Body the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing votes on House Bill 3101, the 2011 General Appropriations Bill. He then proceeded to summarize what were agreed upon by both Houses as follows:

*Increase in the appropriations of the following:*

1. Restoration of the Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses of 80 State Universities and Colleges in the amount of P110.330 million.
2. The Office of the Vice President, P8 million;
3. Financial Subsidy to Local Government Units, P200 million;
4. The House of Representatives, P519 million; and the Senate of the Philippines, P345 million to bring both to 95% of the 2010 level;

*Reductions in the appropriation for the following:*

1. MOOE of 30 SUCs, P32.777 million; this was the source of the P110.330 million that was restored to the 80 SUCs.
2. Department of Health – Office of the Secretary, P200 million;
3. Philippine National Police, P60 million;
4. Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits' Fund, P993.330 million;
5. Priority Development Assistance Fund (PDAF) of one senator, P200 million;

*Realignments of the following:*

1. Department of Education: for the creation of 5,000 new teaching positions, P750 million;
2. DepEd – P70 million transferred from the quick response fund, to the GSIS insurance premium for school buildings in calamity – prone areas;

*Special Provisions and Special Activities:*

1. Department of Agriculture: Implementation of farm-to-market roads; Additional provision to give priority to the releases of the Department of Agrarian Reform in the implementation of farm-to-market roads; \*
2. Department of Education – P70 million to pay the insurance premium for school buildings in calamity-prone areas as identified by the DepEd;
3. Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Use of income: Authority to use additional income of P115 million for the Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses of the Registry of Deeds and the Land Registration Authority;
4. Department of Foreign Affairs – P2.843 billion for the purchase of blank passports to be used also for other expenses directly related to the E-passport implementation;
6. Department of Health – use of income from the Food and Drug Administration with the insertion of the additional proviso: PROVIDED, THAT THE RETAINED INCOME MAY BE USED ONLY AFTER THE FDA HAS INCREASED ITS FEES, FINES, ROYALTIES AND OTHER CHARGES COLLECTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9711 OR THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION ACT AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9502, UNIVERSALLY KNOWN AS ACCESSIBLE,\*

\*As corrected by Senator Drilon on December 15, 2010

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CHEAPER AND QUALITY MEDICINE ACT OF 2008. (Sen. Pia Cayetano's amendment);

6. Department of the Interior and Local Government – Payment of pension, pursuant to the Supreme Court decision in G.R. No. 169466, dated May 4, 2007;
7. MOOE of the PNP operating units -- The MOOE of provincial, district, city and municipal stations which are included in the budget of the police regional offices shall be distributed within five (5) days from receipt of the fund to the said operating units. The MOOE allocation per station shall be computed based on the number of policemen multiplied by P1000;
8. Department of Public Works and Highways – The deletion of the special provision mandating that the amount appropriated for the programs and projects of the DPWH shall be released to the central office for effective monitoring. This is for faster downloading of the available funds;
9. Department of Social Welfare and Development --
  - a. Provision mandating the inter-agency committee of the CCT program to form a Secretariat under the DSWD, manned by knowledgeable and experienced staff from the DSWD, DepEd, DBM, DOH to oversee the implementation of the CCT program. (Angara amendment);
  - b. Provision requiring that the funds released for the actual cash grant shall be directly deposited by the DSWD to the government depository bank, and in the absence thereof, in rural and other thrift banks duly accredited by the BSP and such other means of remittance. (Angara amendment) With this provision cash does not pass through DSWD but from the DBM directly to the Landbank.;
  - c. Oversight Committee – The provision mandating the Oversight Committee on Public Expenditures created under the general provisions of the 2011 GAA to strictly monitor the effective implementation of the CCT Program.
  - d. The CCT Secretariat shall submit reports on the CCT Program to the House Committee on Appropriations and the Senate Committee on Finance.
10. Department of Transportation and Communications Transport Studies Fund — Priority is

given to the conduct of the feasibility study for the construction of new roads to decongest EDSA; (Recto amendment)\*

11. Commission on Higher Education Scholarship Funds – Scholarship funds shall include scholarship programs for degrees in Liberal Arts, and Social Science, Natural Science and Art Education, local and foreign scholarships;
12. Development Academy of the Philippines – The training program of the DAP shall be geared towards the training of government officials/executives and other employees. The curriculum shall be prepared by the DAP in consultation with the Civil Service Commission and the Career Executive Service Board or the CESB;
13. Philippine Institute for Development Studies Subsidy – The amount shall be used for the conduct of policy studies, especially on fiscal and financial policies for the use of policy-makers, including the DBM and the Congress of the Philippines. (Angara amendment)

It is also provided that the PIDS shall submit to the library of both Houses of Congress, copies of their studies, papers, journals and similar publications;

14. Priority Development Assistance Fund – the Vice President is authorized to identify infrastructure projects amounting to a total of P200 million, P100 million of which is for infrastructure projects and the other P100 million for the so-called soft-projects;\*
15. Amendments to General Provisions
  - a. (Arroyo amendment) An amendment to the General Provisions, to wit: THE TOTAL INDEBTEDNESS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND ANY OF ITS AGENCIES, OFFICES, AND GOCCS WHICH CARRY A SOVEREIGN GUARANTY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL NOT EXCEED 55% OF THE LATEST GDP.\*

IN CASE THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT OR ANY OF ITS SUBDIVISIONS WOULD BORROW BEYOND 55% OF THE LATEST GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT, PRIOR CONSENT OF CONGRESS IS REQUIRED.

b. An additional provision on Service Contracts: SERVICE CONTRACTS ENTERED INTO BY DEPARTMENT AGENCIES, BUREAUS, OFFICES AND GOCCs SHALL

\*As corrected by Senator Drilon on December 15, 2010

BE FOR SPECIFIC PURPOSE AND A SPECIFIED PERIOD. (Marcos amendment).

- c. An amendment stating that 30% allocation for Mindanao from applicable lump sum appropriations shall be released subject to the submission of the detailed list of programs and projects. (Marcos amendment);
- d. To have transparency in the disbursement of the internal revenue allotments of the LGUs, a new provision was incorporated stating THAT THE INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT OF THE LGUS SHALL BE USED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 17(G) AND 287 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160.

It also provides that the annual budget of the LGUs shall be prepared in accordance with the forms, procedures and schedules prescribed by the DBM and the COA.

In addition to the publication and posting requirements in three publicly accessible and conspicuous places in the LGUs, the detailed information on the use and disbursement of the funds, the end status of the programs and the projects of the LGU are also required to be posted in the LGU websites.

- e. Finally, the creation of the Oversight Committee on Public Expenditures – The oversight committee would monitor how government funds are spent in accordance with the law.
- f. The deletion of Annexes A and B in the General Appropriations Bill which referred to the inclusion of the General Services, Interest Payments, and the Internal Revenue Allotment as these are already automatically appropriated under existing laws and the budget is only for purposes of the new appropriations.

Thereafter, Senator Drilon emphasized that Congress basically followed the President's budget, in fact, the first budget of Pres. "Noynoy" Aquino. He hoped that the present administration would carry out the programs as outlined in its budget, and that if ever he would be given the opportunity to chair the Committee for the proposed 2012 budget, he would see how the 2011 budget had been implemented and he would be less sympathetic if he would not find, notwithstanding Congress' full support, that the budget was not carried out in accordance with what is indicated in the General Appropriations Act.

Senator Drilon thanked the Members for their support and understanding. He stated that it was a process that everyone went through. He expressed hope that the Committee was able to present to the Body a budget that would move the country forward in the next 12 months.

Thereupon, he moved for the adoption of the *Bicameral Conference Committee Report* on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 3101.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Submitted to a vote, with a majority of senators voting in favor, the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 3101 was approved by the Body.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (A)**

Senator Cayetano (A) manifested that the three members of the Minority, consistent with their vote on Second Reading and for the same reasons they expressed during the interpellations, were constrained to vote "no" on the Conference Committee Report.

Senator Cayetano (A) congratulated the Senate and thanked Senator Drilon, in particular, for the restoration of the budget of the SUCs which shows the commitment of the administration to the SUCs.

#### **REMARKS OF SENATOR SOTTO**

Senator Sotto said that he has been informed that the House of Representatives has just passed the *Concurrent Resolution on the Amnesty Proclamation* with amendments but the Senate has yet to receive the official transmission from the House. Relative thereto, he said that with the permission of the chair of the Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation, the Body would just take up the measure in the next day's session.

#### **REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Zubiri and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports.

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**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

*It was 6:23 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 6:24 p.m., the session was resumed.


**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session

adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of the following day.

*It was 6:24 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

  
EMMA LIRIO REYES  
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on December 14, 2010