



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 55
Wednesday, January 26, 2011

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:26 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Sergio R. Osmeña III led the prayer, to wit:

Dear God,

We pray for the power to be gentle; the strength to be forgiving; the patience to be understanding; and the endurance to accept the consequences of holding to what we believe to be right.

May we continue to put our trust in the power of good to overcome evil and the power of love to overcome hatred.

We pray for the vision to see and the faith to believe in a nation liberated from violence, a new nation where fear shall no longer lead men to commit injustice, nor selfishness make them bring suffering to others.

Help us to devote our whole life and thought and energy to the task of making peace, praying always for the inspiration and the power to fulfill the destiny for which we and all men had been created.

Grant this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

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

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

With 16 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Angara, Cayetano (A), Guingona, Lapid and Pangilinan arrived after the roll call.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

Senators Lacson was absent.

At this juncture, Senate President Enrile relinquished the Chair to Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada.

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. 54 (January 25, 2011) and considered it approved.

**DEFERMENT
OF REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Reference of Business was deferred to a later hour.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Mayor Jose Rafael Diaz of San Mateo Rizal;
- Students of the Central Colleges of the Philippines led by Dean Danny Capunay and Professor Josie Bijaña; and
- AB Political Science students of De La Salle University, Dasmarias City, Cavite.

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

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 15 on Senate Bill No. 2640 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15 ON SENATE BILL NO. 2640

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 2640 (Committee Report No. 15), entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE FINANCIAL
VIABILITY AND FISCAL DISCIPLINE
IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED
OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS
AND TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE
OF THE STATE IN ITS GOVERNANCE
AND MANAGEMENT TO MAKE THEM
MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS
OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Sotto, only the title of the bill was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

The Chair recognized Senator Drilon for the sponsorship.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Drilon the session was suspended.

It was 3:31 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:31 p.m., the session was resumed.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR DRILON

Senator Drilon presented to the Body for plenary consideration Senate Bill No. 2640. With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, he then proceeded to deliver his sponsorship speech as follows:

ESTABLISHING THE FRAMEWORK FOR REFORMS IN THE GOCCs

Introduction

Since the 1970s, the Philippine Government has been establishing Government-Owned and -Controlled Corporations, or GOCCs, to accomplish development objectives, particularly economic and social services, and infrastructure development. Many of these GOCCs took on a life of their own, and pursued objectives independently of any government policy. A number of them are plagued by incompetence and corruption, becoming a burden and a drain on our meager public resources.

Today, we have 157 GOCCs. Many of them operate like independent republics. Some of them have burdened this government with tons of indebtedness, with NFA's P177 billion debt on top of the list. Others, like the MWSS, have awarded themselves with so many bonuses that they have run out of the alphabet in labeling these bonuses.

Pres. Benigno S. Aquino III, in his first State of the Nation Address, shocked the nation when he revealed the outrageous bonuses at the MWSS. In the words of the President: "*Ang karaniwang manggagawa hanggang 13th month pay plus cash gift lang ang nakukuha. Sa MWSS, aabot sa katumbas ng mahigit sa 30 buwan ang sahod kasama na ang lahat ng mga bonuses at allowances na nakuha nila*"

These are some of the bonuses that they received, about 25 of them, in addition to about 12 months of basic pay. If the Chamber will

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notice, they have the traditional Christmas bonus and two other kinds of bonus, they have a Family Week Celebration bonus; a Family Day bonus, a Collective Negotiation Agreement Incentive; a traditional Corporate Christmas package; a traditional Christmas bonus, and additional Christmas bonus

They also have Rate Rebasing Incentive Pay, Government Corporation's Employees Week; a Performance Enhancement Pay; a scholarship allowance; a 108th Anniversary of the Philippine Service; and a Calamity Financial Assistance

Even the budget of 5% for gender-development, which is required by law to be incorporated in the budget, is used again for bonuses. That is the kind of abuse that we saw in the MWSS.

President Aquino's SONA formed the basis for our filing of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 66, directing the Senate Committee on Finance, jointly with the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises, to conduct inquiries, in aid of legislation, into the activities of the GOCCs.

The nation was outraged when we exposed, in the course of our inquiry, the staggering salaries, bonuses, and allowances of some GOCC officers and directors, and the hundreds of millions of pesos worth of stock option plans and profit share denominated as Directors' Fees in private corporations where pension funds were invested. We confirmed that members of the board of directors of certain GOCCs have allocated for their benefit obscene bonuses that went as high as the equivalent of 26 months' of salary, despite the poor financial condition and staggering losses P3.5 billion in the case of MWSS of these corporations. We also discovered excessively generous and scandalous retirement schemes. For example, in the case of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office, (MECO), the directors can retire after only two years of service, with a retirement pay equivalent to P600,000 per year of service. They attend board meetings in a year in Taiwan, and after two years, they can retire and receive P1.2 million as retirement benefit.

Public office is a public trust. The need has never been more apparent than now to address the issue of such excessive and unwarranted monetary remuneration including benefits and perks accruing to the board of directors and top officials of GOCCs. We must exact transparency and accountability from our public officials, who have not faithfully discharged their duties as managers of public enterprises designed to contribute to national progress.

The inability of public enterprises, such as GOCCs, to contribute to development arose not only from their inefficiencies due to their monopoly or protected status but also because of lax governance and oversight. The checks-and-balances that come with private ownership – that is, the pressure that shareholders and external directors can exert on managers to improve efficiency, the pressure that capital markets can exert on companies to allocate scarce resources economically and to operate within “hard budget” constraints, and the pressure that managers who are responsible to shareholders and outside directors can exert on workers to improve productivity – are all usually missing from public enterprises.

The need for much-needed reforms in the government corporate sector to make it an effective vehicle in achieving social and economic progress becomes more apparent once we take into account the role that GOCCs play in our economy.

In 2009, the total expenditures of GOCCs are equivalent to 28% of the total expenditures of the national government. And yet, not a single peso of these amounts would pass through Congress because they are not under the General Appropriations Act. GOCC assets, at P5.557 trillion in 2009, also exceed national government assets which is placed at P2 879 trillion. The 2009 Annual Financial Report of the Commission on Audit also indicates that out of the P475.296 billion Inter-Agency Receivables of the national government, 91% or P433 383 billion would be due from GOCCs.

In its 2009 consolidated audit report on GOCCs, the COA reported that subsidy income provided to GOCCs by the national government and other government agencies amounted to approximately P7.6 billion in 2009, but taxes paid by the GOCCs amounted only to approximately P6.7 billion, which is even lower by 17.26% compared to prior year's levels. In addition, the GOCCs declared a total dividend of approximately P14.6 billion in 2009. This amount is still P249.95 million less than the 2008 level.

The result of the inquiry on GOCC's operations and compensation structure is the Senate bill that we are now submitting for the consideration to this Chamber, Senate Bill No. 2640.

Reinventing public enterprises in any country should begin with a comprehensive performance review and the formulation of a government strategy for reform. Governments are unlikely to be successful in restructuring public enterprises unless they develop a strategy

that sets out a clear vision for how GOCCs are expected to contribute to development and defines performance criteria for each public enterprise.

The proposed GOCC Governance Act intends to rationalize the structure, existence and operations of the GOCCs. It is designed to reform the government corporate sector, improve corporate governance of GOCCs, and exact from them efficient and effective public service.

We shall now outline the bill's most significant features:

1. Covered public enterprises

Apart from Government Owned- or -Controlled Corporations, which generally refers to corporate entities where at least a majority of the outstanding capital stock is owned by the government, the bill also covers Government Instrumentalities with Corporate Powers (GICP) / Government Corporate Entities (GCE) which, as defined by the Supreme Court in *MIAA vs. Court of Appeals* (GR No. 155650, July 20, 2006), refers to an instrumentality of government which is neither a corporation nor an agency integrated within the departmental framework, but vested by law with special functions or jurisdiction, endowed with some, if not all, corporate powers, administering special funds, and enjoying operational autonomy usually through a charter. Examples of GICP/GCE would be MWSS, LWUA, and the PDIC.

In other words, by just defining GOCC, it would exclude from the coverage of the bill MWSS. Therefore, we have to include the definition of government instrumentalities with corporate powers and government corporate entities as defined by the Supreme Court.

2. Governing body

The second feature of the bill is the creation of a Governance Commission for Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations.

As we earlier stated, there are 157 GOCCs in our bureaucracy today. Not a single government office supervises them. That is why we are putting up a governing body for GOCCs to be called Governance Commission for Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations (GCG). The GCG shall be composed of the secretaries of the Department of Budget and Management, Department of Finance and two (2) private sector representatives. The GCG is, among others, authorized to identify other necessary skills and qualifications required for appointive directors and recommend to the President a shortlist of

candidates for appointive directors; evaluate the performance and determine the relevance of the GOCC, and recommend to the President the reorganization, merging, streamlining, abolition or privatization of a GOCC under a clear set of standards as defined in the bill; and coordinate and monitor the operations of GOCCs to ensure alignment and consistency with national development policies.

3. GOCC Compensation and Position Classification System

The third feature of the bill is the Compensation and Position Classification System.

Senate Bill No. 2640 provides for the creation of a Compensation and Position Classification System, specific to the GOCCs. It recognizes that GOCCs are a special group, which requires a special classification system different from that provided under the Salary Standardization Law (SSL). A constant issue in the compensation of GOCC directors, officers and employees is the request for exemption from the SSL wherein a GOCC will claim that the qualifications and jobs performed by its directors, officers and employees are different from those performed by other "government employees." These exemptions, in the form of grant of authority to the board to fix the salaries, compensations and benefits of its personnel – which always includes fixing benefits for the board members themselves – have resulted into exorbitant and excessive compensations, bonuses and allowances granted by some GOCCs to its employees, officers and directors.

At least 27 GOCCs have been granted exemption from the SSL by their charters. In other words, it is us, the Senate and the House of Representatives, which granted these exemptions from the SSL to a number of GOCCs. Once the Compensation and Position Classification System for GOCCs is in place, no GOCC shall be exempted from the system. Thus, excessive pays, allowances, bonuses and the like will no longer be possible. The GCG may recommend, subject to the approval of the President, additional allowances or bonuses for certain position titles, giving due consideration to the necessity for such allowances and the good performance of the GOCC.

4. Fit and Proper Rule

The fourth feature is the "Fit and Proper" Rule.

Section 19 of the bill provides that all members of the board and the chief executive officer shall be qualified by the "fit and proper"

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test to be determined by the GCG. To maintain the quality of management of the GOCCs, the GCG, in coordination with the relevant government agencies, shall, subject to the approval of the President, prescribe, pass upon and review the qualifications and disqualifications of individuals appointed as directors or elected chief executive officers of the GOCC, and shall disqualify those found unfit. Further, the members of the board of GOCCs shall serve for one year only, mirroring the best practices in private corporations while instilling greater accountability in their public corporate counterparts.

As we examined the charters of the 157 GOCCs, we discovered that the terms of the board members would vary from one year to six years with no rationality whatsoever. No one can understand why one GOCC would have one year as term for their board of directors while others would have three years, others would have five, and others would have six. What we have suggested in the bill is that following the corporate practice and the Corporation Code for private corporations, all members of the board shall serve only for one year because director-ships and senior managerial positions in GOCCs are often viewed as political patronage positions for retired military and high-level civil servants or for relatives and friends of powerful political leaders. The appointment of non-experts and inexperienced policy directors in institutions that require decision-makers with indispensable and specific skill sets lead GOCCs to operate with soft budget constraints, leading to inefficiency, low levels of productivity, and financial losses

5. Concept of corporate opportunity

Another important highlight of the bill is the introduction of the concept of "corporate opportunity."

The proposed law adopts the concept of "corporate opportunity" under the Corporation Code. It sets forth the manner in which directors or officers, who breach their fiduciary duty, are to be made liable for the profits which they have misappropriated to themselves to the prejudice of the GOCC. This bill imposes an obligation on the part of the directors or officers to remit to the GOCC any such benefit or profit. If they fail to do so, they shall be required to reconstitute such amounts without prejudice to any administrative, civil or criminal action that may be filed against them. The penalty of imprisonment and a fine twice the amount is imposed on the officers or directors if they fail to reconstitute such amounts.

The bill also stresses the role of the GOCC directors and officers as mere trustees with respect to the monies or properties of the GOCC. Being mere trustees, they cannot appropriate for themselves any of the realized profits or benefits made from the investment of the GOCC to private corporations or other GOCCs. We have seen this happen in the case of the Social Security Commission where the commissioners appropriated for themselves millions of pesos worth of stock options and director's fees which rightly belonged to the trust funds of the Social Security System. In one case, we discovered that the three directors in a bank where the Social Security Commission had an investment received directors' fees equal to one-half of the dividends of the Social Security System. As spelled out in the bill, such monies or properties belong to the GOCC and not the director or officer who sits in the board of such corporations where an investment has been made.

6. Per diems, allowances and bonuses

Finally, the bill provides for limitations on the per diems, allowances and bonuses which directors may receive or appropriate for themselves. The bill makes it clear that directors are not entitled to compensation as directors, but may be entitled to reasonable per diems only. The bill limits the bonuses a director may receive, to not more than two months salary of the CEO of the GOCC. In case of outstanding performance on the part of the director and the GOCC, the President of the Philippines is authorized to approve additional bonuses. We must emphasize that under this bill, directors are not entitled to retirement pay as we have seen in other GOCCs.

Senate Bill No. 2640 is a legal and political framework for GOCC management to help it determine the nature of the relationship that exists between various public authorities and the conditions that will enable them to achieve their goal with efficiency. Our role is to establish effective and appropriate legal and regulatory frameworks that simplify and streamline legal structures for GOCC operations, specify obligations, protect the rights of stakeholders, and create standards and procedures for effective internal and external auditing, transparent and accurate accounting, and public financial disclosure

Conclusion

Senate Bill No. 2640 establishes the framework for reforms in the GOCCs. The days when the 157 GOCC boards can act independently of the national government are finally over. We are

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confident that once this bill becomes a law, the excesses and abuses we saw in the operation of the GOCCs will all be a thing of the past. Indeed, what we hope to see are Government-Owned or -Controlled Corporations operating profitably and contributing significantly to the welfare of our people, with the end in view of improving the *quality of public services and substantially contributing to national development.*

On this note, we earnestly hope that this Chamber can favorably act on Senate Bill No. 2640.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 2640

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

REFERRAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 2623

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred Senate Bill No. 2623, which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture and Food, to the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies as the primary committee.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR SOTTO

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Sotto spoke of the bombing of a bus in EDSA the previous day which killed a number of passengers and seriously injured a greater number. He disclosed that based on the initial findings conveyed during the public hearing conducted by the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs earlier in the day, *an improvised explosive device (IED) was used in the bombing and that this was triggered by a cellular phone.*

He averred that based on his layman's knowledge on how this is effected, a cellular phone was attached to the bomb which was, in turn, triggered by another cellular phone away from the bomb, which means that it passed through a cell site within the area that covered the cellular phone that triggered the bomb. He said that the clue to finding the perpetrators would be in the database of the telecommunications company of the SIM card that was used in the incident. However, he conceded that even if the SIM card was recovered, this would be useless because the ownership of prepaid SIM cards is not registered.

Senator Sotto recalled that the issue of requiring the registration of prepaid SIM cards was brought to the attention of the Chamber in the Eleventh Congress, when he was chairman of the Committee on Public Services and in the Twelfth Congress, when Sen. Joker Arroyo was the committee chairman. He said that the attention of the National Telecommunications Commission (NCT) was called in light of the fact that prepaid SIM cards can easily be bought by anyone anywhere in the country, unlike in other countries where the buyer of a SIM card is required to register it under his name upon presentation of a valid identification like the Social Security System number or the tax identification number if he is a citizen of that country, and passport in case of foreigners. He said that the NTC initially agreed to issue a directive requiring the registration of SIM cards, however, a temporary restraining order was issued at the instance of the telecommunications companies. He lamented that since then, nothing has happened on this matter.

Senator Sotto disclosed that based on the records of the Philippine National Police, which was confirmed by the Department of the Interior and Local Government, almost all incidents of carnapping, kidnapping, drug trafficking and bombing were committed with the aid of cellular phones using prepaid SIM cards. He pointed out that prepaid SIM cards are also used to destroy family relations, and defame or annoy other people because the subscribers could never be traced. He stated that the recent bombing of a bus in EDSA should serve as a wake-up call, and he stressed that it is time to seriously consider adopting the policy of requiring telecommunications companies to register the ownership of prepaid SIM cards in order that the corresponding numbers can be traced to subscribers who are involved in criminal activities.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Sotto to the Committees on Public Services; and Public Order and Dangerous Drugs.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri expressed support for the cause and concern of Senator Sotto. He informed the Body that in his recent visit to India, he was compelled to

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borrow his friend's cellular phone because when he asked for a temporary number, he was told that as a result of past incidents of terrorism in the northern part of India particularly in Karachi, a law has been passed prohibiting the sale of prepaid SIM cards without registration. He said that Congress should start crafting a bill which shall require the registration of the ownership of prepaid SIM cards.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2654, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARD, AMENDING SECTIONS 98 AND 100 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Drilon

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 2655, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE FULL DISCLOSURE BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF LOCAL BUDGET AND FINANCES, INCLUDING BIDS AND PUBLIC OFFERINGS. AMENDING SECTION 352 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Drilon

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 2656, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL LEVY ON REAL PROPERTY FOR

THE SPECIAL HEALTH FUND, AND AMENDING SECTION 235 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Drilon

To the Committee on Local Government

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 350, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE CONGRATULATING THE PONTIFICAL AND ROYAL UNIVERSITY OF SANTO TOMAS, THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES ON ITS QUADRICENTENNIAL YEAR OF EDUCATING THE YOUTH, TRANSFORMING THEM INTO COMPETENT AND COMPASSIONATE FILIPINOS IN THE SERVICE OF GOD AND COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Villar

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 351, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE LITTLE RAZCALS FOR WINNING THE FIRST-EVER ASIA PACIFIC ZONE PONY MUSTANG BASEBALL CHAMPIONSHIP ON 16 JANUARY 2011 AT THE VIHN YEN BASEBALL FIELD IN VINH PHUC PROVINCE, VIETNAM

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

PROPOSED RESOLUTION NO. 353

With the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Sotto, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 353, entitled

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RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING SENATE PRESIDENT JUAN PONCE ENRILE FOR BEING CITED BY THE PEOPLE ASIA MAGAZINE AS A "PEOPLE OF THE YEAR" AWARDEE.

**SPONSORSHIP REMARKS
OF SENATOR SOTTO**

Preliminarily, Senator Sotto manifested that he was sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 353, along with Senator Cayetano (A). He then urged the Body to adopt the resolution, the text of which he read as follows:

WHEREAS, *People Asia Magazine* has honored exemplary individuals who have made a difference in the lives of others, and who have contributed to society through their work, advocacies, character, and achievements through its "People of the Year" Award;

WHEREAS, during its 11th anniversary on January 10, 2011, *People Asia Magazine* cited Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile as among its "People of the Year" awardees for 2010, for being "one of the most enduring and brilliant political figures in the country and, undeniably, an integral part of Philippine history",

WHEREAS, the award also recognized that under the leadership of Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, the Senate passed vital pieces of legislation such as the Human Security Act of 2007, Anti-Torture Act, the Expanded Senior Citizens Act, the Anti-Child Pornography Act, the National Heritage Conservation Act, and the Real Estate Investment Act, among many others;

WHEREAS, the prestige that the "People of the Year" award bestowed upon Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile also brought honor and pride to the Philippine Senate, as well as to the nation which he continues to serve with utmost integrity and dedication, achieving the greater good for the Filipino people: Now, therefore be it

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE to congratulate Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile for being cited by the *People Asia Magazine* as a "People of the Year" Awardee.

COAUTHORS

Senator Sotto manifested that all senators are coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 353.

**MANIFESTATION
OF SENATE PRESIDENT ENRILE**

Registering a vote of abstention, Senate President Enrile expressed his gratitude to the Members for according him the honor expressed in the resolution.

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 353**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 353 was adopted by the Body.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL

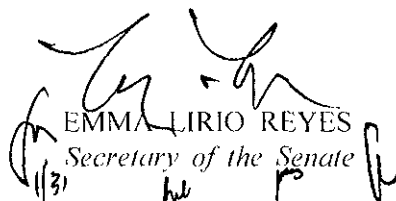
At the instance of Senator Revilla, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the change of referral of Senate Bill No 1737 from the Committee on Public Services to the Committee on Public Works.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Senate President Pro Tempore declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, January 31, 2011.

It was 4 09 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO REYES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on January 31, 2011