



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 68
Monday, February 28, 2011

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 68
Monday, February 28, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:37 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Franklin M. Drilon led the prayer, to wit:

Almighty Father.

We praise and thank You for gathering us today to perform our task as legislators.

We thank You for continuously guiding us as we try our best in improving the lives of our people.

We face a lot of challenges in our world today—natural and man-made.

Give us the grace to remain faithful to You.

Give us the grace to put our trust in Your unfailing and unending love.

Let us not lose hope and continue to depend on You, always assuring ourselves that You will never abandon us.

All these we ask in Jesus' Name.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Himig Antonio of Saint Anthony Academy of Quezon City led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song, entitled "*Ngayon ang Bukas.*"

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:

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

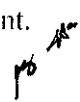
With 18 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Osmeña arrived after the roll call.

Senator Pangilinan was on official mission abroad.

Senator Villar was likewise on official mission.

Senators Guingona and Lacson were absent.



APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF SESSION NO. 67

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 67 (February 23, 2011) and considered it approved.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- First-year high school students of the Philippine Normal University (Manila Campus);
- Management Accounting students from the University of Makati;
- Barangay Chairmen from the Municipality of Marcos, Ilocos Norte; and,
- Students from Al-Khwarizmi International College of Marawi City.

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

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Atty. Edwin B. Bellen, read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 22 February 2011, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 6, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING A FIXED TERM FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committee on National Defense and Security

House Bill No. 338, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PILI, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE COMPUTER SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL OF BICOLANDIA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 548, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE ALANGILAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY ALANGILAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAGAY, PROVINCE OF CAMIGUIN INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS ALANGILAN INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 906, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE BISLIG CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – SAN VICENTE ANNEX IN BARANGAY SAN VICENTE, CITY OF BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR FROM THE BISLIG CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SAN VICENTE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 988, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE MONTH OF

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JANUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS LIVER CANCER AND HEPATITIS-B AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

To the Committee on Health and Demography

House Bill No. 1014, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE BISLIG CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – STA. CRUZ ANNEX IN BARANGAY STA. CRUZ, CITY OF BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR FROM THE BISLIG CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS STA. CRUZ NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 1016, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE BISLIG CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – MABOG ANNEX IN SITIO MABOG, BARANGAY SAN ROQUE, CITY OF BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR FROM THE BISLIG CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MABOG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 1209, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE SANTA FE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – CANABUAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY CANABUAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA FE, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA FROM THE SANTA FE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CON-

VERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS CANABUAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 1319, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE DOÑA CARMEN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – TAGBINA ANNEX IN BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF TAGBINA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR FROM THE DOÑA CARMEN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS TAGBINA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 1600, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE VALENZUELA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – CANUMAY EAST ANNEX IN BARANGAY CANUMAY, CITY OF VALENZUELA, METRO MANILA FROM THE VALENZUELA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS CANUMAY EAST NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 1975, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE BISLIG CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – TUMANAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY TUMANAN, CITY OF BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR FROM

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THE BISLIG CITY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS TUMANAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

House Bill No. 3677, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE SEVENTEENTH OF NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL STUDENTS' DAY

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

House Bill No. 4061, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE FISCAL AUTONOMY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS BY REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 21 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10121, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2010

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Local Government

House Bill No. 4069, entitled

AN ACT RECONFIGURING THE DISPOSITION OF THE MONIES COLLECTED AND DELINEATING THE STATUS OF THE SPECIAL FUNDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 7 AND 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8794, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MOTOR VEHICLE USER'S CHARGE LAW, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committee on Public Works

House Bill No. 4075, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING OCULAR PROPHYLAXIS ON NEWBORNS

To the Committee on Health and Demography

House Bill No. 4095, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE OBSERVANCE OF JULY 25 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL CAMPUS PRESS FREEDOM DAY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

House Bill No. 4111, entitled

AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE PROVINCE OF COTABATO INTO THREE (3) LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS

To the Committees on Local Government; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

and House Bill No. 4163, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE NORTHERN SAMAR PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN CATARMAN, NORTHERN SAMAR INTO THE SAMAR ISLAND MEDICAL CENTER UNDER THE SUPERVISION, CONTROL AND MANAGEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2713, entitled

AN ACT ENHANCING THE CURRICULUM AND INCREASING THE NUMBER OF YEARS FOR BASIC EDUCATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2714, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING A DEFINITE TARGETING STRATEGY IN IDENTIFYING THE POOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995," AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2715, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE WELFARE OF BARANGAY TANODS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 393 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 2716, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH A PILOT PROGRAM TO AWARD GRANTS TO EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES TO DEVELOP FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAMS IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2717, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING YOUTH CAMPS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Health and Demography

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 395, entitled

RESOLUTION STRONGLY RECOMMENDING TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT THE IMMEDIATE ACCESSION AND RATIFICATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PROTECTION OF ALL PERSONS FROM ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES CITING THAT IT WILL BE FOR THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY AND THE PROTECTION OF THE FILIPINO DESAPARECIDOS

Introduced by Senator Villar

To the Committee on Foreign Relations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 396, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO PREPARE FOR THE CONTINUOUS RISE OF GLOBAL FOOD PRICES BY INCREASING NATIONAL BUDGET ALLOCATIONS TO THE AGRICULTURE SECTOR IN ORDER TO INCREASE AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 397, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PROLIFERATION OF "CRUSH VIDEOS" INVOLVING THE PERFORMANCE OF LEWD

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ACTS BY MINORS WHILE KILLING
SMALL HARMLESS ANIMALS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Youth, Women and
Family Relations; and Agriculture and Food**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 398, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED
ANOMALOUS CONTRACTS ENTERED
INTO BY THE PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT OF CEBU WITH
REGARD TO THE CONSTRUCTION
OF THE CEBU INTERNATIONAL
CONVENTION CENTER

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Accountability of
Public Officers and Investigations**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 399, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON CONSTITU-
TIONAL AMENDMENTS, REVISION
OF CODES AND LAWS TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED
TO REVISE THE SECURITIES
REGULATION CODE TO CURB THE
MONOPOLISTIC PRACTICES
ANCHORED ON SOME OF ITS
PROVISIONS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Constitutional
Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and
Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

COMMUNICATION

Letter from Assistant Secretary J. Eduardo Malaya
of the Office of Legal Affairs, Department of
Foreign Affairs, dated 22 February 2011, substi-
tuting the Instrument of Ratification signed by
President Benigno S. Aquino III on 23 December

2010, with the Instrument of Accession signed
by the President on 9 December 2010.

To the Committee on Foreign Relations

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 387

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no
objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate
Resolution No. 387, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND
COMMENDING FILIPINO BOXER
NONITO "THE FILIPINO FLASH"
DONAIRE JR. FOR WINNING THE
WORLD BOXING COUNCIL AND
WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION
WORLD CHAMPION TITLES IN
THE BANTAMWEIGHT DIVISION
AFTER DEFEATING MEXICAN
BOXER FERNANDO MONTIEL JR.
AT THE MANDALAY BAY EVENTS
CENTER IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA,
U.S.A. ON 19 FEBRUARY 2011,

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution
No. 391, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING NONITO
"THE FILIPINO FLASH" DONAIRE
JR. FOR DETHRONING FERNANDO
MONTIEL OF MEXICO AND BAGGING
THE WORLD BOXING COUNCIL
AND WORLD BOXING ORGANIZ-
ATION BANTAMWEIGHT CROWNS.

With the permission of the Body, only the title of
Proposed Senate Resolution No. 387 was read without
prejudice to the insertion of full text into the Record
of the Senate.

The Chair recognized Senator Cayetano (P) for
the sponsorship.


SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (P), the session
was suspended.

It was 3:55 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:56 p.m., the session was resumed.



SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 391, Senator Cayetano (P) delivered the following speech:

I stand before you once again to sponsor Proposed Senate Resolution No. 391, honoring a promising Filipino athlete whose time has arrived, an adopted son of Taguig City, and a very good friend of mine, Nonito "The Filipino Flash" Donaire Jr.

Nonito has yet again made the Filipinos proud when he put up an exceptional fight against Fernando Montiel of Mexico last 20 February 2011, in Las Vegas. With one powerful punch from Nonito in the second round, Montiel fell. Due to the impact of the punch, Montiel was unable to get back on his feet, earning for The Filipino Flash the win via a technical knockout (KO) in the second round.

But this is no ordinary victory. Montiel is considered "one of the best fighters in the world" and "a tested veteran." He is rated No. 7 in *The Ring's* Top 10 Pound-For-Pound list and in his career, he has lost only in two close decisions.

Just last December, The Filipino Flash showed exemplary boxing skills and talent in his fight against Ukrainian Wladimir Sidorenko, putting Sidorenko down three times. This resulted in a technical knockout decision on the fourth round of the fight, the first knockout loss in the career of Sidorenko.

Back in 2007, Nonito fought against elite fighter Vic Darchinyan resulting in a knockout which was considered *The Ring's* "2007 Knockout of the Year."

After Nonito's fight against Sidorenko last December, *The Ring* ranked him No. 5 pound-for-pound boxer in the world. However, after his impressive fight last February 20, *The Ring* upped his rank from No. 5 to No. 3, right behind our very own Manny Pacquiao who is in the No. 1 spot with Floyd Mayweather, Jr who is currently No. 2.

There are two Filipinos now holding the top first and third ranking. This should make the Filipinos proud. At the same time, this should serve as an inspiration for the Filipino youth to emulate the examples of these fine boxers and to learn from their discipline, commitment, determination, perseverance, hard work, sportsmanship and humility.

Indeed, Nonito "The Filipino Flash" Donaire deserves our commendation, our recognition and our gratitude for the honor and glory that he has gained and has brought to the Philippines and the Filipino people.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Senator Cayetano (P) said that Senator Cayetano (A) has requested to likewise sponsor the resolution, and that she would welcome any of her colleagues who may want to cosponsor the resolution. She added that Nonito Donaire will be coming to the Senate the following week.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

Senator Defensor Santiago asked whether boxing or other sports of the same nature, which may cause death or grievous injuries to a contender, would not fall under the category of what the poets call as "man's inhumanity to man." She also asked why people seek entertainment in pummeling each other, which might take away the life, health or well-being of another person, and why boxers do not find a better living instead of knocking down other people.

Further, Senator Defensor Santiago inquired if boxing champions are not setting a bad example for humans to be cruel not only to other humans but also to animals and other living creatures which opposes the concept of respect for life, and whether boxing is a flagrant violation of one of the most established tenets of the recognized world religions such as Buddhism.

Senator Cayetano (P) explained that boxing is a regulated sport, which is officiated by a referee, an independent third party who must be quick enough to intervene in the match so that only the least possible damage occurs in the ring. She believed that the trainings undertaken by these boxers would help them sustain the punches in certain body parts. Nonetheless, she said that she would prefer less violence in sports. She stated that she would like to hear a more expert opinion on boxing as she was not particularly knowledgeable on the sport.

Senator Cayetano (P) noted that the human race in general seems to have the need to be aggressive and to exert aggression, which may also be the same reason why wars never end. She surmised that this

need for physical aggression is safer to be expressed in a contained and civilized way such as inside a boxing ring. She also cited studies which show that even during infancy, when infants are not yet influenced by television or media, girls and boys have a distinct preference for different activities – little girls play with toys that develop their nurturing skills and the boys play with toys that develop their physical skills.

In closing, Senator Cayetano (P) stated that it would take a person a lot of determination and patience to develop the skill in order to be a national or world-class fighter. She said that she has so much respect for athletes who have reached this level of success and she was honored to have the opportunity to recognize on the floor the feat of Nonito Donaire who is an intelligent and well-rounded person.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 387

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body adopted, subject to style, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 387, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 391.

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 17 on Senate Joint Resolution No. 6 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Joint Resolution No. 6, entitled

JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO REVIEW AND ASSESS PHILIPPINE EDUCATION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SPONSORSHIP REMARKS OF SENATOR ANGARA

Senator Angara stated that Senate Joint Resolution No. 6 seeks to create an Oversight Committee on Education, which is similar to the Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM) that was created 20 years ago. He said that the EDCOM came up with a very well-known report which became the basis of many education reform laws. He believed that education, being a very dynamic process, has to be reviewed every five years; however, with the advent of information technology, dynamism and swiftness of development, it now requires a shorter period of review. He pointed out that science, technology and innovation have proven to be potent instruments of economic development and poverty reduction and basic to the realization of this potential is education — one of the fundamentals for strengthening a country's human capital as well as in building a knowledgeable economy based on information technology.

Senator Angara lamented that the Philippine education system has failed to respond to the rapid changes of time. To illustrate, he cited the latest National Achievement Test which showed that grade six students had a mean percentage score (MPS) of 59.9%, meaning that a grade six student can only answer five out of ten items correctly; fourth-year high school students had a mean score of 44.33%, and the science score was 37.98% or only four out of 10 science questions were answered correctly.

Further, he revealed that of the 1.2 million grade six students who took the High School Readiness Test, only .67% passed which meant that only 8,043 students had basic competencies in Science, English and Math and are ready to move on to high school.

Senator Angara stated that what stood out as the one common factor among all the reasons that explain the poor performance of students was the quality and number of teachers. He revealed that 90% of high school Physics teachers did not major in Physics, while 80% of Chemistry teachers did not major in Chemistry. He said that if that percentage was 40, it would have been tolerable.

Moreover, Senator Angara noted that there are, as always, the problems of shortages in teachers, textbooks, classrooms and desks. He stated that the Philippines has one of the largest pupil to classroom sizes in Southeast Asia which is 1:60 when the aver-

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age class size is supposed to be 1:34. Comparatively, he said that the class size at the elementary level in Malaysia is 1:32; Thailand, 1:22; and South Korea 1:34; at the high school level, in the Philippines, there are 56 in a classroom; Malaysia, 34; Thailand, 41, and South Korea, 37. He stated that these data spell educational disaster but apparently, he noted, this does not cause much outrage among Filipinos.

As regards access to education, Senator Angara observed that only 83% of school-age kids are enrolled in primary school, meaning 17% are out of school; and only 59% are enrolled in high school, meaning 40% are out of school. He expressed concern that soon, out-of-school youths would outnumber the in-school population, which stands at 22 million as of now.

Senator Angara underscored that there is an imperative need for educational reform, or, at the very least, a continuing monitoring, surveillance and evaluation of educational performance. He recalled that the last reform was made in the early '90s when the Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM) was created. He stated that the EDCOM surveyed the whole educational system and came up with several structural changes, among them the establishment of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Department of Education (DepEd) was given the mandate to concentrate on providing basic education.

Noting that the EDCOM report was submitted to Pres. Corazon C. Aquino, he expressed hope that a milestone study of the education system could be made and submitted to another Aquino sitting as President so that there would be a full circle of education reform from mother to son. He observed that while the different aspects of education, culture, science, sports and others had been reviewed through the years, none had been as comprehensive as the EDCOM study.

Senator Angara stated that the Body is now confronted with the K-12 challenge that requires thoughtful analysis, discussion and debate to generate a nationwide awareness of the rationale behind the need to formalize kindergarten schooling and adding two more years to basic education. He underscored the need to lengthen the country's basic education in order to be aligned with the rest of the world and to enable the Filipino graduates to stand head-to-head and be competitive with graduates from all over the world. He stated that many international accreditation initiatives like the Washington Accord require all

professionals to have 12 years of basic schooling, and because of the Philippines' 10-year basic education policy, graduates of engineering, architecture and nursing end up as engineering assistants, draftsmen and nursing aids. He urged the Body to examine the proposed changes in the education system branch by branch and root by root, underscoring that education, more than ever, is the sure way to progress. He stated that the country's education system remains stagnant and lags behind other countries. He rued that the Philippines can only beat Cambodia and Laos in terms of competitiveness when it used to be the teacher of all of Asia with Koreans, Indonesians, Chinese and Japanese students coming over to learn and study.

Finally, Senator Angara urged the Body to be outraged by the situation and to do something drastic and immediate about it. He said that although the resolution cannot solve the problem of education overnight, at least, it would push the country's leaders to recognize and find a solution to it.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 4:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:29 p.m., the session was resumed.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6


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

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 the following day.

It was 4.29 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO REYES
Secretary of the Senate
pp *df*

Approved on March 1, 2011