



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 70
Wednesday, March 2, 2011

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:27 p.m., the Senate President Pro Tempore, Hon. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile led the prayer, to wit:

Let us place ourselves in the presence of the Lord.

Father in heaven, we ask You to extend the warm embrace of Your protection to the people in countries experiencing political transition.

In the recent celebration of EDSA, the Filipino has proven that courage and determination may spur a revolution, but only our faith in Your divine plan for us Your people and our country can help us avoid bloodshed and work together towards our country's unification.

Placing our palms together, we lay down arms of destruction.

Save us from the horror of broken limbs, of widows and mothers in black, of a barren landscape dotted by emaciated children with empty stares.

Take care of the migrant Filipinos in places where there is strife,

Lead them through the deserts and mountains.

Comfort their waiting families.

We carry nothing but our prayer.

March us back to peace. Bring us together, home.

We ask these of You, our Creator, the holder of the wisdom of the universe.

Amen.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

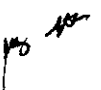
It was 3:29 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:29 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Enrile presiding.

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

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

Senators Drilon, Escudero, Guingona, and Pangilinan arrived after the roll call.

Senator Villar was on official mission.

Senator Legarda was on official mission abroad.

Senator Lacson was absent.

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. 69 (March 1, 2011) and considered it approved.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Members of the *Liga ng Mga Barangay* of Sta Maria, Pangasinan, headed by Mr. Jun-Jun Macaraeg;
- Students from Jose Rizal University in Mandaluyong City; and
- Students from Holy Angel University in Angeles City, Pampanga.

Senate President Enrile welcomed the guests to the Senate and thereafter relinquished the Chair to Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada.

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. 2723, entitled

AN ACT TO DEFINE THE MARITIME ZONES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

To the Committee on Foreign Relations

Senate Bill No. 2724, entitled

AN ACT REORGANIZING AND MODERNIZING THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, PROVIDING NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2725, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THAT A TREE BE PLANTED FOR EVERY CHILD BORN IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING A FRAMEWORK FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Local Government; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 406, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PRESENT STATE OF PHILIPPINE CORAL REEFS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING POLICIES FOR

Handwritten initials/signature

CONCERTED NATIONAL AND LOCAL EFFORTS TO REDUCE REEF DEPENDENCE AND BUILD ADAPTIVE CAPACITY WHILE REDUCING IMMEDIATE THREATS TO THE SAME

Introduced by Senator Villar

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Agriculture and Food

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 407, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE POLITICAL INSTABILITY AND WORSENING VIOLENCE IN LIBYA WHICH HAS AFFECTED INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY BY PUTTING THE LIVES OF ITS CITIZENS AND RESIDENTS, INCLUDING THOUSANDS OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AT RISK SHOULD BE BROUGHT TO AN END THROUGH A PEACEFUL TRANSITION OF POWER

Introduced by Senator Pangilinan

To the Committee on Rules

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 3:33 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:38 p.m., the session was resumed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

Senator Sotto also acknowledged the presence in the gallery of Representatives Ferdinand Martin Romualdez of the First District of Leyte and Aurelio "Dong" Gonzales Jr. of the Third District of Pampanga.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 14 ON PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 263

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 263 (Committee Report No. 14), entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DETRIMENTAL EFFECTS OF U.S. ECONOMIC SANCTIONS ON IRAN, AND TO RECOMMEND WAYS AND MEANS TO MITIGATE ITS IMPACT ON THE PHILIPPINE BANANA EXPORT INDUSTRY.

Senator Sotto stated that the parliamentary status was the period of interpellations.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

There being no reservation for interpellation, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations and proceeded to the period of amendments.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

There being no committee or individual amendment, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of amendments.

ADOPTION OF COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 14

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body adopted the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 14.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Zubiri rose to condemn the killing of environmentalist Pierre Gillo and urged the immediate passage of the Magna Carta for Environmental Workers.

The full text of his speech follows:

Last February 25 marked the death of another environmental worker. According to news reports, Mr. Pierre Gillo, 51 years old, Officer-in-Charge of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in Sta. Rita, Samar, was shot dead by unidentified assailants on a motorcycle outside his home in V and G Subdivision in Tacloban City.

Authorities believed that Gillo was killed due to his campaign against illegal logging activities in Sta. Rita which is 40 kilometers away from Tacloban City.

This year happens to be the International Year of the Forests. It just seemed so unfortunate that so many of our forest and environmental workers are being shot left and right defending our forest.

I condemn the barbaric act against a comrade and environmentalist Pierre Gillo. Now, more than ever, we need to intensify our campaign against illegal logging operations in the country. We need to protect our green army, our environmental officers on the ground who are helpless against big-time logging operators and criminals.

According to the latest statistics of the DENR, more than 120 government environmental workers have been killed in the line of duty since 1987. Secretary Paje said that the Department had lost about eight personnel from July, 2010 to present or one environment officer every month.

I would also like to express my commitment to push for the immediate passage of Senate Bill No. 2550, Magna Carta for Environmental Workers, as it is high time that we provided protection, benefits and recognition to our green army, our volunteers, our cops, our soldiers and lawyers who are tasked to protect, preserve and maintain the quality of environment and natural resources in the country.

Let me add that more recently, Professor Leonard Co, one of the luminaries, one of the jewels in the science community, was mistaken as an NPA operative and was killed in the mountains of Leyte, and very recently, Gerry Ortega, who headed an NGO which is against the mining operations in Palawan, was also killed.

So, the task to protect our resources is not a walk in the park. Our foresters, park rangers, cops, soldiers, lawyers and environment officers of the DENR urgently need this bill to ensure their safety and to promote their welfare. I am

appealing to our colleagues to assist me in enacting it.

Senate Bill No. 2550 aims to promote and improve the health, physical safety, social and economic well-being, including benefits and other incentives, security of tenure, as well as the development of skills and capabilities of environment and natural resources personnel in order that they will be more responsive and better equipped to perform their functions and responsibilities and encourage them to remain in the government service.

Under the proposed measure, protection and benefits shall be given to personnel of the DENR, its bureaus, regional offices, attached agencies and other environmental government agencies.

It will also provide certain benefits to private individuals and groups who are engaged in the protection of the environment such as non-governmental organizations and environmental units of private corporations or enterprises. It will be providing hazard allowances equivalent to 25% of the monthly basic salary which shall also be given to those who are involved in hazardous undertakings such as field inspectors, waste monitoring and sampling specialists, and those whose duties expose them to radiation, volcanic eruption and other occupational risks. Aside from these, environmental workers will also get higher basic salary upon retirement, higher insurance premiums and increased medical examination package.

Let us hasten the investigation, form a task force for environmental killings alone, and apprehend the perpetrators at the soonest possible time. And let us recognize the role of our environmental workers who continue to put their lives at risk for saving our environment.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 3:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:36 p.m., the session was resumed.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of



Senator Zubiri to the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources and Public Order and Dangerous Drugs.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

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, March 7, 2011.

It was 4:37 p.m.


EMMA LIRIO REYES
Secretary of the Senate


Approved on March 7, 2011