



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 79
Wednesday, March 23, 2011

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

Prepared by the
LEGISLATIVE JOURNAL SERVICE
Senate of the Philippines

SESSION NO. 79
Wednesday, March 23, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:41 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Ralph G. Recto led the prayer, to wit:

Almighty God, we take this moment to thank You for Your continued blessings to everyone in this hall who are sworn to move this nation forward in the midst of confusion and difficulties in our country and the world.

We thank You, Lord, for sparing us from the catastrophic disasters and the internal turmoil that affected our brothers and sisters in Japan, North Africa and the Middle East. We thank You for the comforting moments that You have shared with those who have to bear intense suffering and pain.

We thank You for the lessons learned, for giving us the opportunity to change our ways, and to plan remedial measures to avert future devastations and upheavals.

Grant us humility to accept Your will and the courage to submit to Your wisdom without doubt and fear. May You shield us from deceptive promises and snares of the evil that hinder us from fulfilling Your will.

And, as we humbly come before Your loving presence, grant us forgiveness for all the wrongs that we have done and for the good deeds that we have failed to do.

Loving God, we pray for our dedicated and hardworking civil servants who strive to do their best despite meager salaries and many times maligned and misunderstood. May they find profound joy and fulfillment in realizing how their contribution, whether menial or momentous, makes a difference in the lives of others.

For our brothers and sisters around the world currently suffering from supervening events, may You grant them protection and solace. May they find hope in a benevolent God who will not abandon them and who will carry them through all their trials and tribulations.

For those who have gone astray, may Your light shine upon them that they may return to Your loving embrace.

And, finally, for all of us who have pledged our unwavering commitment to serve You and our country, may You grant us vision, strength, and good judgment as we perform our meaningful task to serve with honor and dignity

All these we ask in Your mighty Name.

Amen.



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.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	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.
Honasan, G. B.	Zubiri, J. M. F.
Lapid, M. L. M.	

With 15 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

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

Senators Trillanes and Villar were on official mission abroad.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

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. 78 (March 22, 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 Hon. Mlib Tmetuchl, Senate President of the Republic of Palau, and Mayor Chiyawan of Natonin, Mountain Province.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto announced that Senate President

Enrile had called for a caucus this afternoon to discuss the Rules of Procedure on Impeachment Trials.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended to allow the senators to attend the caucus.

It was 3:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:14 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Enrile presiding.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate 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 March 2011, the House of Representatives passed House Bill No. 4146, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SYNCHRONIZATION OF THE ELECTIONS AND THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM) WITH THOSE OF THE NATIONAL AND OTHER LOCAL OFFICIALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9333, ENTITLED "AN ACT FIXING THE DATE FOR REGULAR ELECTIONS FOR ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate.

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

16

BILL ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2755, entitled

**THE INVESTMENTS AND INCENTIVES
CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Introduced by Senator Angara

**To the Committees on Ways and Means;
and Economic Affairs****COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee Report No. 25, submitted jointly by the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization, on Senate Bill No. 429, introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE PROHIBITED ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN ON ACCOUNT OF SEX, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 135 AND 137 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES,

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 26, submitted jointly by the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Youth, Women and Family Relations, on Senate Bill No. 930, introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada, entitled

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISING,

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business*At this juncture, Senate President Enrile relinquished the Chair to Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada.***ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS****BILL ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 2756, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SYNCHRONIZATION OF THE ELECTIONS AND THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO (ARMM) WITH THOSE OF THE NATIONAL AND OTHER LOCAL OFFICIALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9333, ENTITLED "AN ACT FIXING THE DATE FOR REGULAR ELECTIONS FOR ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Drilon

**To the Committees on Local Government;
and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of
Codes and Laws****SECOND ADDITIONAL
REFERENCE OF BUSINESS****MESSAGE FROM THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, dated 23 March 2011, transmitting to the Senate Resolution No. 105, entitled

RESOLUTION IMPEACHING OMBUDSMAN MA. MERCEDITAS NAVARRO-GUTIERREZ FOR BETRAYAL OF PUBLIC TRUST,

which was approved by the House of Representatives on 22 March 2011, and Committee Report No. 778, together with its attachments.

ms

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, dated 23 March 2011, informing the Senate that on 22 March 2011, the House of Representatives elected Tupas Jr. (N), Fariñas (R) and Tañada III (L) as members of the eleven (11)-man Prosecution Panel for the Impeachment of Ombudsman Ma. Merceditas Navarro-Gutierrez.

To the Committee on Rules

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan recalled that in the previous session, he made reservation to ask questions as to which committee the Articles of Impeachment would be referred. He then inquired whether Senator Sotto has obtained the Body's permission to suspend the *Rules* so that the Articles of Impeachment could be referred to the Committee on Rules. Senator Sotto replied in the affirmative.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR OSMEÑA

Senator Osmeña asked whether Senator Sotto, when he premised his motion with the phrase "with the permission of the Body," was asking for the suspension of the Rules at that very moment. He expressed concern that usage of that phrase could be subject to abuse since the Majority Leader could obtain the Body's permission even if there are only three Members present during the session when normally a suspension of the Rules would require a majority vote.

Senator Sotto clarified that while the expression is part of parliamentary practice that allows the Majority Leader to take particular action on behalf of the Senate, his particular motion for the suspension of the Rules only applied to the referral of the Articles of Impeachment. He then cited similar situations wherein the Majority Leader would seek the permission of the Body to defer the consideration of the Reference of Business—which is usually taken up at the beginning of the session—so that a resolution/bill could be considered on Third Reading. He adverted to Rule XLII, Section 120 of the *Rules* which allows the Body to give its express or implied unanimous consent to any action or proceeding. Moreover, he gave assurance that he would not abuse the authority associated with such a statement.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 432 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 432, entitled

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE RULES OF PROCEDURE ON IMPEACH- MENT TRIALS.

Senator Sotto stated that the parliamentary status was the period of individual amendments.

SOTTO AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments, one after the other:

Page 2

1. On Rule III, delete the entire sentence on line 5 up to the period (.) on line 7, and in lieu thereof, insert UPON PRESENTATION OF THE ARTICLES TO THE SENATE, THE SENATE SHALL SPECIFY THE DATE AND TIME FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF SUCH ARTICLES;
2. On line 9, delete the phrase "after the trial shall commence";
3. Transpose the sentence, beginning with the word "Before" on line 10 up to line 14, to line 5 after "III."

Page 4

4. On Rule VII, restore the phrase "and to stand to and abide by the orders and judgments of the Senate thereon" by deleting the brackets "[]" on line 6 after the word "therefrom" and on line 7 after the word "thereon";
5. On line 9, replace the phrase "such number of" with NOT LATER THAN THREE (3);

Page 6

6. On line 2, after the word "impeachment," insert TRIAL;

Page 7

7. On line 7, delete the phrase "to their";

Page 8

8. On line 3, replace the phrase "ayes and nays" with VOTE; and

MS

9. On line 16, after the period (.), insert the following sentence: THE VOTE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE ON EACH ARTICLE OF IMPEACHMENT, WHEN ACTING AS THE PRESIDING OFFICER, SHALL BE LAST TAKEN AFTER ALL THE SENATORS HAVE STATED THEIR VOTES.

Senator Sotto explained that the senator-judges would have a maximum of two minutes to explain their votes.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

To immediately resolve the final outcome of the votes, Senator Pangilinan noted that the “guilty” and “not guilty” votes are first recorded and tallied before the senator-judge is given the opportunity to formally explain his vote.

Senator Escudero explained that the particular rule was adopted by the House of Representatives when it amended its Rules for only one particular Congress due to the fact that it has 284 Members; however, this rule was not found in the Rules of the previous Congresses. He suggested that the Senate follow its own Rules regarding the voting process since it has only 24 Members – each one to be given two minutes to explain his/her vote or submit it in writing or decide to give his/her explanation after the results have been announced.

For his part, Senator Pangilinan maintained that it would be more practical to tally the votes before the Members are allowed to explain their votes individually. Nevertheless, he deferred to the wisdom of the Body regarding the matter.

As a compromise, Senator Escudero suggested that as far as interlocutory orders and decisions arrived at through voting are concerned such as the admissibility of evidence, senator-judges may explain their votes after the voting to save time and to avoid undue delay in the trials; but with respect to the final judgment on the Articles of Impeachment, senator-judges may decide whether to explain his/her vote in writing, to explain his vote within the two-minute rule right after he/she renders the same, or to explain his/her vote after the results of the voting are tallied. He said that the final vote of each senator-judge will form part not only of the records of the Senate but of the country’s history.

Senator Sotto agreed that a senator-judge may explain his/her vote on interlocutory orders and decisions, on the floor or in writing, after the results have been tallied. However, he said that in the final judgment on the Articles of Impeachment, a senator-judge should be given a chance to explain his/her vote right after casting his vote and not after the results of the voting are tallied.

Senator Pangilinan agreed that it would be more convenient and administratively effective if the votes are taken first. He pointed out that in a legislative debate on the ratification of a treaty wherein 16 votes are necessary, senators cast their votes first and explain their votes after the results are tallied, adding that this procedure would prevent a time lag. Nevertheless, he said that he would submit to the wisdom of the Body.

10. Delete lines 18 to 20.

DEFENSOR SANTIAGO AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Sotto, on behalf of Senator Defonsor Santiago, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments, one after the other:

Page 2

1. After line 14, insert the following: SENATORS SHALL OBSERVE POLITICAL NEUTRALITY DURING THE COURSE OF THE IMPEACHMENT TRIAL. “POLITICAL NEUTRALITY” SHALL BE DEFINED AS EXERCISE OF A PUBLIC OFFICIAL’S DUTY WITHOUT UNFAIR DISCRIMINATION AND REGARDLESS OF PARTY AFFILIATION OR PREFERENCE;

Page 7


2. On line 14, after the word period (.), insert the following: SILENCE SHALL BE OBSERVED BY THE VISITORS AT ALL TIMES ON PAIN OF EVICTION FROM THE TRIAL VENUE.

Senator Sotto said that the other two amendments, which were proposed by Senator Defonsor Santiago, were already covered by Rules IV and V.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 5:44 p.m.



RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:48 p.m., the session was resumed.

FURTHER DEFENSOR SANTIAGO AMENDMENTS*Page 3*

3. Delete the sentence beginning with the word "Upon" on line 19 up to the period (.) on line 20;
4. On line 21, before the word "revised," insert **RULES OF THE SENATE AND THE**, and after the word "suppletorily," insert **WHENEVER APPLICABLE**;

Page 14

5. On line 8, replace the phrase "after fifteen days following" with **IMMEDIATELY UPON**.

DRILON AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Drilon and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments, one after the other:

Page 1

1. On line 13, delete the word "therein";

Page 3

2. On line 1, after the words "Sergeant-at-Arms," insert the phrase **OF THE SENATE**;
3. On the same line, between the words "the" and "Senate," insert the phrase **PRESIDENT OF THE**;

Page 4

4. On line 3, capitalize the letter "a" in the word "answer";
5. On line 5, capitalize the letter "r" in the word "reply";
6. On line 7, delete the word "thereon";
7. On line 14, delete the word "THEREOF" and insert the phrase **WITH A PERSON OF SUFFICIENT AGE AND DISCRETION**;
8. On lines 15 and 16, delete the phrase "WITH A PERSON OF SUFFICIENT AGE AND DISCRETION FOUND THEREIN";
9. On line 22, transfer the bracket (]) after the semicolon (;)

Page 5

10. On line 2, replace the word "attorney" with **COUNSEL**, and delete the word "THEREIN";
11. On line 6, replace the word "appointed" with **DESIGNATED**;
12. On lines 7 and 8, delete the phrase "the legislative business of the Senate, if there be any, shall be suspended, and";

Senator Drilon explained that the Senate does not suspend its business just so the Secretary can administer the oath to the Sheriff.

13. On line 9, replace "an" with the words **THE FOLLOWING**;
14. On the same line, delete the phrase "in the form of the following";
15. On line 18, replace the word "attorney" with **COUNSEL**;
16. On line 20, replace the word "attorney" with **COUNSEL**;

Page 6

17. On line 8, after the word "body," delete the word "and" up to the word "business" on line 9;

Page 8

18. On line 3, after the Roman numeral "XXI," insert the following sentence: **THE TRIAL OF ALL THE ARTICLES OF IMPEACHMENT SHALL BE COMPLETED BEFORE THE SENATORS VOTE ON THE FINAL QUESTION ON WHETHER OR NOT THE IMPEACHMENT IS SUSTAINED.**; and
19. On line 14, after the word "question," change the semicolon (;) to a period (.); capitalize the letter "t" of the word "thereafter"; place a comma (,) after the word "thereafter" and another comma (,) after the word "Senator."

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Senator Legarda observed that the Chair has been accepting and submitting to the Body the proposed amendments of Senator Drilon when, in fact, it should be Senator Sotto as chair of the Committee on Rules. She warned that the Rules might be questioned on a technicality because the procedure being followed was flawed.

Senator Sotto clarified that he has, in fact, accepted the proposed amendments of Senator Drilon from the very start.

ps

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

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

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 432

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 432 was adopted by the Body.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 6:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:05 p.m., the session was resumed.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF SESSION NO. 78

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body reconsidered the approval of the Journal of the Session No. 78.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF SESSION NO. 78, AS CORRECTED

Upon motion of Senator Sotto there being no objection, the dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 78 (March 22, 2011) and considered it approved subject to the following corrections.

By Senator Sotto

On page 1250, under the heading "SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR SOTTO," change the words "Senate Resolution No. 6" and "Proposed Senate Resolution No. 6" to SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 68;

By Senator Arroyo

- 1) On page 1254, under the heading "INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ARROYO," second paragraph, place a period (.) after the word "Evidence" on the sixth line, and delete the phrase, "because the latter is already provided for in the Rules of Court"; and

- 2) On page 1255, left column, seventh line, change the word "Wednesday" to FRIDAY.

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 24 on House Bill No. 3826 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 24 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 3826

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, House Bill No. 3826 (Committee Report No. 24), entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION INTO THE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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 Angara for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ANGARA

In presenting House Bill No. 3826 for plenary consideration, Senator Angara delivered the following speech:

PREPARING OUR CHILDREN FOR EDUCATION

In behalf of the Committee on Education, Culture and Arts, as well as the principal author, Sen. Ralph G. Recto, I am privileged to sponsor this measure, the "Kindergarten Education Act of 2011."

In 2000, world leaders agreed on a monumental framework that strives to foster inclusive growth by focusing mainly on human capital development. They are the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – eight broad goals with concrete benchmarks and quantifiable targets.

If the MDGs were achieved by the target year of 2015, global poverty would be cut by half. Millions of women would be saved from dying during pregnancy, millions of children from falling to illness and death before they reach five years, and millions more from being afflicted with fatal diseases.

Furthermore, if the MDGs were achieved in four years' time, billions of people – particularly in developing countries like ours – would be well-equipped to take part in an increasingly competitive global economy because they would have the full quality education they are entitled to.

MDG 2 — achieving universal primary education by 2015 — will equip children with the most fundamental skills and knowledge crucial to this era of computers and information.

I am afraid, however, that millions of Filipino children are deprived of a full quality education in our land for one simple reason: they fail to get into school at the earliest age possible. In fact, the Philippines is at great risk of failing to meet this MDG goal.

An Asian Development Bank study shows that about 830,900 six-year-olds have not begun primary school in 2007. Why? That is because 62.5 percent of them were still in preschool while 37.5 percent have not started schooling at all.

The Department of Education (DepEd) administers the School Readiness Assessment to Grade 1 entrants. A child is deemed ready to advance to Grade 1 if he obtains at least 75 percent rate of mastery of certain competencies.

The DepEd has found, however, that only 74 percent or half a million pupils during the school year 2007-2008 were actually ready to begin Grade 1. This means that over 174,000 young Filipino children wanted to enter Grade 1 during this school year alone but lacked adequate skills in reading, simple mathematics and basic comprehension.

We had approximately 13.7 million, almost 14 million elementary students during 2008-2009, which was already more than our system and infrastructure can handle. Yet, millions more are slipping through the cracks. In fact, our net enrollment rate in elementary has been declining since it peaked at 97 percent in 1999, that is almost 20 years ago. As of the school year 2008-2009, only 85.1 percent of Filipino children of elementary school-age have actually entered the public and private education system

Moreover, we have a lot of overage students who began school later than is recommended.

The recommended age as we know is, at present, age six. But our net intake shows that only 48.48 percent of that school-age group started school at age six.

MDG 2 is also getting our pupils to finish elementary schooling, but we are falling flat in this area. Our cohort survival rate – or the percentage of Grade 1 enrollees who actually make it to Grade 6 — was only 75 percent as of school year 2008-2009. The completion rate — the proportion of Grade 1 students who finish elementary — is even lower at 73 percent.

These figures are alarming because they represent real Filipino children. These are Filipino children, warm and alive, whose personal development are impaired and will continue to be retarded for the rest of their lives.

The primary reason behind these dismal figures is that scores of Filipino children are ill-equipped to cope with the demands of school work. Numerous six-year olds set foot in school without the basic competence to participate in class discussions or do their homework. It is not uncommon for children to simply drop out, out of embarrassment, for failing to keep up with their peers.

And this mere point we are making here is that the full development of the Filipino child must start at kindergarten. That is at age five. Beyond that, I think it will be already late.

The DepEd introduced a preschool education program only in 2009 through a department order. This does not mandate schools to organize preschool classes, only to continue to maintain what has been operating. This, of course, did not succeed in institutionalizing preschool.

Kindergarten must stop being a mere optional stage. It is the purpose of this bill to make it mandatory and obligatory.

Easing children into the formal education system will minimize the shock they feel when they are removed from their familiar environment. It will help children adapt better to social situations they will continue to encounter throughout their lives. More importantly, it will make children more committed to learning if we show them that it can be both enjoyable and productive.

In the interest of ensuring quality and free education for all Filipino children, the measure proposes the institutionalization of mandatory kindergarten education into our basic education system. The Kindergarten Education Act underpins a declared state policy to make education responsive to the diverse needs and capacity of Filipino learners.

Mandatory kindergarten education is not an additional burden to our students, their parents or our overloaded system. On the contrary, it only means to maximize the most crucial years of a child's absorptive capacity for learning — which will redound to the benefit of the child, his family, and ultimately to our nation.

Any progress our country gains will not mean much if we neglect to help millions of Filipinos stay in school and reach their full potential through a full quality education.

This measure hopes to provide the Filipino child a chance in life and learn early when it is very important that he is taught during his most absorptive years.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 3826

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

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 415

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 415, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO SUPPORT THE DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY 2011-2020.

With the permission of the Body, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion on its full text into the Record of the Senate.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR REVILLA

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion of the following sponsorship speech of Senator Revilla into the Journal and Record of the Senate:

DECADE OF ACTION FOR ROAD SAFETY

I rise today to sponsor Proposed Senate Resolution No. 415, expressing the sense of this Chamber to support the Decade of Action for Road Safety.

Around the world, 3,561 people are killed daily because of road traffic accidents. This is

equivalent to eight A-380 airplanes, each carrying 400 people, crashing everyday, or a cruise ship, as big as *H.M.S. Titanic*, sinking everyday. This enormous number makes this epidemic-on-wheels a crisis for public health. No less than the World Health Organization (WHO) predicts that road crashes will be the leading cause of premature death and disability for children aged five and above.

More important to note is that 90% of road traffic deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries, which makes this epidemic a killer of the poor. To quote Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Desmond Tutu, "it is the poorest communities which live alongside the fastest roads; it is the poorest children who have to negotiate the most dangerous routes to school; it is the most vulnerable road users, pedestrians and cyclists, who are at greatest risk yet are the most routinely forgotten by the planners and policy-makers." Indeed, the international community should respond to the road crash epidemic with the vision and urgency that it deserves.

On March 2, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming 2011-2020 as the Decade of Action for Road Safety. The overall objective of the Decade is to halt the avoidable rise in road injury and then begin to achieve year-on-year reductions around the world in 2020. The resolution calls upon member-states to implement road safety activities, particularly in the areas of road safety management, road infrastructure, vehicle safety, road-user education and post-crash response. It also requests the WHO and the UN regional commissions, in cooperation with other partners in the UN Road Safety Collaboration and other stakeholders, to prepare a global Plan for the Decade as a guiding document to support the implementation of its objectives.

The resolution reaffirms the importance of addressing global road safety issues and the need to further strengthen international cooperation, which takes into account the needs of low- and middle-income countries, including those of the least developed countries and African countries, by building capacity in the field of road safety and by providing financial and technical support for their efforts.

The proposed Decade of Action is a real opportunity for countries to work together in putting the matter of road safety to the international agenda.

The Philippines, as member of the United Nations and an advocate of road safety, through the Department of Transportation and Com-

munications, has set up a national plan in accordance with the Decade of Action. On May 11, 2011, the Philippines will participate in the global launch of the Decade, which will be a "rolling launch" beginning in New Zealand, travelling through every international time zone and ending in Mexico. The main objective of the launch event is to release national and local plans for the Decade.

Five million lives, this is what is at stake in the Decade for Road Safety; five million people, whose potential can be realized, not wasted, people who need not know the sudden and lifelong grief of a road-crash bereavement. For all these, let us unite to support the Decade of Action for Road Safety.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 415

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 415 was adopted by the Body.

THIRD ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Atty. Edwin B. Bellen, read the following Message from the House of Representatives which the Chair referred to the committees hereunder indicated:

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 22 March 2011, the House of Representatives passed House Bill No. 4245, entitled

**AN ACT REAPPORTIONING THE
SECOND (2ND) LEGISLATIVE DIS-
TRICT OF QUEZON CITY, THEREBY
CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL**

LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS AND TWELVE (12) SANGGUNIANG PANLUNGSOD SEATS FROM SUCH REAPPORTIONMENT,

in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CHAIR


At this point, the Chair informed the Body that at two o'clock in the afternoon of May 9, 2011, the Senate, pursuant to Article XI, Section 3(6) of the Constitution, will convene as an impeachment court for the impeachment trial of Ombudsman Ma. Merceditas Navarro-Gutierrez.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Senate President Pro Tempore declared the session adjourned until ten o'clock in the morning of Monday, May 9, 2011.

It was 6:23 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO REYES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on May 9, 2011