



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 41
Wednesday, December 18, 2013

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:28 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Grace Poe led the prayer, to wit:

Sa Ngalan ng Ama, ng Anak, at ng Espiritu Santo.

Amen.

Panginoon, ilang ulit Mo pong sinubok ang katapatan namin ngayong taon.

Sinubok Mo po kami sa giyera, lindol, at bagyo. Sinubok Mo rin po ang paniniwala namin sa aming institusyon.

Panginoon, buuin Mo muli ang lahat ng nawasak. Tulungan Mo pong maka-bangon ang lahat na nasadlak. Itayo Mo po muli ang lahat ng bumagsak.

Ibalik Ninyo po ang pananalig sa mga institusyon ng aming mga pamahalaan. Ibalik po Ninyo ang tiwala ng tao sa aming Kapulungan. Bawat galaw namin sa paglilingkod nawa'y mailaan. Pagaanin Ninyo rin po ang samahan dito sa aming bulwagan.

Panginoon, sa pagdiriwang po namin ng Kapaskuhan, manahan Kayo po sa aming kalooban. Tunawin Ninyo ang galit at pasibulin ang pagkaunawaan. Gawin Ninyo po kaming tagapagdala ng kapayapaan at kasiyahan.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Oscar G. Yabes, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Guingona III, T. L.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Honasan, G. B.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Legarda, L.
Drilon, F. M.	Poe, G.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Sotto III, V. C.
Enrile, J. P.	Trillanes IV, A. F.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Villar, C.A.
Estrada, J.	

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

Senators Aquino and Marcos arrived after the roll call.

Senators Cayetano (P) and Pimentel were on official mission.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

Senators Lapid, Osmeña, Recto and Revilla were absent.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 40 (December 16 and 17, 2013) and considered it approved.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 16 December 2013, the House of Representatives approved the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 2630, entitled

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

To the Archives

Letter from the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 7 August 2013, the House of Representatives adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 3, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES,

in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate.

To the Archives

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters from the Office of the President of the Philippines, transmitting to the Senate two (2) original copies of the following Republic Acts which were signed on 4, 5, 11, 19 June 2013; 15, 22, 23, 28 August 2013; 3, 6, 12, 26 September 2013; 3 October 2013, respectively:

Republic Act No. 10594 – ESTABLISHING A STATE COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF TALISAY TO BE KNOWN AS THE TALISAY CITY STATE COLLEGE;

Republic Act No. 10595 – CONVERTING THE WESTERN VISAYAS COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (WVCST) IN THE CITY OF ILOILO INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE ILOILO SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY UNIVERSITY;

Republic Act No. 10596 – CONVERTING THE MINDORO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE MINDORO STATE UNIVERSITY (MINSU);

Republic Act No. 10597 – ESTABLISHING THE NORTHERN ILOILO STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO;

Republic Act No. 10598 – ESTABLISHING A STATE COLLEGE IN COMPOSTELA VALLEY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE COMPOSTELA VALLEY STATE COLLEGE;

Republic Act No. 10599 – CONVERTING THE PALOMPON INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE PALOMPON POLYTECHNIC STATE UNIVERSITY;

Republic Act No. 10600 – ESTABLISHING THE SURIGAO DEL NORTE STATE UNIVERSITY IN SURIGAO DEL NORTE;

Republic Act No. 10601 – PROMOTING AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES MECHANIZATION DEVELOPMENT IN THE COUNTRY;

Republic Act No. 10602 – CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE TENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT MALAYBALAY, BUKIDNON;

Republic Act No. 10603 – CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES

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OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT SAN MATEO, RIZAL;

Republic Act No. 10604 – CONVERTING THE ILOILO STATE COLLEGE OF FISHERIES INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE ILOILO STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY;

Republic Act No. 10605 – CONVERTING THE PAMPANGA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE (PAC) INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE PAMPANGA STATE AGRICULTURAL UNIVERSITY;

Republic Act No. 10606 – AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995;

Republic Act No. 10607 – STRENGTHENING THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY, FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 612, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE INSURANCE CODE;

Republic Act No. 10608 – CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT POLOMOLOK, SOUTH COTABATO;

Republic Act No. 10609 – PROTECTING THE RIGHT OF STUDENTS ENROLLED IN COURSES REQUIRING PROFESSIONAL LICENSING EXAMINATIONS TO ENROLL IN REVIEW CENTERS OF THEIR CHOICE;

Republic Act No. 10610 – PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FISH PORT IN SAN VICENTE, NORTHERN SAMAR;

Republic Act No. 10611 – STRENGTHENING THE FOOD SAFETY REGULATORY SYSTEM IN THE

COUNTRY TO PROTECT CONSUMER HEALTH AND FACILITATE MARKET ACCESS OF LOCAL FOODS AND FOOD PRODUCTS;

Republic Act No. 10612 – EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (S&T) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND STRENGTHENING THE TEACHING OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS;

Republic Act No. 10613 – INCREASING THE MINIMUM BED CAPACITY OF THE ZAMBOANGA CITY MEDICAL CENTER FROM TWO HUNDRED FIFTY (250) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500);

Republic Act No. 10614 – INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF REGION 1 MEDICAL CENTER IN DAGUPAN CITY, PANGASINAN FROM THREE HUNDRED (300) TO SIX HUNDRED (600), AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE;

Republic Act No. 10615 – PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FISH PORT IN BARANGAY HAGNAYA, SAN REMIGIO, CEBU;

Republic Act No. 10616 – PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FISH PORT IN DAGUPAN, PANGASINAN;

Republic Act No. 10617 – PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FISH PORT AND COLD STORAGE FACILITY IN DAPA, SURIGAO DEL NORTE;

Republic Act No. 10618 – ESTABLISHING RURAL FARM SCHOOLS AS ALTERNATIVE DELIVERY MODE OF SECONDARY EDUCATION;

Republic Act No. 10619 – AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6876, ENTITLED

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL IN BARANGAY SI-IT, TANUDAN, KALINGA APAYAO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE TANUDAN MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL;

Republic Act No. 10620 – AN ACT PROVIDING FOR TOY AND GAME SAFETY LABELING, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

Republic Act No. 10621 – PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FISH PORT AND COLD STORAGE FACILITY IN SASMUAN, PAMPANGA;

Republic Act No. 10622 – CHANGING THE NAME OF LAZI NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TIGBAWAN, LAZI, SIQUIJOR INTO LAZI TECHNICAL INSTITUTE;

Republic Act No. 10623 – AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, ENTITLED “AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS BY STABILIZING THE PRICES OF BASIC NECESSITIES AND PRIME COMMODITIES AND BY PRESCRIBING MEASURES AGAINST UNDUE PRICE INCREASES DURING EMERGENCY SITUATIONS AND LIKE OCCASIONS”;

Republic Act No. 10624 – PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FISH PORT IN BARANGAY SABANG, CALABANGA, CAMARINES SUR;

Republic Act No. 10625 – REORGANIZING THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NUMBERED ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE, ENTITLED “REORGANIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICAL SYSTEM”;

Republic Act No. 10626 – UPGRADING THE COTABATO SUBDISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE INTO A REGULAR DISTRICT ENGINEERING

OFFICE TO BE KNOWN AS THE COTABATO CITY DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE;

Republic Act No. 10627 – REQUIRING ALL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS TO ADOPT POLICIES TO PREVENT AND ADDRESS THE ACTS OF BULLYING IN THEIR INSTITUTIONS;

Republic Act No. 10628 – PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF FISH PORTS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TONGKIL, TAPUL, LUGUS, KALINGGALAN CALUANG AND SIASI, SULU;

Republic Act No. 10629 – PROVIDING FOR THE RETENTION BY THE PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT BOARD OF SEVENTY-FIVE PERCENT (75%) OF THE REVENUES ACCRUING TO THE INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS FUND (IPAF), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 16 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM ACT OF 1992;

Republic Act No. 10630 – STRENGTHENING THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9344, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND WELFARE ACT OF 2006;

Republic Act No. 10631 – AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF 1998; and

Republic Act No. 10632 – POSTPONING THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 28, 2013, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340.

To the Archives

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ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**BILL ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 2047, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE BLOOD DISEASE AND TRANSFUSION CENTER, DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Guingona III

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Ways and Means; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 419, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING BEA ROSE SANTIAGO FOR HONORING THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS MISS INTERNATIONAL 2013 TITLE IN TOKYO, JAPAN ON 17 DECEMBER 2013

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 420, entitled

RESOLUTION HONORING THE NEWLY-CROWNED MISS INTERNATIONAL 2013 BEA ROSE MONTERDE SANTIAGO, BECOMING THE FIFTH FILIPINO WOMAN TO WIN THE PAGEANT, FURTHER ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINES AS A GLOBAL BEAUTY PAGEANT POWERHOUSE AND INSPIRING HER *KABABAYANS* STILL REELING FROM RECENT CALAMITIES

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Rules

CHANGE OF REFERRAL

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the following bills, which were originally referred to the Committee on Finance, were referred instead to the Committee on Ways and Means:

1. Senate Bill No. 469 (establishing a system for tax incentives management and transparency);
2. Senate Bill No. 543 (exempting the Bureau of Internal Revenue from the coverage of RA 6758, otherwise known as the Salary Standardization Law); and
3. Senate Bill No. 1187 (establishing a system for tax incentives transparency).

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Legarda stated that 2013 is the National Year of Rice but the occasion has not been given much attention.

Following is the full text of Senator Legarda's speech:

RICE, BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Filipinos are rice-loving citizens. Rice is our staple food and we find it harder to resist eating rice than any other kind of food. In fact, many Filipinos can live with almost any dish as long as they pair it with rice.

The sad fact, however, is that our rice production is greatly affected by the warming climate. If we want to continue enjoying eating rice with our dishes, we have to do something to address the risks brought by climate change and the threat of further rise in global temperature.

I reiterate a World Bank report which stressed that a 4-degree Celsius global temperature would cause flooding in many coastal cities; dry regions are expected to become drier while wet regions will be wetter; there will be extreme heat waves, water scarcity, stronger tropical cyclones, and loss of biodiversity.

We do not hope to reach such global temperature, but at present we are already experiencing weather in extremes, and this

warming climate threatens all aspects of our life, including the most basic of our concerns, including our staple food.

A 2009 study by the Asian Development Bank showed that rice yield in the Philippines can decline by 75% in 2100, which is likely to happen with the lack of climate change adaptation programs, considering that typhoons, floods and droughts from 1970 to 1990 resulted in an 82.4% loss in total Philippine rice production. Moreover, the *El Niño*-related drought from 1990 to 2003 is estimated to have caused U.S.\$370 million in damages to agriculture.

The unusual weather patterns we have been experiencing are bringing about a decrease in production of rice and several essential crops and with the absence of robust adaptation strategies, climate change will further imperil our food security.

President Benigno Aquino declared 2013 as National Year of Rice. This declaration underscores the need to address the concerns of our agricultural sector by ensuring more investments in agricultural research and infrastructure, improving water governance and land use policies, providing better forecasting tools and early warning systems, creating a strengthened extension system that will assist farmers to achieve economic diversification, and access to credit and crop insurance to make significant improvements in the country's food security goals.

Agroforestry is also an effective solution to the problems in agriculture and environment. It serves the dual function of addressing food security and maintaining a balanced ecosystem. Agroforestry improves forest goods and services and increases productivity. It improves soil quality and enhances the conservation of other biomes. Through agroforestry, farmers' incomes are augmented, since cash crops are planted simultaneously with forest trees. This in turn translates to greater access to health services, food, shelter, etc. Agroforestry also improves the quality of water and air, thus promoting water and energy conservation.

Adding to the challenges on rice and food security is the wastage of cooked rice. The 2008 statistics from the Food and Nutrition Research Institute showed that each Filipino wastes an average of two tablespoons of cooked rice daily. When put together, this wastage could feed about 2.6 million Filipinos for one year.

To address this concern, the Philippine Rice Research Institute proposes that one-half cup of

rice should be the default serving size in the food service industry.

It is in this light that I wish to stress the importance of a new exhibition at the National Museum titled, "*Rice, Biodiversity and Climate Change: Celebrating the National Year of Rice.*"

This exhibit, which we opened yesterday, highlights the need to address biodiversity loss and climate change in relation to rice production. We take note that only two of the 20 rice species are being cultivated, an indication that varietal decline and species loss are inevitable.

It is thus important that we ensure a more sustainable future for rice, which is a valuable crop even for our forefathers as demonstrated by the rituals they perform before, during and after harvest. For instance, the Hudhud Chants of the Ifugao, declared by UNESCO as one of the 19 Masterpieces of Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity, are performed in four occasions — the harvesting and weeding of rice, during funeral wakes, and in bone-washing rituals.

Through the exhibit, the National Museum also reveals that the social structure and annual cycle of activities in communities that cultivate rice — marriages, settlement patterns, festivities and seasonal migration, among others, are dictated by the rice production calendar.

This cultural significance as well as the indigenous system of agriculture must be preserved and be brought to the awareness of present generations so that we may have a deeper appreciation of our culture and our staple food.

In closing, I wish to enjoin my colleagues and our citizens to let us appreciate what we are blessed with and translate this appreciation into concrete actions to mitigate climate change, protect our natural resources, and preserve our heritage.

We need to take aggressive and immediate action to adapt to the changing climate and prevent further rise in global temperature or prepare ourselves for meals with no rice at all.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the speech of Senator Legarda was referred to the Committees on Climate Change, and Agriculture and Food.

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CHRISTMAS MESSAGE OF SENATE PRESIDENT DRILON

Before declaring the last session day of 2013 officially adjourned, Senate President Drilon delivered his Christmas message as follows:

We adjourn today to join the Christian world in celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, I wish each of you the blessings of love, joy, peace and good health.

This festive season is an opportune time to express our profound appreciation and gratitude to our family, community, coworkers and friends for their unconditional love and unwavering support. And most of all, to thank our Lord Almighty for the wonderful blessings He bestowed on us.

On a personal note, I wish to thank each and every one of you for the unwavering support that you have given the leadership of the Chamber for the past six months.

As we close our session this year, my heart swells with gratitude and pride as I thank the honorable senators, my colleagues, our staff and the Senate secretariat for initiating relief efforts for our brothers and sisters victimized by *Typhoon Yolanda*, the Bohol earthquake and the siege in Zamboanga City. These catastrophes were of epic proportions killing hundreds of our people and displacing thousands more.

I commend your activities to raise funds for livelihood projects that would help the victims rebuild their lives. Every good thing that you do for them, that we do for them, would make a huge difference in their lives.

On behalf of the Philippine Senate, I would like to assure our people that this democratic institution will continue to be responsive to their needs, institute meaningful reforms and work for the attainment of our development goals.

May the spirit of Christmas remain with us even after the holidays are over and may the coming year bring in more blessings to you and your family.

Merry Christmas and God bless us all. Thank you very much to all of us.

REMARKS OF SENATOR CAYETANO (A)

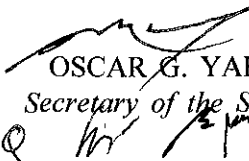
Senator Cayetano (A) prayed that the problems, challenges and devastation of 2013 be effectively addressed in 2014, and also hoped that the successes of 2013 be repeated and amplified in 2014. He wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, Senate President Drilon declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, January 20, 2014.

It was 3:52 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on January 20, 2014