



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 47
Wednesday, January 29, 2014

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 47
Wednesday, January 29, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:14 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

PRAYER

The Body observed a minute of silent prayer.

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.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Marcos Jr., F. R.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Osmeña III, S. R.
Cayetano, P. S.	Poe, G.
Drilon, F. M.	Recto, R. G.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Sotto III, V. C.
Estrada, J.	Villar, C. A.
Honasan, G. B.	

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

Senators Enrile, Escudero, Revilla and Trillanes arrived after the roll call.

Senators Cayetano (A) and Guingona were on official mission.

Senator Legarda was on official mission abroad.

Senators Defensor Santiago and Pimentel were on sick leave.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 46 (January 28, 2014) and considered it approved.

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. 2083, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING MATERNITY
LEAVE BENEFITS TO WOMEN IN
THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy
S. Binay

**To the Committees on Civil Service and
Government Reorganization; and Finance**

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Senate Bill No. 2084, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER INCREASING THE MATERNITY LEAVE BENEFITS OF WOMEN IN PRIVATE SECTOR, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8282, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 2085, entitled:

AN ACT PROVIDING PRE-NATAL LEAVE BENEFITS

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 2086, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE CONDUCT OF COMPETITIVE PUBLIC BIDDING OF MINING RIGHTS AND TENEMENTS, PROVIDING FOR SWISS CHALLENGE PROCEDURES AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7942 OR THE PHILIPPINE MINING ACT OF 1995

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 2087, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2088, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY, ESTABLISHING THE SUGAR CANE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1890, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Ways And Means

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 465, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ENTRY OF SINALOA CARTEL, AN ORGANIZED MEXICAN DRUG SYNDICATE, IN THE PHILIPPINES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PARTICULARLY PROTECTING THE FILIPINO YOUTH, REVIEWING EXISTING STATE POLICIES AND STRENGTHENING ANTI-DRUG AGENCIES TO COMBAT ILLEGAL DRUGS

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 466, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING FILIPINO

FILMMAKER BRILLANTE MENDOZA FOR BEING CONFERRED A *CHEVALIER DANS L'ORDRE DES ARTS ET DES LETTRES* OR KNIGHT OF THE FRENCH ORDER OF ARTS AND LETTERS IN RECOGNITION OF HIS INGENUITY ON FILM DIRECTION AND DEDICATION TO HIS CRAFT WHICH MAKES FILIPINO FILMS RENOWNED INTERNATIONALLY, ESPECIALLY IN FRANCE

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 467, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) TO STRENGTHEN THEIR ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN, IN VIEW OF THE REPORTS THAT REVEALED MEMBERS OF THE AFP TESTED POSITIVE FOR PROHIBITED DRUGS WITH THE INTENTION OF ERADICATING ILLEGAL DRUG ABUSE WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 468, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO CREATE GUIDELINES REGARDING ONLINE SELLING, ADVERTISING AND PROMOTION OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS WITH THE INTENTION OF PROTECTING CONSUMER HEALTHCARE AGAINST COUNTERFEIT PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS BEING SOLD, ADVERTISED AND PROMOTED THROUGH THE INTERNET

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2089, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING CORPORATE FARMING AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR ITS EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Agrarian Reform; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2090, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING CREDIT, GUARANTEE AND INSURANCE SUPPORT OF THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES TO AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES, SMALL FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, CHAPTER IV OF REPUBLIC ACT 3844 ALSO KNOWN AS THE AGRICULTURAL LAND REFORM CODE

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 469, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING A REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, OF STATE POLICIES AND EXISTING LAWS RELATING TO ISLAMIC BANKING, TOWARD THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF "ISLAMIC WINDOWS" THUS MAXIMIZING THE SECTOR'S

FULL POTENTIAL, OFFERING MORE INVESTMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND HELPING SPEED UP THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE PEACE FRAMEWORK OF THE BANGSAMORO

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 470, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON HOW, IN THE PURSUIT OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE, THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM IS ENSURING FINANCIAL RISK PROTECTION AND BENEFIT DELIVERY TO ITS MEMBERS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION AND/OR POLICY THAT WILL FURTHER IMPROVE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE AND QUALITY HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS

Introduced by Senator Guingona III

To the Committee on Health and Demography

COMMUNICATION

Letter from the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, transmitting to the Senate a copy of the report on the recent developments in domestic liquidity conditions in November 2013, pursuant to Section 63 of R. A. No. 7653, or The New Central Bank Act.

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 9 ON SENATE BILL NO. 2043

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no

objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 2043 (Committee Report No. 9), entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA) AS THE SINGLE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, AS AMENDED, AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS OR COVENANTS RELATED THERETO.

Senator Aquino stated that the parliamentary status was still the period of interpellations.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:23 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:25 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Pro Tempore Recto presiding.

Upon resumption, the Chair recognized Senate President Drilon, sponsor of the measure, and Senator Poe for her interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR POE

At the outset, Senator Poe expressed her full support for the bill because she believed that its enactment would ensure the country's compliance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watch-keeping for Seafarers. She also underscored the significance of the proposed legislation considering that the Philippines is the most important source of seafarers in the global shipping industry and in the transport market.

Senator Poe stated that Filipino seafarers are often recruited to man tankers and sea vessels, including those of highly reputable manning companies from Denmark, Japan, Greece, Singapore and Germany.

She disclosed that 27% of the 1.67 million mariners worldwide are Filipinos – the single biggest nationality bloc in the international shipping industry.

Senator Poe then presented her questions on the measure, in particular its implications on the graduates of maritime courses who are confused about which government agencies they would go to for the processing of their documents when they apply as seafarers.

Asked by Senator Poe on the possibility of creating a one-stop shop to process seafarers' documents such as the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), tax identification numbers, professional IDs, SSS, NBI and police clearances in order that the application process is simplified, Senate President Drilon replied that precisely, the purpose of the bill is to simplify the process by establishing the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) as the single maritime agency responsible for the implementation of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers. He confirmed that numerous agencies are involved in the maritime industry, such as the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) and Department of Health (DOH), causing a lot of difficulties and confusion to aspiring officers and seamen. He expressed hope that the bill would be able to consolidate the responsibility under MARINA.

Senate President Drilon explained that under the bill, MARINA will administer the seafarers' examinations and will actively participate in the formulation of policies and curricula together with the CHED and TESDA. However, he said that the regulation of the establishment, use and operation of all radio stations and all forms of radio communication and transmitters in the country would remain with the NTC, while the authority of MARINA under the bill as regards telecommunications would be limited to the issuance of the Certificate of Competency for Global Maritime Distress and Safety System to radio operators.

Asked whether by the passage of the measure the applicant seafarers would then only need to go to one place to get the required documents, Senate President Drilon replied that the Certificate of Competency and the Certificate of Proficiency would now be issued by MARINA but the medical

certificates would still be issued by accredited hospitals and clinics which will remain under the supervision of the Authority.

Asked if the seafarers are represented in the present Maritime Board, Senate President Drilon replied in the affirmative. However, he said that there would be a change in its membership because the Secretary of National Defense would be replaced by the Commandant of the Philippine Coast Guard.

In closing, Senator Poe reiterated her support for the measure which she believed would give due recognition to the invaluable contribution of Filipino seafarers and maritime workers to the international shipping industry.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, the session was suspended.

It was 3:33 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:34 p.m., the session was resumed.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Adverting to the objective of the measure which is to establish a single maritime administration in conformity with related international agreements or covenants, Senator Sotto asked how important international agreements are to the bill.

In reply, Senate President Drilon explained that the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers was entered into in order to provide a safe shipping environment and to ensure that seafarers across the world would possess a high standard of competence and professionalism in their duties. He said that by the very nature of the maritime industry, a ship owner or agent cannot ascertain a marine deck's or engine officer's qualifications unlike in other professions, making them rely solely on certificates of competency and/or proficiency issued by the appropriate government agency. He said that it is very critical that the standards found in the agreement are followed to ensure the safety of all those who are involved in maritime training.

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As regards the importance of entering into international agreements, Senate President Drilon explained that noncompliance with the obligations exposes the country to retaliation and sanctions that would be detrimental to the national interest and economy. He stressed the need to enact into law the proposed measure so that the concerns of the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) could be addressed, otherwise, it would be entirely possible for the European Union to ban Filipino seafarers, putting 80,000 jobs at risk. He said that a ban by other jurisdictions could further prejudice 380,000 more jobs, resulting in the possible loss of about P5 billion in foreign remittances.

Senator Sotto asked if there is still a need for the bill considering that Executive Order No. 75, signed by President Aquino in April 2012, designated the DOTC, through the MARINA, as the single administrative agency that would ensure compliance with the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers, or the STCW Convention.

Senate President Drilon replied that EO 75 would be carried out only partially because there is still a need for legislative action as regards the jurisdiction, power and functions of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), the agency that conducts the examinations of marine officers and issues the Certificates of Competency. He said that this provision cannot be addressed by the executive order because it is found in the law, thus, legislative action by Congress is required to institutionalize the changes under EO 75.

Asked what areas of concern would be carried out in light of the partial implementation of EO 75, Senate President Drilon stated that the measure transfers the authority to conduct examinations to officers from PRC to MARINA which at present could not be implemented by the executive order absent any legislation.

Asked if there are officials and employees who would be affected by the transfer to MARINA of certain powers and functions of the PRC, CHED, TESDA, DOH and NTC, Senate President Drilon assured that there would be no dislocation of personnel particularly in the PRC because it is only the maritime board that would be transferred to MARINA. He added that the members of the board will continue to enjoy their privileges, their term shall

not be disturbed or shortened, and they will not need any new appointment. He reiterated that there will be no adverse effect on the personnel of the bureaucracy.

Senator Sotto noted that the bill designates MARINA as the single and central maritime administration that would ensure compliance with the STCW Convention, and mandates it to coordinate with the DOH to ensure that the medical standards that ascertain the physical fitness of seafarers are in accordance with the Convention. He then asked on the possibility of designating medical practitioners to MARINA to shorten the process, as he noted that at present, it is the DOH that conducts the medical test.

Senate President Drilon stated that MARINA cannot have such kind of competency because the accreditation of medical institutions that would examine prospective seafarers would still belong to the DOH. However, he assured that MARINA will have oversight functions over the operation of DOH-accredited medical centers for the purpose of ensuring that the medical standards are in accordance with international treaties and existing laws. Under the bill, he reiterated that MARINA would just exercise oversight functions while the DOH would continue to perform the role of accrediting the medical institutions.

On the proposal to hire medical practitioners for MARINA, Senate President Drilon said that there is no desire to put into MARINA additional personnel just to perform the function of accreditation.

Noting the transfer of functions from TESDA to MARINA as embodied in the Memorandum of Agreement executed last March 18, 2013, between the two agencies, Senator Sotto inquired if there are other functions in the bill which would be transferred to MARINA aside from those mentioned in the MOA. Senate President Drilon replied that the functions would be the same, except that they would be institutionalized by law since a MOA could always be rescinded by the parties concerned.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, the session was suspended.

It was 3:48 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:49 p.m., the session was resumed.

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SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 2043

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Aquino acknowledged the presence in the gallery of Vice Mayor Tina Diaz of San Mateo, Rizal, and students from Olivarez College headed by Ms. Catherine Gawad.

Senate President Pro Tempore Recto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 58

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 58, entitled

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING AND COMMENDING THE ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS, PHILANTHROPY AND EDUCATION ADVOCACY OF MR. ALLAN "apl.de.ap" PINEDA.

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Atty. Edwin B. Bellen, read the text of the resolution, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Philippines, on several occasions, has recognized and extended accolades to outstanding Filipinos for achieving international renown in the field of music and the arts while extolling the Filipino virtues of perseverance, resilience and hardwork;

WHEREAS, among such Filipino artists is a member of the group, "Black Eyed Peas", Mr. Allan "apl.de.ap" Pineda, who had infused elements of the Filipino culture in his various acts and performances that earned critical international acclaim;

WHEREAS, on account of his fame, good fortune and kind heart, Mr. Pineda has been an active ambassador and partner in the promotion of education in the Philippines, particularly among the children and underprivileged;

WHEREAS, in 2012, Mr. Pineda was among the Ten Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardees of the Philippines recognized by the

Junior Chamber International-Philippines, Inc., the Gerry Roxas Foundation, Inc. and the TOYM Foundation, Inc.;

WHEREAS, the recognition conferred to Mr. Pineda as one of the 2012 TOYM awardees was anchored not only on his achievements in the international music scene; more importantly, the distinction was given on account of the establishment of the "apl.de.ap" Foundation, a socio-civic minded organization committed to improving the welfare of Filipino children as well as the formation of Jeepney Music, Inc., a company organized to provide opportunities to emerging Filipino artists;

WHEREAS, through these organizations, Mr. Pineda has progressed his efforts to extend the opportunities of basic and higher education to a greater number of underprivileged but deserving youth in our country; in close cooperation with similarly-minded organizations like the Ninoy and Cory Aquino Foundation, Ayala Foundation, Inc., the Philippine Development Foundation and the 57-55 Movement for Educational Reform, Mr. Pineda has committed to help close the classroom-student gap in the country thru the "Bayanihang Pampaaralan" initiative; establish a mentoring program; and put up an endowment fund for the benefit of deserving students;

WHEREAS, on account of his accomplishments, Mr. Pineda stands not only as an example of professional success borne out of hardwork and perseverance but also a model for social consciousness and nationalism that our fellow Filipinos should emulate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines acknowledge and commend the artistic achievements, philanthropy and education advocacy campaign of Mr. Allan "apl.de.ap" Pineda, who has been an effective ambassador of music and the arts, as well as a paragon of professional success, social consciousness and nationalism.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 58

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 58 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 130

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no

objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 130, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING MARIA SUSANA "TOOTS" OPLE FOR HAVING BEEN CONFERRED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA THE GLOBAL TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (TIP) HERO AWARD FOR 2013 FOR HER PERSISTENT AND UNYIELDING EFFORT TO CURB HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation read the text of the resolution, to wit:

WHEREAS, in the recent US State Department's Annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Report, the Philippines sustained its Tier 2 status which officially recognizes the country's significant efforts to adhere to the benchmarks prescribed in meeting the minimum standards to address human trafficking;

WHEREAS, the annual TIP Hero Award "recognizes individuals who have devoted their lives to the fight against human trafficking. Through their efforts preventing trafficking, protecting victims, and prosecuting offenders, TIP Heroes are at the forefront of the fight to end modern day slavery";

WHEREAS, the Philippine Government is vigorously and actively working on fully complying with the minimum standards for the elimination of the severe forms of trafficking as provided under the 2000 Trafficking Victims Protection's Act of the United States in order to attain a Tier 1 status, the highest rank a country may receive;

WHEREAS, the private sector, represented by various civic and people's organizations, are active and invaluable partners of the government which makes its anti-trafficking efforts more holistic, responsive, and effective;

WHEREAS, Maria Susana "Toots" Ople is the President of the Blas Ople Policy Center and Training Institute that advocates labor and migration issues, particularly in addressing and fighting human trafficking;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ople has been selflessly dedicated to this advocacy for years now and has, in fact, earned the respect of the international academe when she was given the Harvard Alumni Achievement Award by the

John F. Kennedy School in 2010 in recognition of her active campaign against human trafficking;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ople having contributed greatly in the Philippine government's efforts to curb human trafficking was chosen as the Global Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Hero Award for 2013 from among different nominees endorsed by various embassies and consulates around the world;

WHEREAS, on 19 June 2013, Ms. Ople received the Global TIP Hero Award from US State Secretary John Kerry in a ceremony held in Washington, D.C. She was the only Asian awardee for this year;

WHEREAS, in congratulating Ms. Ople, US Ambassador to the Philippines Harry K. Thomas Jr. referred to her as the OFWs' "'nanay' in the truest spirit of the word";

WHEREAS, as the award is another feather on her cap, Ms. Ople once again brought pride and honor to our country;

WHEREAS, Ms. Ople and the international recognition she recently received strengthens the resolve of both the government and the private sector to continue and even intensify their efforts against modern-day slavery;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Philippine Senate commends Maria Susana "Toots" Ople for having been conferred the Global Trafficking in Persons (TIP) Hero Award for 2013.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 130

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 130 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 181

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 181, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING VETERAN FILIPINO ACTOR JOEL TORRE FOR WINNING THE BEST ACTOR AWARD IN THE 17TH PUNCHEON INTERNATIONAL FANTASTIC FILM FESTIVAL (PI FAN) HELD IN BUCHEON GYMNASIUM, JUNG-

DONG, GYEONGGI-DO, SOUTH KOREA ON JULY 18, 2013.

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation read the text of the resolution, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Philippine Senate has, on several occasions, paid tribute to outstanding Filipinos for their astonishing feats which have brought home pride and honor to the country, such as their winning awards in international events and competitions;

WHEREAS, Filipino actor Joel Torre gave the country pride when he won the Best Actor Award in the 17th Pucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (PiFan) held in Bucheon Gymnasium, Jung-dong, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea on July 18, 2013 for the movie "On the Job," a movie entry that also garnered the Jury's Choice award;

WHEREAS, the PiFan is an international film festival held annually every July in Bucheon, South Korea, with a focus on mainly horror, thriller, mystery, and fantasy films, giving particular attention to films from East Asia and Southeast Asia;

WHEREAS, the achievement by our Filipino actor deserves to be commended for the honor and recognition he has brought to the industry and to our country;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, to congratulate and commend veteran Filipino actor Joel Torre for winning the Best Actor Award in the 17th Pucheon International Fantastic Film Festival (PiFan) held in Bucheon Gymnasium, Jung-dong, Gyeonggi-do, South Korea on July 18, 2013.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 181

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 181 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 328

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 328, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE FILIPINO MEMBERS OF THE ORGANIZA-

TION FOR THE PROHIBITION OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS FOR THEIR EFFORTS AGAINST CHEMICAL WARFARE AND FOR EARNING A NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR 2013.

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation read the text of the resolution, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Philippine Senate on several occasions has recognized talented Filipinos for their outstanding achievements and contributions to humanity;

WHEREAS, the Philippines shares in the pride earned by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) whose ten (10) Filipino members, namely: Franz Ontal, Criselda Javelosa Van Dasler, Helen Andriessen, Gemma van Oudheusden-Vincoy, Jenniefer Balatbat, Allan Laroza, Roycelynne Reyes, Mary Ann Nieto-Schroor, Michael Conche, and Emily Castriciones, were part of the team which won the distinguished Nobel Peace Prize;

WHEREAS, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) is an international organization tasked by contracting States to monitor and stand guard over the global prohibition against chemical weapons;

WHEREAS, the use of chemical weapons in conflicts, such as in the recent struggle in Syria, leads to horrific and heinous biological, ecological, and environmental results thereby wreaking untold devastation in the lives of persons within affected areas;

WHEREAS, the tireless and humble efforts of the OPCW as a global watchdog against chemical warfare has advanced the goal of eradicating the use of chemical weapons;

WHEREAS, the Nobel Committee recognized and commended the continuing efforts and increasing success of the OPCW by awarding the institution with the Nobel Peace Prize for 2013;

WHEREAS, the Nobel Peace Prize is the most prestigious international prize awarded annually to individuals and institutions who have accomplished the best work towards the building of "fraternity between nations," the "abolition or reduction of standing armies," and the "holding and promotion of peace congresses";

WHEREAS, the dedicated advocacy of these ten (10) Filipino members exemplify the talent, skill, and intelligence of the Filipino thereby

marking Filipino talent as truly international in caliber;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate of the Philippines, with deep pride and honor, commends and congratulates the Filipino members of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for their efforts against chemical warfare and for earning a Nobel Peace Prize for 2013, namely:

1. Franz Ontal
2. Criselda Javelosa Van Dasler
3. Helen Andriessen
4. Gemma van Oudheusden-Vincoy
5. Jenniefer Balatbat
6. Allan Laroza
7. Roycelynne Reyes
8. Mary Ann Nieto-Schroor
9. Michael Conche
10. Emily Castriciones.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 328

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 328 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 355

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 355, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MARIA LOURDES "MALOU" C. MANGAHAS, JARIUS Y. BONDOC, AND RODRIGO "JIGGY" D. MANICAD, JR. FOR BEING NAMED THE 2013 JOURNALISTS OF THE YEAR (JOY) HONORED BY THE METROBANK FOUNDATION, INC. AND PROBE MEDIA FOUNDATION, INC. (PMFI).

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation read the text of the resolution, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Journalists of the Year (JOY) is a search undertaken by the Metrobank Foundation, Inc. and Probe Media Foundation, Inc. (PMFI) to recognize outstanding journalists whose work not only inspired and influenced

their audience, but sparked social change and contributed to nation building;

WHEREAS, the Metrobank Foundation, Inc. recognized its first set of Journalists of the Year in 2001 with Sheila Coronel, Jessica Soho and Armando Malay as awardees, whose work inspired significant changes in their respective fields of journalism;

WHEREAS, nominees for Journalists of the Year went through a rigorous screening process where five (5) of their best works in the past decade were judged based on a set criteria, after which, selected finalists moved on for final judging and were interviewed by the Final Board of Judges with Chief Justice Maria Lourdes P. A. Sereno as head, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) chairperson Dr. Patricia B. Licuanan as Vice Chairperson, and Very Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy (96th Rector of the University of Santo Tomas), Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman (former President of the University of the Philippines System), Carmencita T. Abella (President of the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation), Dr. Florangel Rosario-Braid (President Emeritus and Senior Adviser of the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication), and Prof. Julkipli M. Wadi (Dean of the UP Institute of Islamic Studies);

WHEREAS, the Journalists of the Year awards were given to: Maria Lourdes "Malou" C. Mangahas, host of GMA News TV Channel 11 "Investigative Documentaries" and Executive Director of the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism; Jarius Y. Bondoc, columnist for The Philippine Star and host of DWIZ's radio program "Sapol ni Jarius Bondoc"; and Rodrigo "Jiggy" D. Manicad, Jr., news producer of GMA7 News & Public Affairs and anchor of GMA7's Reporters' Notebook, 24 Oras Weekend, and GMA News TV Channel 11's Quick Response Team;

WHEREAS, the Senate of the Philippines proudly joins the Metrobank Foundation, Inc. and Probe Media Foundation, Inc. in congratulating and commending Maria Lourdes "Malou" C. Mangahas, Jarius Y. Bondoc, and Rodrigo "Jiggy" D. Manicad Jr. who have served as infrastructures for continuing excellence and provided greater impact on their respective spheres of influence through the 2013 Journalists of the Year award;

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines congratulates and commends Maria Lourdes "Malou" C. Mangahas, Jarius Y. Bondoc, and Rodrigo "Jiggy" D. Manicad, Jr. for being named the 2013

Journalists of the Year (JOY) honored by the Metrobank Foundation, Inc. and Probe Media Foundation, Inc. (PMFI).

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 355**

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 355 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 421

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 421, entitled

**RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND
COMMENDING THE RECIPIENTS
OF "THE OUTSTANDING YOUNG
MEN" (TOYM) OF THE PHILIPPINES
2013 AWARD HONORED BY THE
JUNIOR CHAMBER INTERNATIONAL
- PHILIPPINES, INC., THE GERRY
ROXAS FOUNDATION, INC., AND
THE TOYM FOUNDATION, INC.,**

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 451.

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation read the text of the resolution, to wit:

WHEREAS, "The Outstanding Young Men" (TOYM) Awards is an annual project organized and presented by the Junior Chamber International – Philippines, otherwise known as the Philippine Jaycees, the Gerry Roxas Foundation, Inc., and the TOYM Foundation, Inc., since 1959;

WHEREAS, the TOYM Awards seeks to recognize young men and women whose selfless dedication to their profession and fields of endeavor resulted to significant contributions to Philippine growth thereby benefitting the Filipino people;

WHEREAS, the Junior Chamber International - Philippines chose nine (9) exceptional individuals from the long list of nominees to receive the respected TOYM Award that would best embody this year's theme, which is "Heroes Need Heroes";

WHEREAS, Emerson Atanacio, President and CEO of the National College of Science and Technology, is not only the youngest Filipino to

hold such positions in a college, but is further hailed as the Father of Manufacturing and Production Technology Education, a program that serves as a valuable tool in the alleviation of poverty in the country by encouraging school drop outs to re-integrate into the educational system;

WHEREAS, Nicole Paula Curato, a professor in the University of the Philippines who is consistently hailed by students as one of the best professors in the premier state university, has stood out as a critical voice for political watchdogs by promoting democratic literacy through projects such as the UP Fact Check launched for the 2013 elections as well as by writing thought-provoking commentaries on politics, social justice, and ethics;

WHEREAS, Custer Deocaris, one of the most published Filipino scientists with 79 publications and several publication awards and the Founder of the non-government organization Luntiang Lunes, brought particular distinction to the country with his work on immortalization, aging and mortalin/GRP 75, which yielded now-patented works for peptide vaccines and other molecular interventions that can manipulate aging and cancer-formation;

WHEREAS, Miguel Rene Dominguez, one of the best performing young politicians in the country, served as governor of Sarangani province in 2004 at the young age of 26 and earned the distinction and honor of putting the province ahead as a booming tourism and investment hub in the country;

WHEREAS, June Cheryl Cabal-Revilla is one of the founding members of Gabay Guro, a non-government organization whose goal is to strengthen the educational system in the country by providing computers, classrooms and Internet connectivity to public schools, and by promoting the competence and welfare of some 700 teacher-scholars and 40,000 teacher-trainees through scholarships, livelihood trainings, and programs for housing;

WHEREAS, Alonzo Gabriel Al, an Associate Professor and University Scientist at the University of the Philippines - Diliman campus, contributed greatly to the field of food science and technology by making his research findings freely available to other scientists, researchers and the general public when he chose not to patent his research and instead open his intellectual property and proprietary rights over his work thereby benefitting the food industry, particularly the micro and small scale enterprises as well as small scale farmers and fisherfolk;

WHEREAS, Dr. Karl Michael Reyes, pioneered and promoted the growth of the health sector as regards congenital heart diseases by establishing the first private Center for Congenital Heart Disease in the Philippines thereby promoting not only national medical tourism but also making available crucial health services needed by Filipinos; by leading the Philippine chapter of the Gift of Life International program, an international organization providing treatments for congenital heart disease and offering training missions; and by establishing Operation Heart Foundation, Inc., which coordinates medical and surgical heart treatments for patients and places donor funding for patient care;

WHEREAS, Dr. Paolo Antonio S. Silva, a distinguished instructor at Harvard Medical School who returned to the country to practice his profession and help his countrymen, directed the local efforts of the Joslin Vision Network, a telemedicine enabling technology developed by the Joslin Diabetes Center in Harvard Medical School and led the establishment of the first Teleophthalmology program for diabetic retinal disease in the Philippines for which he is the Co-Director at Medical City hospital which has aided hundreds of Filipinos;

WHEREAS, Christopher John Alandy Tiu, a professional basketball player at the Philippine Basketball Association, served as a model in shaping the values of today's Filipino youth through his example of hard work, humility, perseverance and sacrifice as seen through his dedication as member and team captain, for the period of 2008 to 2012, of the Philippine National Team for basketball, Smart Gilas and through his success and unwavering fortitude of character in the face of the challenges he faced as an entrepreneur, TV host, product endorser and civil servant;

WHEREAS, this year's awardees will join the ranks of outstanding Filipinos who have been honored by the Junior Chamber International - Philippines throughout the past 54 years;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Senate proudly joins the Junior Chamber International-Philippines, Inc., the Gerry Roxas Foundation, Inc., and the TOYM Foundation, Inc. in congratulating and commending the Filipinos who have proven their mettle for service of the greater good through The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) of the Philippines 2013;

RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate of the Philippines congratulates and commends the recipients of "The Outstand-

ing Young Men" (TOYM) of the Philippines 2013 award honored by the Junior Chamber International-Philippines, Inc., the Gerry Roxas Foundation, Inc., and the TOYM Foundation, Inc., namely:

1. Emerson Atanacio for Social Entrepreneurship
2. Nicole Paula Curato for Sociology
3. Custer Deocariz for Science Communications
4. Miguel Rene Dominguez for Government and Public Service
5. June Cheryl Cabal-Revilla for Community Service
6. Alonzo Gabriel for Food Science & Technology
7. Karl Michael Reyes for Medicine
8. Paolo Antonio S. Silva for Medicine
9. Christopher John Alandy Tiu for Youth Leadership Development.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR SOTTO

Asked by Senator Sotto on the number of Senate resolutions that were adopted that day, Senator Aquino replied that a total of six had been taken up during the session.

Senator Sotto recalled that in the 15th Congress, he and Senate President Drilon discussed the importance of ensuring that such resolutions are given out judiciously. He clarified that he was not against the passage of such forms of recognition, but he hoped that the authors or sponsors would give due importance to the resolutions by sponsoring them on the floor, and that the committees concerned would carefully study the resolutions before they are taken up by the Body.

For his part, Senate President Pro Tempore Recto likewise expressed hope that the recipients would be around when the resolutions are sponsored on the floor.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, the session was suspended.

It was 4:15 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:15 p.m., the session was resumed.

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 421**

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 421, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 451, was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE
PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Aquino acknowledged the presence in the gallery of students from Isabela State University headed by Dr. Quirino Paralag.

Senate President Pro Tempore Recto welcomed the guests to the Senate.

**SECOND ADDITIONAL
REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation read Proposed Senate Resolution No. 471, which the Chair referred to the Committee on Rules, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PEACE, UNIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT ON THE BANGSAMORO AND THE ANNEXES THAT HAVE BEEN PASSED AND SIGNED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT, WITH THE END OF VIEW OF GAINING A FIRMER GRASP OF THE ISSUES AND CHALLENGES THAT WILL BE FACED BY THE NATION WITH THE IMPENDING PASSAGE OF THE BANGSAMORO BASIC LAW.

Introduced by Senator Guingona III

CHANGE OF REFERRAL

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, the Body approved the change of referral of the following bills:

- Senate Bill No. 2045 (Bigger Pie, Bigger Slice bill), from the Committee on Ways on Means to the Committee on Local Government;
- Senate Bill No. 1032 (Youth Entrepreneurship bill), from the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, now becoming the secondary committee, to the Committee on Youth as the primary committee; and
- Senate Bill No. 1210 (Anti-Trust Act of the Philippines) and Senate Bill No. 1453 (Fair Competition Law), from the Committee on Economic Affairs, now becoming the secondary committee, to the Committee on Justice and Human Rights as the primary committee.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, the session was suspended.

It was 4:18 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:19 p.m., the session was resumed.

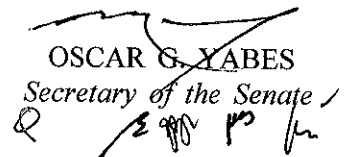
ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, the Senate President Pro Tempore declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, February 3, 2014.

It was 4:19 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate



Approved on February 3, 2014