



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 48
Monday, February 3, 2014

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 48
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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:20 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Sonny Angara led the prayer, to wit:

Mahal naming Panginoon, kami ay taos-pusong nagbibigay-pugay sa Iyong kadakilaan. Kami ay nagpapasalamat sa mga biyayang ipinagkaloob Mo sa amin —sa aming malusog na pangangatawan at kaisipan, sa aming pamilya, at sa pagkakataong makapaglingkod sa bayan.

Gamitin Mo po kami, O Diyos, na instrumento upang aming makamtan ang kapayapaan at kasaganaang inaasam ng aming bayan.

To achieve this dream is not an easy task for we have different views, O Lord, but we remain hopeful as we place our dreams in Your hands. And that is why we now ask You to lead us for we know and believe that nothing is impossible with You.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Thessalonian Singing Ambassadors led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song, entitled *Malaya Ka Na Pilipino*.

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.	Honasan, G. B.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Cayetano, P. S.	Poe, G.
Drilon, F. M.	Recto, R. G.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Enrile, J. P.	Sotto III, V. C.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Trillanes IV, A. F.
Estrada, J.	Villar, C. A.
Guingona III, T. L.	

With 21 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Osmeña arrived after the roll call.

Senator Marcos was on official omission.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

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. 47 (January 29, 2014) and considered it approved.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (A) acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests:

- Mrs. Bing Pimentel, the mother of Senator Pimentel, and her visitors from Belgium, Mr. Eric Burgess and Mrs. Jacqueline Burgess;
- Delegates from the Municipality of Salcedo, Eastern Samar, headed by Mayor Melchor Mergal and Vice Mayor Francisco Conag; members of the *Sangguniang Bayan*, namely, Julio Fabillar Jr., Flora Badanoy, Susan Sumook, Adam Ranit, Noel Abunales, Rosie Palconite and Victoria Pelicano;
- Mr. Antonio Waniwan, President of the Association of Barangay Councils; *Sangguniang Barangay* Secretary Ms. Torres and Administrative Assistant, Mr. Jason Waniwan; and Mr. Joselito Esquiedo, Secretary to the Mayor, and lead coordinator for Resource Mobilization and External Linkages of Eastern Samar State University;
- Mr. Kirk Asis, Councilor of Bayugan City, Agusan del Sur; and
- Mr. Paolo Crisostomo, President of the Association of Barangay Councils of Silang, Cavite.

Senate President Drilon welcomed the guests to the Senate.

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. 2091, entitled

AN ACT RECOGNIZING SECURITY COOPERATIVES AND AMENDING THEREFOR SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC

ACT NO. 5487, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PRIVATE SECURITY AGENCY LAW

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Cooperatives

Senate Bill No. 2092, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND PROMOTING MEDICAL TOURISM IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Tourism; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2093, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF MUNICIPAL AGRICULTURISTS IN MUNICIPALITIES WHERE AGRICULTURE IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 443 AND 482(A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Local Government; Agriculture and Food; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2094, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 2 AND SECTION 9 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 2095, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF

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URBAN AGRICULTURE AND VERTICAL FARMING IN THE COUNTRY'S METROPOLITAN AREAS TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY CONCERN AND REGENERATE ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2096, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AUTOMATIC ADJUSTMENT OF THE BASIC MONTHLY PENSION FOR RETIRED PERSONNEL COVERED BY THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM AND SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM TO THE PREVAILING COST OF LIVING INDEX

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 472, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEES ON YOUTH; AND WOMEN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY TO REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PROLIFERATION OF CYBERSEX DENS THAT FORCE CHILDREN, MINORS AND WOMEN TO PERFORM SEXUAL AND LASCIVIOUS ACTS BEFORE A WEBCAM FOR MONEY WITH THE INTENTION OF STRENGTHENING AND TIGHTENING EXISTING RELEVANT LAWS

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Justice and Human Rights

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 473, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO MOVIE ACTRESS AND BATANGAS GOVERNOR VILMA SANTOS-RECTO FOR WINNING THE BEST ACTRESS AWARD IN THE 13th DHAKA INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL ON 18 JANUARY 2014 AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM AUDITORIUM IN DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

COMMUNICATION

Letter from the National Economic and Development Authority, dated 13 January 2014, submitting to the Senate the list of foreign retailers selling high-end or luxury goods pursuant to Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8762 otherwise known as the "Retail Trade Liberalization Act of 2000."

To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Economic Affairs

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 9 ON SENATE BILL NO. 2043 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), 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 Cayetano (A) stated that the parliamentary status was still the period of interpellations.

Handwritten initials and a flourish at the bottom right of the page.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the session was suspended.

It was 3:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:35 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.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT DRILON

Senate President Drilon manifested that Senator Defensor Santiago would no longer avail herself of the period of interpellations while Senator Osmeña had told him that his questions were already answered and that he has no other concerns on the measure.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

There being no further interpellation, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations and proceeded to the period of committee amendments.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Drilon, there being no objection, the session was suspended.

It was 3:37 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:39 p.m., the session was resumed.

PROPOSED COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

On page 1, Senate President Drilon proposed to delete the phrase "to be known as the" on line 13, to insert the article "a" before the phrase "single maritime administration," and delete the comma (,) after it.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto asked on the reason for the proposal

to delete the phrase "to be known as the" on line 13, noting that there seemed to be something lacking in the sentence as worded. He suggested the insertion of the conjunction AND instead of the comma (,) after the word "structure". In reply, Senate President Drilon explained that the amendment was proposed to conform with the House version. Also, he said that the amendment was not really substantial but that it simply emphasizes that the State shall create a single maritime administration.

Senator Sotto proposed the insertion of the word OF after the word "structure" instead of a comma (,) so that the phrase would read, THE STATE SHALL CREATE AN ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM AND STRUCTURE OF A SINGLE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION x x x.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senate President Drilon, the session was suspended.

It was 3:42 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:43 p.m., the session was resumed.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senate President Drilon, there being no objection, the following committee amendments were approved by the Body, one after the other:

Page 1

1. Rephrase lines 13 and 14 to read as follows:

THE STATE SHALL CREATE A SINGLE MARITIME ADMINISTRATIVE SYSTEM AND STRUCTURE THAT SHALL PROVIDE AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE BUSINESS OF SEAFARING x x x;

2. On line 19, replace the letter "s" with the letter Z in the word "harmonise";

Page 2

3. On line 19, delete the phrase "shall refer to";
4. On line 20, insert the words MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY before the acronym "MARINA," and enclose the acronym "MARINA" in parentheses;

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5. On line 22, after the word "employed," replace the word "or" with a comma (,);
6. Between lines 26 and 27, insert a new Section 3 to read as follows:

SECTION 3. *MARINA AS A SINGLE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION.* – THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA), CREATED UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 474, AS AMENDED, SHALL BE THE SINGLE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION MANDATED TO IMPLEMENT AND ENFORCE THE 1978 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS. IT SHALL CARRY OUT AN EFFECTIVE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK, CONDUCIVE TO EFFICIENCY, TRANSPARENCY AND COMPETITIVENESS OF THE PHILIPPINE SEAFARING INDUSTRY.

7. Renumber "Section 3" as SECTION 4;

Page 3

8. On line 7, delete the phrase "provisions herein below," and in lieu thereof, insert the word FOLLOWING;

At this juncture, the session was suspended and was resumed shortly thereafter.

9. On lines 10 to 13, delete the sentence "To this end, Republic Act No. 8544 or the Philippine Merchant Marine Officer Act of 1998 is hereby amended to the effect that all powers, duties, and functions of the PRC mentioned therein shall be exercised by the MARINA insofar as they are related to marine deck and engine officers," and in lieu thereof, insert the following sentence:

ALL POWERS, DUTIES, AND FUNCTIONS OF THE PRC ON EXAMINATION, LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR MARINE DECK AND ENGINE OFFICERS AS PROVIDED IN R.A. NO. 8544, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE MERCHANT MARINE OFFICER ACT OF 1998, SHALL HENCEFORTH BE EXERCISED BY MARINA.

10. On line 28, before the phrase "under the STCW Convention," insert the phrase IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS;

Page 4

11. On lines 6 and 7, delete the phrase "in

accordance with CHED or other recognized international organizations";

12. On line 8, after the words "training institutions," insert the phrase IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS OF CHED AND OTHER RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS;

13. Delete lines 29 to 35;

Page 5

14. Delete lines 1 to 9;
15. On line 14, after the phrase "pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 474," insert the phrase CREATING THE MARINA;
16. On line 30, replace the word "possible" with WAY;

Page 6

17. On line 7, *Repealing Clause*, before the words "All existing laws," insert the following sentence: THE PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 474 ON THE COMPOSITION OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY BOARD AND ALL THE PROVISIONS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8544 RELATING TO THE EXAMINATION, LICENSING AND CERTIFICATION SYSTEM FOR MARINE DECK AND ENGINE OFFICERS ARE HEREBY AMENDED.

18. On line 10, after the word "Effectivity," insert the word CLAUSE;

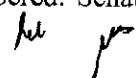
19. On line 11, after the words "publication in," insert the phrase THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OR IN;

20. On the title of the bill, insert the year 1978, so that it shall read as follows:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA) AS THE SINGLE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE 1978 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION, AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, AS AMENDED, AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS OR COVENANTS RELATED THERETO.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR SOTTO

At this juncture, Senator Sotto inquired if the sections in the bill have been renumbered. Senator



Drilon said that only Section 3 has been renumbered following the deletion of the original Section 4.

Asked whether it was no longer needed for the Act to be published in a national paper of general circulation if it was already published in the *Official Gazette*, Senate President Drilon replied that its publication in the *Official Gazette*, which is found in the version of the House of Representatives, would be deemed as compliance with the requirement.

To Senator Sotto's concern that publication in the *Official Gazette* is not enough to ensure that seafarers and other people would be adequately informed, Senate President Drilon replied that the *Official Gazette* is online and easily accessible. Moreover, he noted that although in the recent past, such items were published either in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation to provide for flexibility, nothing prevents the MARINA from publishing it in a newspaper of general circulation as well as in the *Official Gazette* to allow for maximum publicity.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body closed the period of committee amendments and opened the period of individual amendments.

CAYETANO (P) AMENDMENT

Adverting to Section 3 (*Powers and Functions of the MARINA*), in particular items (i) and (v), Senator Cayetano (P) asked for the rationale behind the word "existing" in the phrase "existing rules and regulations." She clarified that she only wanted to ensure that the CHED is empowered to close or phase out substandard institutions and that it should be guided not only by existing rules but future rules as well.

On page 4, line 14, as proposed by Senator Cayetano (P) and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the deletion of the word "existing."

INQUIRY OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

As regards Section 4(d)(vi), Senator Cayetano (P) asked whether the provision contemplates a situation

where the MARINA would allow a graduating batch to finish the courses before these are phased out. Senate President Drilon explained that the publication of the list of phased-out programs aims to inform the public that a particular training program, for instance, has been phased out. Moreover, he said that the provision would provide the MARINA legal protection as the law would mandate such information to be published.

Senator Cayetano (P) noted that in the past, MARINA might have been pressured not to make public those phased-out programs due to the negative publicity it might bring to the school concerned. She stressed the importance of having the law mandate MARINA to inform the public not only of a school's closure but of the details involved in it. Senate President Drilon gave assurance that the provision intends to protect the public and prospective students that would enroll in such courses.

Asked whether the continued operation of such institution is covered and penalized in another law, Senate President Drilon affirmed that it is contained in the CHED law.

As regards Section 4(d)(v), Senator Cayetano (P) asked if closures shall continue to be decided by the CHED *en banc* consistent with the general rule, Senate President Drilon replied in the affirmative.

On whether the CHED can unilaterally receive and act upon recommendations or complaints from the public about substandard performance of schools, Senate President Drilon explained that although the CHED is not prohibited from receiving such complaints, it would be more practical for it to bring the complaint to a technical panel.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body closed the period of individual amendments.

APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 2043 ON SECOND READING.

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, the Body approved Senate Bill No. 2043 on Second Reading.

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COAUTHORS

Acting on the request of Senator Cayetano (P) and at the instance of Senate President Drilon, all Members present were made coauthors of Senate Bill No. 2043.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 2043

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), the session was suspended to allow the Members to greet Senator Legarda on the occasion of her birthday last January 28.

It was 4:11 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:12 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Drilon presiding.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (A) acknowledged the presence of Dr. Samuel So and Furenza Lucas from the Stanford University-Asian Liver Center, and members of the Philippine Cancer Society led by Dr. Rachelle Marie Rosario, Mr. Romeo Mercaida and Ms. Jenny Avila.

Senate President Drilon welcomed the guests to the Senate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:13 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:13 p.m., the session was resumed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Legarda delivered the following speech:

LEARNING FROM THE PAST TO BUILD A RESILIENT FUTURE

It is nearly three months post-*Yolanda* and challenges continue to arise as many of the survivors either continue to depend on government and foreign aid or make use of their resourcefulness to make both ends meet.

I rise today to stress on this message: We do not build resilience through relief efforts. Instead, we have to lessen the need for disaster relief.

Like the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, typhoon *Yolanda* shocked the world. Images of the destruction it caused remain vivid in our minds and the scale of devastation it generated makes us rethink of our development path. *Yolanda* has become the new benchmark of disaster prevention.

As a country exposed to storms, we should now be experts in preparing for typhoons; we should now be typhoon-resilient at the very least. After all, we have already experienced *Ondoy*, *Pepeng*, *Pablo* and *Sendong*. Unfortunately, *Yolanda* happened and we only realized that we have yet to do what we ought to do.

When disaster strikes a part of our nation, it does not only affect that particular city, it also impacts the economy, which in turn affects everyone in the country. Losses due to *Yolanda* are estimated at \$15 billion, which represents close to five percent of the Philippines' annual GDP. Meanwhile, losses due to typhoons *Ondoy* and *Pepeng* in 2009 were equivalent to 2.7 percent of the country's GDP.

Economic losses due to disasters are taking a toll on our development globally. These losses will continue to escalate unless disaster risk management becomes a core part of business investment strategies. Direct losses from floods, earthquakes and drought have been underestimated by at least 50%. So far this century, global losses from disasters are in the range of \$2.5 trillion.

As a fundamental development strategy, building resilience would help our government sustain the country's socio-economic gains, make a difference in poverty reduction, and eventually ensure the achievement of sustainable development goals.

Julie P.

Allow me first to go over the five major factors that contribute to our vulnerability to natural hazards.

First is *ecosystems decline*. Despite our environmental laws, our ecosystems continue to decline. Seventy percent of our mangroves and 20% of the sea-grass in our coasts have been destroyed; 90% of our coral reefs are under threat; the biomass of coastal fish stocks stand at only 10%; and our forest cover is only half of the ideal. After 12 years, only 25.7% of LGUs have complied with the Solid Waste Management Act.

Second, *economic gains are at risk*. Economic loss risk to typhoons and floods is growing as the exposure of economic assets and livelihoods increases. Moreover, direct losses from major disasters like *Ondoy*, *Pepeng*, *Sendong* and *Pablo* place a significant fiscal burden on the government and trigger indirect and wider impacts that challenge the country's macroeconomic stability and poverty reduction efforts. As a country striving for competitiveness and economic sustainability, we need to recognize the potentially significant macroeconomic implication of disasters.

Third, *poverty prevails*. Despite our impressive economic growth, our poverty incidence hardly changed. Poverty and inequalities worsen as natural hazards and climate change constantly affect the poor and keep them trapped in a vicious cycle of risk and poverty.

Fourth, *cities are at risk*. The rapid growth of our cities, like in Metro Manila, combined with climate change and the urban population explosion, create new stresses for urban settlements and make city dwellers increasingly vulnerable to natural hazards.

Fifth, *climate change magnifies disaster risk*. The "deadly trio" of poor urban governance, ecosystems decline, and weak rural livelihood drives disaster risk turbocharged by climate change. The challenge of adapting to climate extremes gives increased urgency to addressing underlying risk drivers, reducing vulnerability, and strengthening risk governance. If disaster risks can be reduced, then the magnifying effect of climate change will also be reduced, and adaptation will be facilitated.

Definitely, we must not wait for the next natural hazard to strike only to expose these risks. We actually have the power to help the country become more resilient. And allow me to briefly name some points.

We must conduct an *environmental*

program audit. The government audits the environmental programs mandated by law to identify the implementation barriers and to support the means to strengthen the programs towards meeting desired objectives.

We must undertake *risk-sensitive planning and investment*. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council and the Climate Change Commission should collaborate to support the planning, development, and implementation of the Local Climate Change Action Plans (LCCAP) and Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plans (LDRRMPs) by the local government units (LGUs), as they are linked to local Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs) and local development and investment plans.

We must *strengthen social protection*. We must examine how the government's social protection programs — in particular, the Conditional Cash Transfer, and include climate change and DRR even in the CCT and other poverty reduction-related initiatives — can be scaled up not only to address structural poverty, but also to build the resilience of the poor against the recurring impact of natural hazards.

We must *advance economic and business resilience*. This can reduce disaster if we do so. We must promote green infrastructure, such as buildings with roof gardens and rainwater collection facility; risk financing, risk reduction incentives, and business continuity planning, among others.

We must *promote community resilience*. Local officials should prioritize resilience as part of their political and sustainable development agenda and we must pay attention to the protection and improvement of environmental, social and economic conditions. We are launching the Safe Schools Campaign in March. Our hospitals must be made resilient as well.

All of these are challenges but it is all indicated in our national policies and in our laws.

Resilience is the ability of a system or community *to spring back or to bounce forward* from a shock or an impact of a hazard, while preserving and restoring its essential basic structures and functions. It aims to ensure that shocks and stresses do not lead to a long-term downturn in development progress.

As a fundamental development strategy, building resilience would help our government sustain the country's socio-economic gains, make a difference in poverty reduction, and

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eventually ensure the achievement of sustainable development goals.

As an agenda shared by all concerned with financial, political, disaster, conflict and climate threats to development, advancing resilience promotes unity of purpose and action among various development stakeholders across all sectors.

And resilience is set to define the post-2015 global development agenda as well as the framework for action for disaster risk reduction.

In closing, I wish to stress that DRR and CCA must be closely linked to development—the kind of development that does not create new risks and promotes resilient investments.

Poverty breeds disaster vulnerability, where those who have least in life risk life most. As disasters become more prevalent, the higher is the right of the poor to social protection, and the higher is the duty of government to reduce disaster risk in pursuit of resilient development. Disaster risk reduction is social justice in action. Our tragedies create the context for learning and growing. It is these disasters that make us resilient. It is our shared memory of death, loss and survival that should drive us to build a resilient future.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Legarda to the Committee on Climate Change.

REMARKS OF SENATOR CAYETANO (A)

Replying to the Chair's request to remind the senators of the priority bills, Senator Cayetano (A)

reported that upon the instruction of Senate President Drilon and in coordination with the leadership of the House of Representatives, he was able to meet with House Speaker Belmonte and the House Majority Leader and they agreed to meet this week with Senate President Drilon to discuss the priority bills of both Chambers.

Relative thereto, he requested the senators who have additional bills which they feel should be prioritized to submit them to the Office of the Senate President or to the Office of the Majority Leader between 12 noon and five o'clock in the afternoon by Wednesday so that these bills can be discussed with the House of Representatives.

Senate President Drilon asked Senator Cayetano (A) to remind the senators regarding this matter through a written memo. Senator Cayetano (A) said that the Committee on Rules would write the chief of staff of each senator the following day.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of the following day.

It was 4:24 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate
Oscar G. Yabes

Approved on February 4, 2014