



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 60
Monday, March 3, 2014

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 60
Monday, March 3, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:15 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

PRAYER

On behalf of Senator Lapid, Senator Angara read the prayer, to wit:

Dear Lord,

We thank You for the opportunity to gather today to serve our country. We ask that You would give us the wisdom to speak, act and make decisions in a manner that would honor You and help our countrymen. Teach us, Lord, to walk in Your ways and to remain humble before Your throne. May we always remember the solemn mandate of our office and diligently work for the good of our nation. We praise You, Lord, for Your plans are always to prosper us, to give us hope and a good future.

In Jesus' Name we pray, Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The *Himig Pag-asa* of the University of the Philippines-Diliman led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song, entitled *Tagumpay Nating Lahat*.

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

With 18 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Lapid arrived after the roll call.

Senator Pimentel, who was on official mission, also arrived after the roll call.

Senators Defensor Santiago and Legarda were on sick leave.

Senators Revilla and Trillanes were absent.

**APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL
AS CORRECTED**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there

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being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 59 (February 26, 2014) and considered it approved, subject to the correction made by Senator Sotto deleting the phrase "when he was the Majority Leader" on page 35, first column, second paragraph, first and second lines, and replacing it with the phrase DURING THE NINTH AND TENTH CONGRESS.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Third year Legal Management students from the Ateneo de Manila University led by Professor Rea Samson; and
- Mr. Abraham Ibba, the ABC President of Palawan.

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:

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 24 February 2014, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills, in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 925, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL FRANCHISE HOLDERS OR OPERATORS OF TELEVISION STATIONS AND PRODUCERS OF TELEVISION PROGRAMS TO BROADCAST OR PRESENT THEIR PROGRAMS WITH CLOSED CAPTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

House Bill No. 3898, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY FROM INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL THREATS, THEREBY CREATING A CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE FOR THIS PURPOSE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

House Bill No. 3917, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE NUMBER OF MEMBERS OF THE SANG-GUNIANG PANLUNGSOD OF THE CITY OF BIÑAN FROM TEN (10) TO TWELVE (12) AND SEPARATING IT FROM THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA TO CONSTITUTE THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF BIÑAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 10 AND 61, RESPECTIVELY, OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9740, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BINAN

To the Committees on Local Government; and Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

House Bill No. 1841, entitled

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF BATASAN HILLS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BATASAN HILLS, CITY OF QUEZON, METRO MANILA TO CORAZON C. AQUINO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

House Bill No. 2230, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEN (10)-BED

CAPACITY DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARANG, PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO TO BE KNOWN AS THE PARANG DISTRICT HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

LOCATION FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos Jr.

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Public Works; Ways and Means; and Finance

House Bill No. 3899, entitled

Senate Bill No. 2146, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE QUEZON CITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (QCDA), DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FOR ITS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND CAPITALIZATION

AN ACT DECRIMINALIZING LIBEL, REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLES 353, 354, 355, 356, 357, 360, 361 AND 362 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE REVISED PENAL CODE"; AND SECTION 4 (c) 4, CHAPTER II OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CYBERCRIME PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Introduced by Senator Recto

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2144, entitled

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

AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report No. 19, submitted jointly by the Committees on Health and Demography; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, on Senate Bill Nos. 27 and 499, introduced by Senators Cayetano (P) and Drilon, both entitled

Introduced by Senator Guingona III

To the Committees on Science and Technology; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

AN ACT TO EFFECTIVELY INSTILL HEALTH CONSCIOUSNESS THROUGH PICTURE-BASED WARNINGS ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS,

Senate Bill No. 2145, entitled

recommending the approval of Senate Bill No. 27 without amendment, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 499

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PROCESS OF ACQUIRING THE RIGHT OF WAY FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8974, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT TO FACILITATE THE ACQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY, SITE, OR

Sponsors: Senators Guingona III and Cayetano (P)

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

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

Senate Bill No. 2147, entitled

AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN PREROGATIVES CONDUCTIVE TO ITS GROWTH AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senators Trillanes IV, Cayetano (P) and Legarda

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill. No. 2148, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR HOME MORTGAGE INTEREST RELIEF FOR THE FIRST FAMILY HOME, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 34 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2149, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 24 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Ways and Means

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)**

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Cayetano (P) delivered the following speech to welcome the start of celebration of Women's Month:

**EMPOWERED FILIPINAS:
RAISING THE BAR**

I rise today on a matter of personal and collective privilege to welcome the start of Women's Month, which we have been observing during the month of March since the year 1988. It is a time dedicated to recognizing the achievements and contributions of women throughout history, and more importantly, to promote and instill true gender equality as a norm in our society.

This year's celebration is a unified salute "to the strong and resilient *"Juanas"* who have inspired change in the Philippines and across the globe. As we emerge from the rubbles of last year's massive natural calamities and political upheavals, the theme *"Juana, ang Tatag Mo ay Tatag Natin sa Pagbangon at Pagsulong!"* highlights the indispensable role of women in the process of our nation's healing, recovery, and rehabilitation. Women play many different roles in nation-building, and each one is important in honing an empowered populace and contributing to overall progress.

On this note, I would like to invite everyone to visit the Women's Month mobile exhibit, entitled "Empowered Filipinas: Raising the Bar," located just outside the session hall. This was officially opened earlier today. The exhibit features Filipinas who have brought pride to the nation and made a positive impact in history and society. I would like to recognize each of them for their accomplishments and excellence in their chosen field. Some of them have graciously given us their time and are in the VIP gallery behind us.

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (P) requested the guests to stand up to be recognized as their names were called.

To start, we have with us **Senator Helena Z. Benitez** who will be turning 100 this year in June. Senator Benitez is an educator with a string of university degrees under her belt. She was the first Filipino Chair of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the first Filipino and woman President of the UN Environment Program Governing Council, and first Filipino member of the Executive Board of the International Association of Universities, UNESCO Paris. She was elected senator in 1968 and has been recognized for her legislative contribution to education, family, manpower and youth development, housing, and environment.

We also recognize **Senator Geronima T. Pecson** who was the first woman to be elected to this Chamber and the prime mover of various notable laws focusing on our education system. She was also the first Filipino and first woman to be elected to the executive board of UNESCO.

Clearly, Senators Pecson and Benitez have paved the way for more women senators. Today, there have been 20 female senators and, as we speak, there are six in the Senate – our record-high after all these years.

We also honor **Lea Salonga**, a world-famous theatre actress and singer, and the first Filipina to ever win the prestigious Tony Award for her role as *Kim* in the Broadway musical *Miss Saigon*, along with many other esteemed awards and recognitions. She has performed for Queen Elizabeth II, George Bush, and Bill Clinton, and has continued to make the nation proud time and again.

We have with us in the gallery filmmaker **Hannah Espia**. She premiered her film, *Transit*, at the 9th Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival to critical acclaim, garnering ten awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Cinematography, Best Editing, Best Music and Audience Choice. Hannah is only in her twenties and has been making films since she was fifteen.

We also have with us, once again, **Ariella Arida**, who was crowned Binibining Pilipinas-Universe 2012. The Chemistry graduate from the University of the Philippines-Los Baños represented the country at the Miss Universe 2013 pageant in Russia finishing 3rd runner-up, and was the only delegate representing an Asian country to place in the top five.

We also have with us today Wu Shu champion **Janice Hung**. Janice has earned numerous gold medals in various national and international tournaments. Aside from being a world-class athlete, she also runs the Janice Hung Arts and Sports Foundation, which organizes and promotes nourishment missions, music camps, sports events, and other activities to hone our youth into builders of the community and the nation.

And then we have with us in the gallery, **Capt. Aurora "Aimee" Carandang-Gloria**. For my fraternity brothers with me in the Senate, she is our sorority sister. Aimee was my contemporary in school, the first Filipina commercial pilot and the first female pilot in Asia. She was also a recipient of the Ten Outstanding Young Women Award. Aimee tells me there are now over 40 Filipina pilots in the country. I believe

we will all agree that Aimee paved the way for this to happen.

Next is **Engracia "Lola Asiang" Cruz-Reyes** who started to gain popularity for her Filipino dishes when she hosted regular house parties for colleagues of her husband, Atty. Alexander Reyes, who was eventually appointed as Associate Justice of the Supreme Court. The canteen she started in the ground floor of their house eventually led to her putting up *The Aristocrat Restaurant* along Roxas Boulevard, where it stands today. With us today are some of her relatives who continue to run the business.

We also honor **Josie Cruz Natori** who ascended the corporate ladder in New York, landing at Merrill Lynch as the first female vice-president of investment banking. I think many of us would remember Josie more because of the career that she shifted to. From Wall Street, she shifted to fashion in 1977, specifically in lingerie. This entrepreneurial venture has grown in the past three decades into a recognized lifestyle brand in the U.S. In 2007, she was awarded the *Order of Lakandula*, an order of political and civil merit, and considered the highest honor for a Filipino citizen.

We also honor **Gen. Lina Sarmiento** who is the second female chief superintendent of the Philippine National Police, and the first woman to head a national support unit of the PNP as chief of the PNP Community Relations Group. General Sarmiento is also the second police-woman to be conferred a rank equivalent to a one-star or brigadier general. She once again made history in 2012 by becoming the first female police officer to receive two stars, proving that women can definitely break barriers in male-dominated fields.

Then we have **Reese Fernandez Ruiz**, an entrepreneur who co-founded Rags2Riches, a for-profit social enterprise that works with women living in the poor communities across the country to create eco-ethical fashion and home accessories. These women developed a means to earn a living by recycling scrap pieces of fabric and participating in handicraft production, while being able to take care of their children at home.

These women are exemplifications of how today's empowered Filipina excels and inspires in the different circuits of society. They encourage and motivate other women to step up, not only in fighting for gender equality, but also in giving back to the community.

Though we may have these women to

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illustrate how empowered Filipinas can be, though we may drastically improve on gender equality, though we may be faring better than other countries in terms of recognizing the roles and equal rights of women, I believe there is still a lot of work to do. Allow me to illustrate.

Over the weekend, I received an information about a promo running on the radio. And although I did not hear it myself, I had access to a Facebook post of a male who was very *offended by it, and I immediately called upon* this company, the AirAsia Zest, to make a public apology. I will play the recording so that the Body can hear it.

(Recording played)

I take offense and, clearly from the postings we saw, many people were offended by this type of advertisement. It portrayed women as cheaper, or for AirAsia Zest promo to be a better deal than a woman. This is not acceptable. And we call on the management to make a public apology. I remember when I first ran for the Senate in 2004 — I will not even mention the brand anymore because I do not like to give more attention to wrongful acts of this nature — there was a public uproar when women again were likened to commercial products. I do not mind that men, women and children are used in advertisements, but they should never be likened to something that has a price or to be said that women are cheaper, or doing a commercial activity or a promo is better than being with a woman or something of that nature. So, we call on this company to retract their statement, to make an apology. The advertisement is no longer there because the promo has run its course, but I believe that we should be firm in our action because these kinds of advertisements are heard by many young people, both young girls and young boys, and I think it sets a very wrong standard when we allow these kinds of statements to be made in public.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, the session was suspended.

It was 3:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:47 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Pro Tempore Recto presiding.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, the speech of Senator Cayetano (P) was referred to the Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality.

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 19 on Senate Bill No. 27 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 19 ON SENATE BILL NO. 27

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 27 (Committee Report No. 19), entitled

AN ACT TO EFFECTIVELY INSTILL HEALTH CONSCIOUSNESS THROUGH PICTURE-BASED WARNING ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rules XXIII of the *Rules of the Senate*, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Aquino, only the title of the bill was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the *Record of the Senate*.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Cayetano (P), sponsor of the measure.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:48 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:50 p.m., the session was resumed.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

In presenting Senate Bill No. 27 for the Body's

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consideration, Senator Cayetano (P) delivered the following speech:

According to the Department of Health, for every cigarette stick, a smoker loses at least five minutes¹ of her or his life, not to mention the devastating ill-effects on the health of innocent people around him whose only fault is that they do not forget to breath.

It has been said that smoking kills and it kills on a very large scale – nearly six million people each year. In fact, more than five million people die each year from direct tobacco use while more than 600,000 die from exposure to second-hand smoke.² With current smoking patterns, about 500 million people alive today will eventually die due to tobacco use.³

This is the third Congress that I have stood and sponsored this bill. How many people have died since? To illustrate, I direct the attention of my colleagues to the young people sitting at the back. “May I ask you to stand?” These young boys and girl are the same children on the screen when I first sponsored the bill three Congresses ago. These are Vince Bundalian, Malcolm August de Guzman, Larilen del Puso and Luigi del Puso.

So this is the time that has passed; these are the young children who are now teens. “*May 18 na ba sa inyo?*” *O, adults na.* We have basically the data that will tell us that many of their peers would have become smokers and many of them will not live a fruitful life.

When I asked these young people to stand, I also wanted to illustrate how alarming it is that 80,000 to 100,000 young people around the world become addicted to tobacco every day.⁴ Currently, there are more than one billion smokers in the world and more than 80% of them live in low- and middle-income countries.⁵

It is a fact that smoking comes hand in hand with a web of health problems and complications. According to the Philippine College of Physicians, among these diseases are chronic lung disease, cardiovascular disease, peptic ulcer, and cancer of several organs.⁶ For women,

it can cause infertility, early menopausal and pregnancy problems such as fetal abnormalities and even death of the fetus.⁷

In the report of the *Surgeon General 2010*, cigarette smoke contains 7,000 chemicals, more than 70 of which are known carcinogens.⁸ The most notable ones are nicotine, ammonia, carbon monoxide and lead.⁹ We can look up the dangerous side effects of these chemicals. What is worse is that these chemicals and hazardous substances pose health risks not only to smokers themselves but even more to non-smokers who are exposed to it. This is more so because the detrimental effects of smoking extend to the environment basically through air pollution. As per the *Center for Disease Control*, tobacco smoke produces six times the pollution of a busy highway when in a crowded restaurant.¹⁰

Given these facts, it is without doubt that tobacco smoking is an active contributing factor to a hazardous environment as well as threat to our public health.

Tobacco use in the Philippines

The alarming prevalence of smoking generates deadly results. In fact, five of the top ten death-causing diseases in our country can be attributed to tobacco smoking.¹¹ The top preventable risk factor is smoking. In a *National Nutrition and Health Survey*, smoking is found to be the number one cause of stroke and heart attack, even more than diabetes, hypertension, obesity and high cholesterol.¹²

⁶ Dr. Encarnita B. Limpin's PowerPoint presentation “Discussions on Sin Tax Health and Revenues”

⁷ US Department of Health and Human Services: *A Report of the Surgeon General, 2010* as cited in Dr. Encarnita B. Limpin's PowerPoint Presentation

⁸ US Department of Health and Human Services: *A Report of the Surgeon General, 2010*.

⁹ World Bank (1999) “Curbing the epidemic”

¹⁰ Center for Disease Control (CDC) (2003) *It's Time to Stop Being a Passive Victim*.

¹¹ Leading causes of mortality: **1. diseases of the heart**; **2. malignant neoplasms**; **3. pneumonia**, **4. cerebrovascular diseases** (is a group of brain dysfunctions related to disease of blood vessels supplying the brain); **5. tuberculosis**, **6. chronic lower respiratory diseases**, **7. diabetes mellitus**; **8. certain conditions originating in the perinatal period**; **9. assault**, **10. nephritis syndrome nephrosis (Nephrotic syndrome** is a nonspecific disorder in which the kidneys are damaged, to leak large amounts of protein (at least 3.5 grams per day per 1.73m² body surface area) from the blood into the urine). (source Philippines in Figures, NSO)

¹² National Nutrition and Health Survey, 2008; DOH and DOF PowerPoint Presentation (2012)

¹ <http://doh.gov.ph>

² Health Justice PowerPoint Presentation (22 January 2014).

³ World Bank (1999) “Curbing the epidemic: Governments and the Economics of Tobacco Control”

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, *The Global Tobacco Epidemic* (April 2013) as cited in the Health Justice PowerPoint presentation “Picture-Based Health Warnings” (22 January 2014)

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The adult prevalence of tobacco use in the Philippines is at a high 28.3% — the second highest in the ASEAN region, only next to Indonesia.¹³ Yes, Juan dela Cruz is indeed addicted to smoking. In fact, as presented during our hearing in the last Congress, 80% of Filipino households in the poorest quintile have, at least, one member who smokes.¹⁴ The lowest segment of the income bracket spends 1.1% of their total expenditures on tobacco.¹⁵ This is more than what they spend on education and medical care combined.¹⁶

And what do Filipinos get in return for this deadly habit? First, the economic impact results to around P315 billion in losses for the Philippines, specifically P44.6 billion in health care cost, and P270 billion in lost productivity.¹⁷ Worse, smoking kills 10 Filipinos every hour. This translates to 87,600 Filipinos losing their lives to tobacco every year.¹⁸

The Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003

The 12th Congress passed Republic Act 9211, which provided for the requirement of textual health warnings on all tobacco products, prohibition of tobacco advertisements in all mass media, prohibition on outdoor and cinema tobacco advertisements, and ban on tobacco sponsorship in sports, concerts, and cultural and art events, with various time frames, all of which are already in place.

Senate Bill No. 27

Having said that, I now rise to sponsor Senate Bill No. 27, An Act to Effectively Instill Health Consciousness Through Picture-Based Warnings on Tobacco Products. This bill requires all tobacco products to bear pictures illustrating the ill-effects of smoking.

While many tobacco users know that tobacco is harmful, studies show that most are unaware of its true risks. As the old adage goes,

“a picture paints a thousand words.” Studies have shown that picture-based health warnings are more effective than text warnings alone. In fact, a study revealed that such health warnings are “60 times more effective in terms of encouraging cessation and prevention than text-only labels.”¹⁹ We have more studies on this which we can present at the appropriate time.

According to the Canadian Cancer Society,²⁰ at least 56 countries already require picture warnings as of May 2012 and there are other countries that are still in the process of coming up with similar policies on graphic health warnings.

Sadly, cigarette packages manufactured in the Philippines and sold in our neighboring countries such as Singapore and Thailand already include picture-based health warnings because it is required in these two countries. On the other hand, cigarette packages manufactured in Singapore and sold in the Philippines carry only textual health warnings because we do not require picture health warnings.

This bill requires all cigarette packages and other tobacco product packages found in the market, including cartons or master cases, to bear highly visible full-color picture-based

¹⁹ Applied Economics *Cost-benefit analysis of proposed new health warnings on tobacco products Report prepared for Commonwealth Department of Health and Ageing* [online] 2004 Available from: http://www.treasury.gov.au/documents/794/DOC/Cost_Benefit_Analysis.doc

²⁰

Cigarette Package Warning Size and Use of Pictures: International Summary.

Rob Cunningham,
Canadian Cancer Society
May 17, 2012

Picture warnings

At least 56 countries/jurisdictions have finalized requirements for picture warnings. The listing below includes the year of implementation, including different years where there have been two or more rounds of picture warnings.

| | |
|--|---|
| 1 Canada (2001, 2012) | 28 Pakistan (2010) |
| 2 Brazil (2002, 2004, 2009) | 29 Switzerland (2010 rotation of sets 1, 2 & every 24 months) |
| 3 Singapore (2004, 2006) | 30 Mongolia (2010) |
| 4 Thailand (2005, 2007, 2010) | 31 Colombia (2010) |
| 5 Venezuela (2005, 2009) | 32 Turkey (2010) |
| 6 Jordan (2006) | 33 Mexico (2010) |
| 7 Australia (2006; rotation of sets A, B every 12 months, 2012 rotation of two sets every 12 months) | 34 Philippines (2010) ² |
| 8 Uruguay (2006, 2008, 2009, 2010) | 35 Norway (2011) |
| 9 Panama (2006, 2009) | 36 Malu (2011) |
| 10 Belgium (2006; rotation of sets 2, 3, 1 every 12 months starting 2011) | 37 France (2011) |
| 11 Chile (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010) | 38 Jersey (2011) |
| 12 Hong Kong (2007) | 39 Spain (2011) |
| 13 New Zealand (2008; rotation of sets A, B every 12 months) | 40 Bolivia (2011) |
| 14 Romania (2008) | 41 Jersey (2012) |
| 15 United Kingdom (2008) | 42 Ukraine (2012) |
| 16 Egypt (2008, 2010) | 43 Honduras (2012) |
| 17 Brunei (2008) | 44 Madagascar (2012, 2013) |
| 18 Cook Islands (2008) | 45 Denmark (2012) |
| 19 Iran (2009) | 46 Ecuador (2012) |
| 20 Malaysia (2009) | 47 Argentina (2012) |
| 21 Taiwan (2009) | 48 Bahrain (2012) |
| 22 Peru (2009) | 49 Oman (2012) |
| 23 Djibouti (2009) | 50 United States (2012) ³ |
| 24 Mauritius (2009) | 51 Hungary (2012) |
| 25 India (2009, 2011) | 52 Mexico (2013) |
| 26 Cayman Islands (2009) | 53 Iceland (2013) |
| 27 Latvia (2010) | 54 Ireland (2013) |
| | 55 Russia (2013) |
| | 56 Kazakhstan (2013) |

Many other countries/jurisdictions are considering or are in the process of requiring picture warnings. Moreover, the Gulf Cooperation Council Standardization Organization has adopted a standard (picture warnings, 50% front and back) for implementation by its member countries (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen) implementation at the national level has so far been confirmed for Bahrain and Oman.

¹³ SEATCA, The ASEAN Tobacco Control Atlas (August 2013) as cited in the Health Justice PowerPoint Presentation “Picture-Based Health Warnings” (22 January 2014).

¹⁴ Family Income and Expenditure Survey, 2003 as cited in the PowerPoint Presentation of Dr. Jessica de Leon of the Department of Health

¹⁵ Family Income and Expenditure Survey (2009).

¹⁶ [Ibid].

¹⁷ Quimbo, S., et al. (2012). “The Economics of Tobacco and Tobacco Taxation in the Philippines” as cited in the Health Justice PowerPoint Presentation “Picture-Based Health Warnings” (22 January 2014).

¹⁸ Health Justice PowerPoint Presentation “Picture-Based Health Warnings” (22 January 2014).

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health warnings. This will have two components: a photographic picture warning, and an accompanying textual warning that explains in simple terms what the picture is all about.

This bill will also prohibit the use of descriptors, including terms, trademarks, or any sign or feature that creates or is likely to create the false impression that a product or brand is less harmful.

Conclusion

In our committee hearing held last January 22, it was encouraging, in fact, it was shocking, but it was definitely a pleasant surprise to hear four tobacco companies, namely Philip Morris-Fortune Tobacco Corporation, British American Tobacco Philippines, Japan Tobacco International, and Mighty Corporation, express their support for the measure. Yes, they each expressed support for the measure. They did say that they had some issues and would like to make propose amendments which we said is part of our process and we would definitely be open to hearing their concerns.

Naysayers will say graphic warnings will not stop smoking. But this negates the studies I mentioned above and we must also recall that many other measures are in place including the Sin Tax Law and policies and programs within the Department of Health. All of these put together will address smoking. One cannot be taken in isolation without the other programs.

With the imposition of graphic health warnings at the front packs of tobacco products, this bill thus seeks to deter new smokers from starting the vice and being addicted to it, as well as encourage existing smokers to drop the habit. Thus, this is one of those measures that will definitely contribute to bringing down the number of smokers, especially among the youth.

Again, I reiterate that this has been my third Congress to sponsor this measure. I look forward to a healthy debate on the issue but I would like to believe that none of us will disagree that smoking is harmful and it is just a question of putting into place the proper programs to address this big problem.

With that, I thank my colleagues who have expressed support in one way or another.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATE PRESIDENT DRILON

In cosponsoring Senate Bill No. 27, Senate President Drilon delivered the following speech:

Just a few days ago, or last Thursday, February 27 to be exact, we marked the ninth anniversary of the entry into force of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC). The Convention was developed in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic and is an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health.^[1]

The first treaty to be negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization, the WHO FCTC has since become one of the most rapidly and widely embraced treaties in the United Nations history with no less than 168 signatories as of today.^[2]

Through Resolution No. 24 which we adopted on April 25, 2005, the Senate of the 13th Congress — which I had the fortune of leading — concurred in the ratification of the WHO FCTC. It formalized our adherence to the Convention's "core demand reduction provisions" to impose restrictions on tobacco advertising, sponsorships and promotion; establish new packaging and labeling of tobacco products; adopt measures for protection from exposure to tobacco; and eliminate illicit trade, manufacturing and counterfeiting of tobacco products.

More important, our concurrence to the WHO FCTC signified our commitment "to protect the present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke by providing measures to reduce continually and substantially the prevalence of tobacco use and exposure to tobacco smoke."^[3]

We must continue to proactively participate in attaining the objectives of the WHO FCTC, one of which is for every person to be better informed of the health consequences of tobacco consumption.

Thus, today, it is my privilege to cosponsor and seek the support of this Chamber for the immediate approval of Senate Bill No. 27, otherwise known as "An Act To Effectively Instill Health Consciousness Through Picture-Based Warnings On Tobacco Products."

Authored by our tireless health advocate and staunch anti-smoking crusader, Sen. Pia S.

1 Foreword, p v. WHO Convention on Tobacco Control

2 <http://www.who.int/fctc/about/en/>, last accessed on 2 March 2014

3 Resolution No. 24, 13th Congress, adopted April 25, 2005

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Cayetano, and based on a bill filed by former Senate President Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. in 2008, the proposed Picture-Based Health Warning Law seeks to increase the awareness of the public — especially among the youth — on the harmful and deadly effects of smoking. The bill, once passed into law, would require tobacco companies to, among others, display graphic images along with text warnings on their products depicting the dire consequences of smoking on one's health. Our Department of Health estimates that about 87,000 Filipinos succumb annually from complications caused by cigarette smoking. In other words, ten Filipinos die every hour from cigarette smoking-related illnesses. And by the time I finish this co-sponsorship speech, another five would have died. The research also indicates that one out of two Filipinos who smoke will die earlier than the average life expectancy. Further, cigarette-smoking costs our society an estimated P188 billion in annual health care expenses and productivity losses. Thus, cigarette smoking presents an economic burden and risk factors greater than those of diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and high cholesterol.

Studies show that there are over four billion packs of cigarettes produced in our country yearly, and 17 million Filipinos currently smoke. Some of them are in the Senate. These smokers consume 10.7 sticks of cigarettes per day on the average. Our country, therefore, registers one of the highest smoking incidences in the Western Pacific Region. Based on the National Nutrition and Health Survey II (NNHES, 2008), the incidence of smoking in the country remains high at 31%, which means that approximately 25 million Filipinos have smoked in the past or are currently smoking. In the 2009 Philippine Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS), it is further estimated that more than 17 million of the population aged 15 years and above currently smoke tobacco.

In December 2012, we passed Republic Act No. 10351, now more commonly referred to as the Sin Tax Reform Law. We restructured the excise taxes on tobacco products with the aim of not only raising revenues but, above all else, to discourage smoking. It remains our vital duty to strengthen the government's efforts to discourage smoking and heighten the awareness of the consuming public on the harmful consequences of smoking.

Amidst a growing global trend towards

strategically placing meaningful graphic images along with text warnings to cigarette cartons and other tobacco products, we in the Senate can do no less.

The benefits to a mandatory system of prominently displaying picture-based health warnings are clear and evident from the experience of other states and governments which already have this system in place.

For example, a study published in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*,⁴ discussed the effectiveness of text-only labels vis-a-vis text and graphic labels on cigarette cartons and packs. This study yielded results showing that 26.3% think that text labels alone would be effective in deterring smoking, while 37.8% view that picture labels are effective.

Other studies, including that of the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, have shown that the use of graphic images on packets have a significantly wider reach than text warnings, as images meaningfully resonate even with those who cannot and have difficulty reading.

With the decrease in the incidence of smoking in our country, there would be a corresponding drop in the number of smoking-related deaths and diseases. Ultimately, the passage of this proposed measure will bring us closer to our goal of protecting the present and future generations from the devastating health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption and exposure to tobacco smoke.

I am a witness to the tragedy which cigarette smoking brings. And I do not wish it to happen to anyone in this hall.

I was once a smoker. And I do regret having picked up the habit. But a few months from now, it would be almost two decades since I last lit a cigarette. No regrets. I am glad I stopped and kicked the habit.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Angara, the session was suspended.

It was 4:10 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:26 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Drilon presiding.

⁴ Study by O'Hegarty, Pederson, *et al.*

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MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Senator Cayetano (P) manifested that the data she cited in her speech could be found in her written report and should be indicated in the *Journal*. Senate President Drilon asked Senator Cayetano (P) to furnish the Secretariat with the accurate data.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 27

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (A) acknowledged the presence of the delegation from the Municipality of Caraga, Davao Oriental, namely: Vice Mayor Belshazzar Sobrecarey; Councilors Daisy Polancos, Andresito Burgos, Marilyn Iturralde, Melody Benitez, Pepito Silat, Earlson Zamora, Aser Calig-onan and ABC President Darius Pelayo; Mandatory Indigenous Peoples Rep. Ramoncita Bolante; and Sangguniang Bayan members.

Senate President Drilon welcomed the guests to the Senate.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1733 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1733 (Committee Report No. 2), entitled

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE'S
RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE
CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF
FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND
HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senator Cayetano (A) stated that the parliamentary status was still the period of individual amendments.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Poe, sponsor of the measure.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR POE

Senator Poe manifested that Senator Legarda who was on sick leave has sent a written list of proposed amendments which she will read into the record for the consideration and approval of the Body.

LEGARDA AMENDMENTS

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

1. On page 2A, line 38, between the word "state" and the colon (:), insert the phrase OR PREJUDICE THE ENTRUSTING OF INFORMATION TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES ON A BASIS OF CONFIDENCE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF ANY OTHER COUNTRY OR ANY INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION;
2. On page 4, lines 6 and 7, delete the phrase "wrong-doing, graft, or corruption," and in lieu thereof, insert the phrase OR ANY UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY;
3. On page 5, between lines 46 and 47, insert a new subparagraph to read:
 - (11) ANY DISCLAIMER THAT SHALL ANNOUNCE TRUE AND CORRECT INFORMATION RELATIVE TO A MATTER OF PUBLIC CONCERN THAT HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF UNTRUTHFUL OR INACCURATE PUBLICATION IN MEDIA;

Upon request of the Chair, Senator Poe read the first paragraph of Section 9 on page 5, lines 22 to 26, to wit:

SEC. 9. OPENNESS AND TRANSPARENCY IN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.
- EACH GOVERNMENT AGENCY SHALL MAKE AVAILABLE UPON THE REQUEST OF ANY CITIZEN AT NO COST AND IN AN ACCESSIBLE FORM, CONSISTENT WITH THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9485, OR THE ANTI-RED TAPE ACT OF 2007, AND THROUGH THEIR WEBSITE, TIMELY, TRUE, ACCURATE AND UPDATED KEY INFORMATION INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

5. One page 11, lines 17 and 31, delete the word "grave."

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SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:39 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:43 p.m., the session was resumed.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (A)

Senator Cayetano (A) stated that he would propose the amendments of Senator Defensor Santiago and he would adopt them as his own with the permission of the Sponsor.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SENATOR DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

On behalf of Senator Defensor Santiago, Senator Cayetano (A) proposed the deletion of the provision on page 2, lines 6e to 6i and in lieu thereof, the insertion of the following:

(E) "PERSONAL INFORMATION" — SHALL REFER TO ANY INFORMATION WHETHER RECORDED IN A MATERIAL FORM OR NOT, FROM WHICH THE IDENTITY OF AN INDIVIDUAL IS APPARENT OR CAN BE REASONABLY AND DIRECTLY ASCERTAINED BY THE ENTITY HOLDING THE INFORMATION, OR WHEN PUT TOGETHER WITH THE OTHER INFORMATION, WOULD DIRECTLY AND CERTAINLY IDENTIFY AN INDIVIDUAL.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Poe, the session was suspended.

It was 4:44 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:46 p.m., the session was resumed.

APPROVAL OF THE DEFENSOR SANTIAGO AMENDMENT

Upon resumption, accepted by the Sponsor, there

being no objection, the proposed amendment was approved.

FURTHER DEFENSOR SANTIAGO AMENDMENTS

On behalf of Senator Defensor Santiago, as proposed by Senator Cayetano (A), accepted by the Sponsor and there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments, one after the other:

1. On page 2, after line 6(i), insert a new subsection (F) that would define Sensitive Personal Information to read:

(F) "SENSITIVE PERSONAL INFORMATION" — SHALL REFER TO PERSONAL INFORMATION:

(1) ABOUT AN INDIVIDUAL'S RACE, ETHNIC ORIGIN, MARITAL STATUS, AGE, COLOR, AND RELIGIOUS, PHILOSOPHICAL OR POLITICAL AFFILIATIONS;

(2) ABOUT AN INDIVIDUAL'S HEALTH, EDUCATION, GENETIC OR SEXUAL LIFE OF A PERSON, OR TO ANY PROCEEDING FOR ANY OFFENSE COMMITTED OR ALLEGED TO HAVE BEEN COMMITTED BY SUCH PERSON, THE DISPOSAL OF SUCH PROCEEDINGS, OR THE SENTENCE OF ANY COURT IN SUCH PROCEEDINGS;

(3) ISSUED BY GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PECULIAR TO AN INDIVIDUAL WHICH INCLUDES, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBERS, PREVIOUS OR CM-RENT HEALTH RECORDS, LICENSES OR ITS DENIALS, SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION, AND TAX RETURNS; AND

(4) SPECIFICALLY ESTABLISHED BY AN EXECUTIVE ORDER OR AN ACT OF CONGRESS TO BE KEPT CLASSIFIED.

2. As an omnibus amendment, replace the phrase "personal information" with PERSONAL AND SENSITIVE INFORMATION whenever found in the bill; and

3. On page 4, after line 22, insert a new subsection (M) to read:

(M) THE INFORMATION REQUESTED

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PERTAINS TO INFORMATION ABOUT THE ONGOING EVALUATION OR REVIEW OF BIDS OR PROPOSALS UNDERTAKEN BY THE BIDDING OR REVIEW COMMITTEE PRIOR TO AN OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATION BY THE GOVERNMENT.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SENATOR DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

On behalf of Senator Defensor Santiago, Senator Cayetano (A) proposed the insertion of new subparagraphs (4), (5) and (6) on page 5, line 33 to read:

- (4) AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, AND BUDGET AND EXPENDITURE RECORDS;
- (5) STATEMENT OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES, AND NET WORTH OF ALL PUBLIC OFFICIALS WITH SALARY GRADE 27 AND ABOVE;
- (6) MONTHLY INCOME INCLUDING ALLOWANCE AND SOURCES OF INCOME OF ALL PUBLIC OFFICIALS WITH SALARY GRADE 27 AND ABOVE.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:50 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:56 p.m., the session was resumed.

APPROVAL OF THE DEFENSOR SANTIAGO AMENDMENT, AS AMENDED

Senator Poe proposed the following amendments to the proposed amendment of Senator Defensor Santiago:

1. On subparagraph (5), after the word "ABOVE," insert OR HEADS OF OFFICE; and
2. On subparagraph (6), after the word "ABOVE," insert AND HEADS OF OFFICE.

She explained that the phrase "HEADS OF OFFICE" would include heads of GOCCs and even heads of local government units, down to the bara-

ngay level, considering the nature of their office. She said that the provision mandates the automatic uploading of the information in their respective websites.

There being no objection, the Defensor Santiago amendment, as amended, was approved.

DEFENSOR SANTIAGO AMENDMENTS

On behalf of Senator Defensor Santiago, as proposed by Senator Cayetano (A), the Body approved the following amendments, one after the other:

1. On page 5, renumber the succeeding subparagraphs accordingly;
2. On page 8, line 31, after the word "information," insert a new sentence to read as:

UNLESS RESTRAINED OR ENJOINED, THE DECISION OF THE COURT SHALL BE IMMEDIATELY EXECUTORY, WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO REVIEW IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF COURT.;

3. On page 10, line 15, delete the word "important";
4. On page 10, line 40, as modified by Senator Poe, insert a new paragraph to read:

THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SETTING THE STANDARDS FOR THE FILE FORMATS TO BE USED BY THE POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE, ALL NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INCLUDING GOCCS WITH OR WITHOUT ORIGINAL CHARTER IN THE PUBLICATION OF GOVERNMENT PUBLIC INFORMATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

INQUIRIES OF SENATOR CAYETANO (A)

Senator Cayetano (A) asked whether the "information of public concern" covers the scope of the definition of "Information" as defined in *Chavez vs. PEA*, GR No. 133250, July 9, 2012, which states that the right covers three categories of information which are matters of public concern, namely: 1) official records; 2) documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions and decisions; 3) government research data used in formulating policies. He pointed out that the first category refers to any document that is part of the public record

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in the custody of government agencies or officials; the second category refers to documents and papers, recording evidence, establishing, confirming, supporting, justifying or explaining official acts, transactions or decisions of government agency officials; while the third category refers to research data – whether raw, collated or processed — which are owned by the government and are used in formulating policies.

Senator Poe replied that under Section 3 (*Definition of Terms*), “Information” shall mean any public and/or official record, document, paper, report, letters, contract, minutes and transcripts of official meetings, maps, books, photographs, data, research materials, film, audio and video recordings, magnetic or other tapes, electronic data or computer stored data or other like or similar data or material of public concern recorded, stored or archived in whatever form or format which are made, received or kept in or under the control of any government agency pursuant to law, executive order, rules and regulations, ordinance or in connection with the performance or transaction of official business by any government agency.

Adverting to Section 6 (*Presumption*), Senator Cayetano (A) asked if the burden of proof lies with the government agency or with the person requesting the information. Senator Poe replied that the government agency has the burden to prove that the information requested falls within the exceptions.

CAYETANO (A) AMENDMENTS

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

1. On page 2, line 28, after the word “Act” and period (.), insert a new sentence to read:

ACCORDINGLY, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES SHALL HAVE THE BURDEN OF PROOF OF SHOWING BY CLEAR AND CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT THE INFORMATION REQUESTED IS EXEMPTED FROM THE DISCLOSURE BY THIS ACT.; and

2. On page 3A, line 39, after the word “Court,” insert the phrase UNLESS THE PERSON ENTITLED TO THE PRIVILEGE HAS WAIVED IT.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 5:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:09 p.m., the session was resumed.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE LEGARDA AMENDMENT ON SECTION 21

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body reconsidered the approval of the previous amendment of Senator Legarda deleting the word “grave” on Section 21, page 11, lines 17 and 31.

Senator Cayetano (A) explained that the word “grave” was not a simple adjective but was a technical legal term which has an effect on the crime and the penalty.

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. 1733 ON SECOND READING

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, Senate Bill No. 1733 was approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1733

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

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR POE

Senator Poe thanked the Senate Secretariat for helping the Committee; the government agencies that contributed as resource persons; all Senate officers and advocacy groups as well as other senators that assisted and supported her in her sponsorship of the

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measure. She expressed her appreciation for having had the opportunity to defend the Freedom of Information Bill.

DIRECTIVE OF THE CHAIR

The Senate President directed the Secretariat to immediately prepare and distribute printed copies of the bill and requested the Majority Leader to schedule the measure for approval on Third Reading on Monday, March 10, 2014.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUEST

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (A) acknowledged the presence in the gallery of Attorney Manalauan of the Right to Know, Right Now coalition.

Senate President Drilon welcomed the guest to the Senate.

CHANGE OF REFERRALS

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer

of Senate Bill Nos. 96, 575, 649, 921, 1043 and Senate Resolution No. 178 from the Committee on Amateur Sports Competitiveness to the Committee on Games, Amusements and Sports.

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 5:15 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate
[Handwritten signature]

Approved on March 4, 2014