



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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Journal

SESSION NO. 83
Wednesday, May 17, 2017

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:52 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

The Body observed a minute of silent prayer.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Lutgardo B. Barbo, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Lacson, P. M.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Pacquiao, E. M. D.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Drilon, F. M.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Poe, G.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Recto, R. G.
Gatchalian, W.	Sotto III, V. C.
Gordon, R. J.	Villanueva, J.
Honasan, G. B.	Villar, C. A.
Hontiveros, R.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

With 20 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Trillanes arrived after the roll call.

Senator Angara was on official business "attending the 57th International Art Exhibition of La Biennale di Venezia that showcases the work of Filipino artists Ms. Lani Maestro and Mr. Manuel Ocampo" as indicated in the May 15, 2017 letter of the Senator's chief of staff.

Senator Legarda was on medical leave as indicated in the May 15, 2017 letter of the Senator's chief legal officer.

Senator De Lima was unable to attend the session as she was under detention.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 82 (May 16, 2017) and considered it approved.



ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests:

- Mr. Erven Perlas, president of the Metro Manila JCI Senate;
- Mayor Antonia "Tony" Carolino of Santa Maria, Laguna; and
- Mr. Mel Gill.

Senate President Pimentel 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. 1455, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE AS THE NATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE OF THE FILIPINO DEAF AND THE OFFICIAL SIGN LANGUAGE OF GOVERNMENT IN ALL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THE DEAF, AND MANDATING ITS USE IN SCHOOLS, BROADCAST MEDIA, AND WORKPLACES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1457, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY INSTALLATION OF DASHBOARD CAMERA OR DASH-CAM SYSTEM IN PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES, GOVERNMENT-OWNED PATROL CARS AND CERTAIN TYPES OF VEHICLES PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1458, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995," AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10606 AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Ways and Means; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 377, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE POSSIBLE ONE-ROUS TERMS AND LONG-TERM FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC REPERCUSSIONS OF THE MULTI-BILLION DOLLAR LOAN AND INVESTMENT PACKAGE OFFERED BY CHINA TO THE PHILIPPINES UNDER ITS BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE

Introduced by Senator Leila M. de Lima

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; and Foreign Relations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 378, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE FILIPINO JUDOKAS WHO WON THE VETERAN CATEGORY OF THE BEAUTIFUL TERENGGANU INTERNATIONAL JUDO CHAMPIONSHIPS 2017 HELD AT GONG BADAQ SPORTS COMPLEX IN MALAYSIA

Handwritten initials

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel "Manny"
D. Pacquiao

To the Committee on Rules

COMMUNICATION

Letter from GMA Network, Inc., submitting to the Senate its formal acceptance of the new franchise under the terms and conditions of Republic Act No. 10925.

To the Committee on Public Services

At this juncture, Senate President Pimentel relinquished the Chair to Senate President Pro Tempore Recto.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 80, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1456, with Senators Joel Villanueva and Escudero as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (PQF) AND ESTABLISHING THE PQF-NATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 211.

Sponsors: Senators Escudero and Joel Villanueva

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 81, submitted by the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, on Senate Bill No. 108, introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 27 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE VICTORY OF LAPU-LAPU AND HIS MEN OVER THE SPANIARDS LED BY FERDINAND

MAGELLAN IN THE HISTORIC BATTLE OF MACTAN ON APRIL 27, 1521, TO BE KNOWN AS LAPU-LAPU DAY OR ADLAW NI LAPU-LAPU,

recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsors: Senators Escudero and Richard J. Gordon

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 82, submitted jointly by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance, on House Bill No. 477, introduced by Representative Sy-Alvarado, *et al.*, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE DECLARATION OF THE FIRST PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC,

recommending its approval without amendment, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 1323.

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 83, submitted by the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, on Senate Bill No. 747, introduced by Senator Escudero, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JULY 25 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL CAMPUS PRESS FREEDOM DAY,

recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 84, submitted by the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, on Senate Bill No. 756, introduced by Senator Escudero, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE SEVEN-

TEENTH OF NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL STUDENT LEADER'S DAY,

recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 85, submitted jointly by the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development, on Senate Bill No. 785, introduced by Senator Escudero, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING A SYSTEM OF EXTENDING NO-COLLATERAL, LOW-INTEREST LOANS TO GRADUATES OF ANY COURSES OFFERED BY THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS AUTHORITY OR DULY ACCREDITED LEARNING INSTITUTIONS WITH APPROVED OVERSEAS JOB CONTRACTS,

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 86, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1459, with Senators Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV and Escudero as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SECURED TRANSACTIONS LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHICH SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION, PERFECTION, DETERMINATION OF PRIORITY, ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRALIZED NOTICE REGISTRY, AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTERESTS IN PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 354.

Sponsors: Senators Escudero and Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF SENATOR CAYETANO**

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Cayetano took the opportunity to thank everyone in light of his recent confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs by the Commission on Appointments.

Senator Cayetano recalled that in the confirmation hearing, he started out with the verse from Jeremiah 29:11, to wit: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." He said that the verse was very meaningful to him and his family because like many of his colleagues they too have been through many trials. He admitted that being in Philippine politics was not easy because his every effort to get something done has always been inevitably met with criticism and opposition. In an age where every-one wants to be politically correct, he pointed out that even a well-meaning statement could be misinterpreted, either intentionally or unintentionally, by the social media. Nevertheless, he said that he still perseveres in trying to make a better world and a better country, as well as to be of better service to the people.

Firstly, Senator Cayetano thanked God for having given him the opportunity to serve the people, mostly through legislation, the past 25 years as politician, public servant and, hopefully, as statesman diplomat. He also expressed his gratitude to his colleagues because by working together, working against each other, and working for each other, he has become a better person, debater, legislator and policymaker, and hopefully, a better diplomat.

Senator Cayetano also thanked the City of Taguig where he started, the House of Representatives where he served for nine years, the Senate of the Philippines where his father and sister also served and, where God-willing, it would be his last day of service that day as well. He also expressed his gratitude to the people who work "behind-the-scenes," like Gani, who helped him fix and clean his room in the House of Representatives since 1998 until he left for the Senate, and Lito, who had been with him in his office since 2007.



Senator Cayetano also thanked his chief of staff, former chiefs of staff, committee secretaries, resource persons, secretariat staff, and pages.

He disclosed that his staff had prepared a power-point presentation of some of his achievements but he demurred because he felt that it would be embarrassing for this to be shown in a room full of people who are achievers themselves, all brilliant, passionate, and dedicated senators who helped ensure the passage of his legislative measures.

In closing, Senator Cayetano recalled that every-time he gave a speech during college graduations, he usually asked graduating students: "What is the Filipino dream?" Lamentably, he said, no one was able to answer it, but when they are asked about the American dream, even if they did not know its exact definition, they know that it is about of having equal opportunity to make it and succeed regardless of race, social or economic status. He said that the second time he asked the Filipino dream, the students replied that it would be to get a US visa or to work abroad so that their families would have a chance for a better life, and evidently, he said, they are pursuing that Filipino dream of sending their children to school, providing health care to their parents or children, or have their own home.

Senator Cayetano said that his job in the coming days will be focused on the protection, welfare, convenience and comfort of the OFWs, but Congress, the Senate in particular, would have to continue the job of creating a "Filipino dream" where Filipinos would not have to go abroad to be able to fulfill their dreams for their family.

He said that President Duterte's independent foreign policy has brought many benefits and pride to Filipinos abroad, and while there may be negative news about the country, he considered it no small feat for President Trump to be calling President Duterte requesting him to call Chinese President Xi Jinping to help out with the issue of North Korea, leaving diplomats around the world wondering how the Philippines could in so short a time become a player in world affairs. He said that this merely proves that the Filipino can, as many generations of grandparents and parents have done for the benefit of their children and grandchildren.

However, he said that for this year, it has been projected that one-third of the country's population,

or more than 30 million, will be 14 years old and below and more than half of its population falls under the UN or some other organization's definition of youth. He said that this shows that the country has a very young population which signifies three things: 1) that whatever efforts being done for the country is not for the future but for the present generation; 2) that the kind of economy that the country would have in the future would have an advantage if the youth are given the right schooling, medical services and opportunities; 3) and that the country's future would be bright.

Senator Cayetano said that he was certain that one day, he would look back and tell himself, "I should have done this or that; I should have filed that bill; or I should have been more active in this Committee," but he said that he finds comfort to have known his colleagues who have the expertise in their respective fields. He said that he would certainly be asking them for help because he did not train or study to be the country's chief diplomat. Nonetheless, he said that he has a great advantage because the Philippine Senate is behind him.

He then invited his colleagues to call on the DFA for any assistance when they are abroad, or for any briefing on any issue and his office would do anything it can to assist whatever they may need. He said that he would also be seeking the help of the Senate to provide solutions to problems which may be administrative or concerns the budget.

He said that he was not saying goodbye, but just farewell in the meantime, as he expressed his appreciation and gratitude, in behalf of his family specially his father, the late Senator Renato Cayetano, his sister, Sen. Pia Cayetano, his wife, Mayor Lani Cayetano, his mother, brothers and sisters-in-law to everyone for all the love and support extended to him.

Finally, he offered his apologies to whoever he may have hurt in the past. He said that the pain that he has caused other people was not meant to hurt another person but was done in the spirit of crafting better laws for a better Philippines.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 4:14 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1365
AND HOUSE BILL NO. 4767**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1365, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF PHILIPPINE PASSPORTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES; and

House Bill No. 4767, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED EIGHT THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE (R.A. 8239), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996."

The Chair recognized Senator Villar to sponsor the report.

**JOINT EXPLANATION
ON THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

Senator Villar read into the record the joint explanation on the conference committee report as follows:

The Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1365 and House Bill No. 4767, after having met and fully discussed the subject matter in conference, hereby report to their respective Houses the following that:

1. The conferees agreed to use the Senate version as the working draft;
2. The conferees agreed to adopt, *in toto*, all the sections (Sections 1 to 5) of the Senate version; and

3. The title of the Senate version was also the one adopted.

In case of conflict between the statements in this Joint Explanation and that of the provisions of the bill accompanying this Conference Committee Report, the provisions of the latter prevail.

She said that the text of Senate Bill No. 1365 as approved on Third Reading is the same text under the bill that accompanied the Joint Explanation.

**APPROVAL OF THE CONFERENCE
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1365 and House Bill No. 4767 was approved by the Body.

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 53 on Senate Bill No. 1391 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 53
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1391**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 1391 (Committee Report No. 53), entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWDS), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

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

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SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR HONTIVEROS

Senator Hontiveros delivered her sponsorship speech on Senate Bill No. 1391 under Committee Report No. 53, on automatic Philhealth membership for PWDs, which, she said, is another social protection measure intended to cover one of the most vulnerable segments of our population, our PWDs.

Following is the full text of Senator Hontiveros' sponsorship speech:

Ang ating mga kapatid na may kapananan ay nahaharap sa dobleng pagsubok. Tulad natin, sila rin ay kailangang maging malusog at umiwas sa sakit, ngunit di tulad natin, mas hirap silang makakuha ng serbisyong pangkalusugan. It is doubly difficult when you have a disability and you become sick.

The bill therefore proposes to expand the benefits already being given our PWDs through the Magna Carta for Persons with Disabilities by including automatic PhilHealth coverage to them. This way, our PWD brothers and sisters can at least be assured that when they get hospitalized, PhilHealth will pay for all or some of the expenses. Moreover, the bill tasks PhilHealth to develop exclusive packages for PWDs, taking into account their specific health and development needs. Similar to what we did for our senior citizens, under our proposal, the amount necessary to pay for the premium of PWDs shall be sourced from sin taxes.

Isa ito sa mga panukalang batas na dapat noon pa natin naipasa. Alang-alang sa mga Pilipinong may kapansanan, I, along with the authors and cosponsors of this measure, request all members of this august Chamber to support the passage of this bill.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1391

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

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 80 on Senate Bill No. 1456 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 80 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1456

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 1456 (Committee Report No. 80), entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (PQF) AND ESTAB- LISHING THE PQF-NATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL.

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

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

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

Senator Villanueva, on behalf of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, submitted for plenary consideration, Senate Bill No. 1456, entitled "An Act Institutionalizing the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF) and Establishing the PQF-National Coordinating Council," under Committee Report No. 80.

Following is the full text of Senator Villanueva's sponsorship speech:

PQF: A BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS OF THE GLOBAL FILIPINO

It is my honor and privilege to sponsor Senate Bill No. 1456 under Committee Report No. 80 or "The Philippine Qualifications Framework or PQF Act of 2016."

I would like to thank our chairman of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture, Sen. Francis Escudero, for giving priority to this very important piece of legislation which, I believe, is a big dream for our education sector.

I fervently hope that we can make this dream come true by making the PQF, the blueprint for success of every Filipino, inherent in our educational and training system.

The PQF is a product of collaboration and synergy of several government agencies like

DOLE, TESDA, PRC, DepEd and CHED. Our friends and partners from the academe and industries also gave their valuable time and expertise for the continuous development of the PQF.

Kahit noong wala pa tayo sa Senado, bukambibig ko na po itong PQF. Noong 16th Congress, binalak nating dalhin ito sa Kongreso para maisabatas. Pero dahil kulang na rin sa panahon, tiniyak na lang natin na magpatuloy ang trabaho ng National Coordinating Council ng PQF. Malaking hakbang sa trabaho ng kasalukuyang PQF-NCC na makarating dito sa floor ang panukalang batas na ito.

Malaking tulong po ito para mapabilis ang progreso ng ating PQF.

While we already have structures and processes that have been documented and agreed upon, our qualification framework is yet to be operationalized. In ASEAN, the PQF is at the same level as Cambodia, Indonesia and Thailand. Malaysia's qualification framework has been fully implemented and is already in its advanced stage since they shifted to outcomes-based qualifications since 2007. Singapore's Workforce Skills Qualifications System was inaugurated as early as 2005.

The Philippines, together with other ASEAN member states, has established a National Qualifications Framework as the direct result of the interest in the creation of the free flow of skilled labor through "harmonization and standardization."

Along with these developments has been the endorsement of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQR) implemented from 2016 which created an impetus to ASEAN member states to either develop NQFs, like us, or review their NQFs, like Malaysia.

Evolution of the PQF

Obviously, our PQF is a work-in-progress but it is not actually a recent development in the education sector. It has progressed since TESDA implemented reforms leading to a quality assured competency-based TVET system in 1998.

The PQF was born in TESDA when, in 2004, the agency adopted the Philippine TVET Qualifications Framework (PTQF) with four levels of qualifications: National Certificates I to IV based on units of competency developed with industry stakeholders.

Then, it expanded through Executive Order No. 358 also in the year 2004, institutionalizing the interface between TVET and higher education through a unified National Qualifications

Framework with equivalency pathways and access ramps for a Ladderized System.

In 2012, former President Benigno Aquino III issued Executive Order No. 83 to institutionalize the Philippine Qualifications Framework through the creation of a high-level PQF-NCC.

In 2014, even though the PQF is not yet fully operational, it has already been embedded in Section 4 of Republic Act 10647 or the Ladderized Education Act of 2014.

I am glad that we have an ongoing legislative work for the institutionalization of the PQF and I urge your support for this particular measure.

Historical context and emergence of NQFs

Allow me to give you an overview or a context for the emergence of National Qualifications Framework or NQFs so that we can better appreciate the importance of having our own national qualifications framework aligned with international qualifications framework like the AQR.

At present, over 150 countries are now developing, or have developed, a National Qualifications Framework according to UNESCO.

As you very well know, the process of globalization was accompanied by the strengthening of economic and financial linkages within geographic regions. Of course, the breakdown of borders resulted in a world economy that is simultaneously becoming more regionalized and more globalized.

It also caused the formation of regional economies like the European Economic Community and, of course, our very own ASEAN Economic Community which is the latest and still a very young community.

This trend towards regional integration provided the impetus for the development of NQFs. That is why qualifications frameworks are not just at national level, there are also regional qualifications frameworks. Their main purpose is to help people moving from one country to another to work, or to continue their education or training.

In this regard, globalization or regionalization profoundly emphasizes the shift from education to learning and from learning to lifelong learning because the world changes very rapidly and we need more and more individuals who are equipped with the "21st century skills" such as life and career skills, learning and innovation skills and information, media and technology skills.

Hence, the development of National Qualifications Frameworks (NQFs) has been a major international trend in reforming national education and training systems. And it is not too late for us to further develop our PQF and make it fully operational especially in the midst of reforms and advancement in our education system.

Now, because of the breakdown of borders and increased labor mobility, there is a high demand for comparability. Due to greater mobility of people – students, workers, professionals are moving – the question is whether their qualifications are also the same as the qualifications of other countries.

For this reason, and as reflected in this bill, we want to institutionalize the PQF to deepen support to the national and international mobility of Filipino workers through increased recognition of the value and comparability of Philippine qualifications.

We know for a fact that when a Filipino goes to another country to work, comparability of his or her qualifications overseas becomes a big issue. It is in this context that we have an increasing importance of qualifications framework like the PQF and, eventually, it will be “referenced” with the ASEAN Regional Qualifications Framework (ARQF). This is also one of the reasons why we have Mutual Recognition Agreements or MRAs which were developed ahead of the ARQF.

As have said, we already have the ASEAN Qualifications Framework which is now in transition. It is about to be implemented like the European Framework. Our plan, together with Thailand and Malaysia, is to have our PQF referenced with the ARQF by 2018 (Bautista, 2017).

What is the PQF?

Essentially, the development of the PQF has been influenced by globalization and rapid technological developments as well as the ASEAN economic community. With that as a background, let me explain the PQF as a set or package of national standards and levels for outcome of education.

First, the PQF is a national instrument for the development and classification of qualifications according to a set of criteria or standards of learning achieved or qualification outcome within the educational system.

Kapag sinabi nating qualification, ito po iyong mga certificates, degrees, diploma, formal awards na natatanggap ng isang indibidwal. Sa PQF, isinasalin ang mga qualifications na ito sa

mga “statements of learning outcomes” at ang mga kaakibat na requirements para makuha ang mga “learning outcomes” na ito. Kasama rito ang performance sa isang pagsusulit. At ito ang dahilan kung bakit kasama ang PRC sa mga bumuo sa PQF o mga requirements upang makapasok o umangat sa trabaho ang isang indibidwal.

Second, the PQF is a hierarchy of levels of complexity of learning with level descriptors that include cognitive, functional, personal and ethical competencies.

May iba’t ibang antas o level ang PQF depende sa theoretical na kaalaman, iyong tinatawag na “know-how” o kakayahang makagawa ng isang partikular na gawain. Kasama din iyong pag-uugali o ang wastong pagdadala ng sarili sa iba’t ibang sitwasyon at maging iyong mga pagpapahalaga o “values” ng isang indibidwal.

Third, the PQF consists of 8-Level Qualifications Descriptors which is envisioned to give an individual the option to finish courses with a National Certificate 1 [Level 1], NC2 [Level 2], NC3 [Level 3], NC4 [Level 4] or graduate with a diploma or degree [Level 5], baccalaureate degree [Level 6], post-baccalaureate degree [Level 7] or a doctoral degree [Level 8].

Sa PQF, ang Grade 12 po ang base o Level 1. Sa K-12 curriculum po kasi, ipinasok na po natin ang tech-voc sa senior high school. Samakatuwid, ang Levels 1-4 ay tech-voc at ang Levels 6-8 ay higher education. Iyon pong Level 5 ang interface ng tech-voc at higher education.

Clearly, the PQF will harmonize and weave together basic education, technical-vocational education and higher education into a unified, quality-assured system.

For our students, the framework provides a clear picture of the competencies they need for the jobs they want while employers can easily identify the competencies their employees must possess.

Implication of the PQF to jobs

Under the PQF, individuals can also get credits for working which I repeatedly mentioned during our committee hearings and discussions about the PQF. Right now, our inter-agency team is working intensively on the development of “pathways” and “equivalencies.”

We also included this in the proposed measure to support the development and maintenance of pathways and equivalencies, which provide access to qualifications and assist

people to move easily and readily between the different education and training sectors and between these sectors and the labor market.

In fact, any person can get out of the formal education and come back as he or she gets credits from his or her work. In short, the PQF offers a very flexible system where a Filipino can benefit from formal, non-formal and even informal learning opportunities.

For example, a tricycle driver studies and finishes a tech-voc course in small engine repair, and then establishes his own repair shop. After a few years, he decided he wanted to pursue his studies to be an engineer. That college or university should evaluate his credential in the tech-voc school as a mechanic and credits the relevant subjects when he pursues college. When he graduates as an engineer and gets a license, his license should be one that would be recognized when he works abroad, say, in Singapore or Thailand.

Sa kasalukuyan po kasi hindi madali ang paglipat mula sa isang qualification patungo po sa isa pa dahil may mga bakod na naghihiwalay sa ating education sector. Kaya ang isang NC III holder sa automotive ay mahihirapang magpatuloy sa BS Mechanical Engineering dahil sa kawalan ng sistema ng credit transfer. Gayundin po ang lahat ng mga pagsasanay sa trabaho na nakuha ng isang indibidwal sa kumpanyang pinagtrabahuhan ay hindi pa lubos na kinikilala ngayon ng ating mga education at training institutions o iyong tinatawag natin na recognition of prior learning. But this is one promise of the PQF that if widely accepted, it can bridge lifelong learning and enhance the link between education and the economy or the labor market. This will put an end to our perennial problem of job-skills mismatch.

To make this happen, we are proposing adequate appropriations to be in place to allow the PQF-NCC to fulfill its functions, especially their ongoing work on pathways and equivalencies.

Benefits of the PQF

The institutionalization of the PQF will bring several benefits to students and workers, training providers and the government.

The PQF will pave the way for every Filipino to become a lifelong learner by allowing him or her to start at the level that suits him or her and then build up his or her qualifications as his or her needs and interests develop and change over time. It is also good for the employers by

assuring that standards and qualifications are consistent with job requirements or demand.

Our education and training providers will also benefit from the PQF by ensuring transparency in training provision, conformance to standards and accountability for learning outcomes. The framework will also provide them with common understanding of policies and guidelines on credit transfers, articulation, portability, bridges, pathways and recognition of prior learning (RPL). For the government, the PQF will provide the standards, taxonomy and typology of qualifications as bases for granting approvals to providers and stakeholders.

Most importantly, the PQF can change the mindset that undermines technical vocational education and privileges formal education only.

Hindi po talaga lahat ay kailangang magkolehiyo dahil unang-una, ang mga trabaho po na kadalasan ay mas malaki pa ang kita ay mas binibigyang-daan ng tech-voc kaysa sa mga kurso sa kolehiyo. Ito ay dahil industry-oriented ang mga tech-voc programs. Malaking tulong ang PQF para sa bawat pamilyang Pilipino na makabuo ng wastong desisyon tungkol sa pagtataguyod ng karera ng mga kabataang Pilipino.

As I have mentioned, the PQF is a work in progress and there are many challenges ahead of us such as skills mismatch, absence of criteria and institutional pathways for recognition of prior learning, lack of labor mobility that may be impossible to overcome if we do not institutionalize the PQF through this measure.

We believe that this bill should become a law to intensify the support to the PQF and engage more stakeholders in the process. After all, the PQF is a product of collaboration and what we need is to deepen this synergy for us to succeed in having a national qualifications framework, a blueprint for success, of the global Filipino.

Pagtulungan po nating itaguyod ang ating PQF, ang hagdang bawat Pilipino paakyat sa mas maganda at matatag na kinabukasan.

I urge your support for the immediate passage of Senate Bill No. 1456.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1456

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

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 62
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1449**
(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1449 (Committee Report No. 62), entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE PERIOD OF A DRIVER'S LICENSE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 23 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS AMENDED BY BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 398, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE.

Senator Sotto stated that the parliamentary status was 1 the period interpellations.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Poe, sponsor of the measure, and Senator Lacson for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR LACSON

At the outset, Senator Lacson stated that Senate Bill No. 1449 deserves the support of each and every senator of the Chamber including himself, except that he has an issue particularly with the second paragraph of Section 23 of the measure. He then asked if Senator Poe did not see the downside in extending the validity of a driver's license to ten years.

Senator Poe explained that the 10-year validity of a driver's license is actually an incentive because it would reduce hassle for the drivers and administrators, lessen red tape and cost of renewing the license, and motivate drivers to drive better. She explained that the new license would feature the driver's information, including his offenses, which would be uploaded using biometrics technology.

Senator Lacson said that he asked the question because some people age very quickly, so that ten years would make a lot of difference on how a person looks. He said that if a traffic enforcer accosts a driver whose license has a 10-year validity, the driver might not be recognized if he does not look like he did nine or 10 years ago.

Senator Poe replied that law enforcers would be able to identify the driver as signified in the license because of its biometric features. She said that in Singapore, a driver's license is only issued once with no renewal, unless revoked by the State; in Korea, the validity is 10 years with a facial recognition feature in their software.

Senator Lacson pointed out that an uneducated MMDA law enforcer might not be equipped with the proper machine to determine the fingerprints of the driver being accosted and might only rely on the driver's looks. Senator Poe replied that the LTO has assured the Committee that the MMDA law enforcers would be equipped and trained in handling biometrics facial recognition.

Senator Lacson then adverted to the second paragraph two of Section 23 which states, "In the issuance of licenses, the LTO shall use such process or adopt such measure as will prevent any alteration or falsification of a license or will enable the LTO to detect any unauthorized license. The LTO shall also strive towards creating an online application process for the renewal of professional and nonprofessional licenses." He noted that the provision was more persuasive than mandatory when, to him, it should direct and not merely persuade. He then recommended that the second paragraph of Section 23 be reworded, as follows:

In the issuance of licenses, the LTO shall use such process or adopt such measure as will prevent any alteration or falsification of a license or will enable the LTO to detect any unauthorized license. The LTO shall also CREATE AN ONLINE PROCESS FOR THE APPLICATION AND RENEWAL OF THE PROFESSIONAL AND NON-PROFESSIONAL LICENSES WITHIN ONE (1) YEAR AFTER THE PASSAGE OF THIS ACT.

Senator Poe accepted Senator Lacson's proposed amendment, saying that she would introduce it at the proper time.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR DRILON

Asked by Senator Drilon on the present validity of the driver's license. Senator Poe replied that it is valid for three years but the LTO, since October 2016, had extended it to five years by virtue of an executive order.

Senator Drilon questioned why the validity was

extended to five years when the law limited it to three years.

Senator Recto stated that his understanding of the current law is that a driver's license is valid for three years and when renewed, it could be granted a 5-year validity provided the license holder did not commit any violation during the preceding 3-year period. He explained that the amendment, as mentioned on page 3, calls for the extension of the validity of the license from three years to five years and the renewal, on line 11, would be from five years to 10 years.

Senator Poe clarified that the initial three-year validity of a driver's license would become five years and the current five-year extension would become 10 years.

Senator Drilon asked if his license, which presently has a validity period of three years, would be automatically extended by another two years once the bill is passed into law or whether he has to renew it after three years. Senator Poe replied that when the holder renews his/her license, he/she would be granted a 10-year extension if he/she has no violation; on the other hand, a new applicant would automatically be given a license valid for five years.

Senator Drilon asked why there was a need to involve both houses of Congress in the lengthy debate to change the period of validity of the driver's license when this undertaking could be delegated to the President or directly to the LTO who has the expertise on the matter. He proposed to amend the particular provision to the effect that henceforth, the validity of a driver's license is five years and any extension of the validity can be done through an executive order or an administrative order if public interest so requires.

Senator Drilon noted that the measure aims to basically fix the validity period of a driver's license. However, he noted another provision of the bill asking the local government to report any traffic violation within 24 hours from issuance of a traffic violation receipt. He said that such a provision is alien to the subject matter which is the renewal of licenses.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Poe, the session was suspended.

It was 4:58 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

Upon resumption, Senator Poe explained that the principle behind the provision requiring the LGUs to submit a report to LTO within 24 hours any traffic violation is that for a driver's license to be granted 10-year validity when it is being applied for renewal the license holder must have a clean record. Senator Drilon stated that he was just raising the issue which may possibly violate the constitutional provision mandating that every bill must embrace only one subject which shall be expressed in its title. He expressed the view that the provision requiring the LGUs and the MMDA to report within 24 hours from the issuance of such receipts the details of violation has nothing to do with the period of validity of the driver's license.

Senator Poe replied that the amendment could provide information as regards the track record of the holder and whether or not he/she should be given a 10-year extension.

Asked whether the LTO could implement the amendment considering the number of traffic violations committed every day, Senator Poe replied that the LTO claims to have a database with the LGU. If the provision is in the law, she said that the LGU would be compelled to comply.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR RECTO

Asked by Senator Recto whether those who apprehend traffic violators would confiscate or simply issue receipts for violations, Senator Poe replied that they will confiscate the license and then issue a temporary operator's permit (TOP). She stated that if the license is confiscated in an LGU, it must remain with the LGU, but the details of the violation must be transmitted to the LTO which supposedly has the database.

Senator Recto stated that he would introduce an amendment at the proper time to cover such a situation since only the violation receipt was discussed in the measure.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

There being no other interpellation, upon motion

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of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations.

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF SENATE BILL NO. 1449**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 23
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1281**

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1281 (Committee Report No. 23), entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE FARMERS
AND FISHERFOLK ENTERPRISE
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.

Senator Sotto stated that the status was still the period of interpellations.

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

**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF SENATE BILL NO. 1281**

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

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 31
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1306**

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1306 (Committee Report No. 31), entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE
BOXING COMMISSION TO STRENGTHEN
THE BOXING INDUSTRY
AND PROMOTE THE SAFETY AND
WELFARE OF FILIPINO BOXERS,
AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Senator Sotto stated that the status was still the period of interpellations.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Pacquiao, sponsor of the measure, and Senator Drilon for the continuation of his interpellation.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 5:06 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:08 p.m., the session was resumed.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR DRILON

Asked how many committee hearings were conducted to discuss and analyze the bill, Senator Pacquiao replied that one committee hearing and five Technical Working Group meetings were conducted. He affirmed that the DBM was invited but it did not send any representative to the hearing.

Asked if invitations to attend the committee hearings were sent to both PAGCOR and PCSO, Senator Pacquiao replied in the affirmative, saying that representatives from both agencies appeared during the committee hearings.

On whether the PAGCOR and PCSO are willing to contribute P75 million each as they are required to do under the bill, Senator Pacquiao replied that both agencies have expressed willingness to assist the commission.

To the observation that Section 18 of the bill appropriates the sum of P150 million from PAGCOR and PCSO at P75 million each to fund the first year expenses of the boxing commission, Senator Pacquiao said that the amount of P150 million could still be reduced to any amount they would agree upon.

On whether the appropriation of P150 million is supported by any work or financial plan, Senator Pacquiao stressed that the amount is necessary to subsidize the start of operations of the boxing commission, particularly its maintenance and operating expenses. He pointed out that even the boxing commissions in Australia, Nevada and California

ms

receive government subsidies for their operations. If the bill is approved, he said that offices would not only be established in Manila but nationwide.

Regarding the number of registered professional boxers in the country, Senator Pacquiao stated that there were 1,051 professional boxers in the Philippines.

Senator Drilon computed that dividing P150 million by 1,051 boxers would translate to P142,000 which shall be the amount to be spent to supervise one boxer. He then inquired if it is a reasonable expense of public funds. Senator Pacquiao reiterated that the amount indicated in the bill was just a proposal and that it can be reduced by way of amendment.

Senator Drilon noted that the P150 million budget could already build 300 classrooms, and based on a ratio of 50 pupils per classroom, 15,000 pupils would be deprived of a classroom year by year. At this point, Senator Pacquiao disclosed that the other proposed budget for the boxing commission is P80 million.

Still on the aspect of funding, Senator Drilon noted that the budget of the Philippine General Hospital (PGH) for 2017 was P2.6 billion which would cater to roughly 600,000 patients or approximately P4,300 per patient annually. Thus, he supposed that the allocation of P150 million for the boxing commission is contrary to public interest. In reply, Senator Pacquiao pointed out that P150 million was just a proposal, and he maintained that the money would promote the welfare of the professional boxers and other combat sports athletes. Senator Drilon believed that while he recognizes the need to protect the boxers, the GAB, which is effectively discharging its function, may be strengthened instead of spending P150 million for a boxing commission.

Asked if the GAB was opposing the creation of the Philippine Boxing Commission, Senator Pacquiao admitted that it was normal for the GAB to oppose because it would lose supervision over boxing and other combat sports.

To Senator Drilon's observation that the GAB is opposed to the measure because it believes that it has been performing its functions properly and, therefore, the creation of another commission is no longer necessary, Senator Pacquiao said that the GAB is entitled to its own opinion. He stated that

having been a boxer for more than 20 years, he has witnessed how the boxing industry has been neglected, with many boxers dying and not receiving any help, prompting him to propose the creation of a boxing commission that would properly supervise not only boxers but also combat sport athletes.

At this juncture, Senator Drilon asked on the number of GAB personnel.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pacquiao, the session was suspended.

It was 5:25 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:26 p.m., the session was resumed.

Upon resumption, Senator Pacquiao stated that the GAB has 154 employees, 46 of whom are handling affairs related to boxing.

Asked why a boxing commission should be created when one-third of the staff from GAB are already devoted to boxing, Senator Pacquiao said that 46 employees are not enough manpower complement.

Senator Drilon pointed out that 90% of the current activities of GAB are focused on boxing; thus, if boxing is taken out of GAB together with other combat sports, the GAB might as well be abolished. Senator Pacquiao maintained that the GAB is not focused on boxing alone but on many other sports as there are 13 sports that it is handling.

At this juncture, Senator Drilon manifested that he was suspending his interpellation as he noted only a few senators are left in the hall.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pacquiao, the session was suspended.

It was 5:30 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:30 p.m., the session was resumed.

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**SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF SENATE BILL NO. 1306**

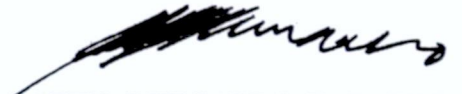
Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, May 22, 2017.

It was 5:32 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.



ATTY. LUTGARDO B. BARBO
Att. Secretary of the Senate

Approved on May 22, 2017