



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 5
Tuesday, August 1, 2017

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:05 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III led the prayer, to wit:

“Many are the plans in a man’s heart but it is Your purpose that prevails.”

— *Proverbs 19:21* of the Holy Book.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We have just begun the Second Regular Session of the 17th Congress. We want to start this legislative season right and make it an instrument to be used for Your glory. We come before You today and humbly ask for Your wisdom and godly counsel. Align our plans with Your greater will for our country. Give each one of us direction and clear leading in order to make the right choices, both inside and out of this august Chamber, for obedience to You brings blessings. We declare that You are sovereign over the Philippines.

Lord, we also lift up to You our soldiers. We ask for Your hand of protection over them always. Give them strength and comfort as they go about their duties in the protection of our land and countrymen.

Thank you, O Lord, for Your faithfulness. We look forward to what You have in store for us this year and in the future.

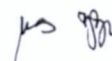
In the Holy Name of Jesus, we pray.

Amen.

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:

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



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

Senators Aquino and Escudero arrived after the roll call.

Senator Trillanes was on official mission abroad.

Senator Recto was absent.

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

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNALS

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journals of Session No. 40 (November 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 21 and 22, 2016) and Session No. 4 (July 31, 2017) and considered them approved.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following mayors from Isabela Province, namely: Mayor Arnold Edward P. Co of Delfin Albano, Mayor Jossie Maria Bella L. Juan of Quirino, Mayor Anthony P. Respicio of Reina Mercedes, Mayor Lynn M. Zuñiga of Cordon, Mayor Crispina R. Agcaoili of San Mateo, Mayor Cesar A. Mondala of San Agustin, Mayor Jimmy S. Gamazon Jr. of Quezon, and Mayor Arnold S. Bautista of Tumauni.

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:

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 26 July 2017, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills, in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 5682, entitled

AN ACT MAKING THE POSITION OF A COOPERATIVES OFFICER MANDATORY IN THE MUNICIPAL, CITY AND PROVINCIAL LEVELS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

To the Committee on Local Government

House Bill No. 5685, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; Foreign Relations; and Finance

House Bill No. 5686, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JULY 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NATIONAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9645, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMMEMORATION OF THE FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF IGLESIA NI CRISTO ACT

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

House Bill No. 5707, entitled

AN ACT RIGHTSIZING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY

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

House Bill No. 5717, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE ASSIGNED TO PBN BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8158,

ENTITLED AN ACT EXTENDING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO JORGE D. BAYONA UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED FIFTY-SEVEN HUNDRED EIGHTY-NINE, ASSIGNING IT IN FAVOUR OF PBN BROADCASTING NETWORK, INC., AND RENEWING THE TERM THEREOF FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT

To the Committee on Public Services

House Bill No. 5681, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A CARABAO CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUINOBATAN, PROVINCE OF ALBAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7307, ENTITLED "AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER TO PROPAGATE AND PROMOTE THE PHILIPPINE CARABAO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

House Bill No. 5687, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN IN COMMEMORATION OF THE INAUGURATION OF THE PHILIPPINE REPUBLIC

To the Committee on Local Government

House Bill No. 5688, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 21 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF CEBU AND THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF CEBU, INCLUDING ITS HIGHLY URBANIZED AND COMPONENT CITIES, TO BE

KNOWN AS CEBU PRESS FREEDOM DAY

To the Committee on Local Government

House Bill No. 5690, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 2 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF LA UNION IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS LA UNION DAY

To the Committee on Local Government

House Bill No. 5691, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 15 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY

To the Committee on Local Government

House Bill No. 5715, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO CEBU BROADCASTING COMPANY UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7963, ENTITLED AN ACT GRANTING THE CEBU BROADCASTING COMPANY A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committee on Public Services

House Bill No. 5716, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO VANGUARD RADIO NETWORK COMPANY, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC

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ACT NO. 7529, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING VANGUARD RADIO NETWORK COMPANY, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8069

To the Committee on Public Services

House Bill No. 5780, entitled

AN ACT RENAMING THE DON HONORIO VENTURA TECHNOLOGICAL STATE UNIVERSITY (DHVTSU) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BACOLOR, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA AS THE DON HONORIO VENTURA STATE UNIVERSITY (DHVSU), AND EXPANDING ITS CURRICULAR OFFERINGS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9832, ENTITLED AN ACT CONVERTING THE DON HONORIO VENTURA COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BACOLOR, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE DON HONORIO VENTURA TECHNOLOGICAL STATE UNIVERSITY (DHVTSU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

BILL ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1530, entitled

AN ACT AUGMENTING SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS OF HEIRS OF SOLDIERS WHO DIED IN THE LINE OF DUTY BEFORE COMPLETION OF TWENTY YEARS OF ACTIVE SERVICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1044 AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 448, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE PROVISION OF QUICK RESPONSE FUNDS TO AREAS AFFLICTED WITH NATURAL AND HUMAN INDUCED CALAMITIES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committees on Finance; and National Defense and Security

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 449, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND FINANCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CLIMATE-RELATED RISKS AND CAPACITY CHALLENGES THAT IMPACT THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES' ABILITY TO RESPOND TO NON-TRADITIONAL FORMS OF THREATS AND TO RECOMMEND MEASURES TO BRING ABOUT A RESILIENT AFP WITH BETTER CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION CAPACITY, PRACTICE AND GOVERNANCE THAT CONTRIBUTE TO BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Climate Change; and National Defense and Security

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 450, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPRO-

PRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE WORKING CONDITIONS OF OUR DOMESTIC HELPERS WORKING ABROAD WITH THE END VIEW OF ESTABLISHING OR STRENGTHENING THE POLICIES AND MECHANISMS FOR PROTECTING THEIR RIGHTS, SAFETY, AND WELL-BEING

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committees on Foreign Relations; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 141, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Energy; Ways and Means; Public Services; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1531, with Senators Legarda, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Trillanes IV and Win Gatchalian as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION, ENHANCING THE EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY, GRANTING INCENTIVES TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 30 and 525.

Sponsor: Senator Win Gatchalian

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 142, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Science and Technology; Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Ways and Means; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1532, with Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV as author thereof, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN, PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 175.

Sponsor: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 143, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Science and Technology; Ways and Means; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1533, with Senators Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV, Grace Poe and Joseph Victor Ejercito as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BALIK SCIENTIST PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1183, 1324 and 1356.

Sponsor: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 144, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Science and Technology; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1534, with Senators Legarda, Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV and Sonny Angara as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8439, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR SCIENTISTS, ENGINEERS, RESEARCHERS AND OTHER S & T PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 394, 679 and 1333.

Sponsor: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no

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objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 142 on Senate Bill No. 1532, from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 142 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1532

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 1532 (Committee Report No. 142), entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN, PROMOTE, AND DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM.

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.

The Chair recognized Senator Aquino for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR AQUINO

Senator Aquino submitted for plenary consideration Senate Bill No. 1532 under Committee Report No. 142, entitled "An Act Providing Benefits and Programs to Strengthen, Promote, and Develop the Philippine Startup Ecosystem," which seeks to promote startup businesses by empowering innovative entrepreneurs in the country.

The full text of Senator Aquino's sponsorship speech follows:

It is difficult to launch a startup, and this is especially difficult to do in the Philippines.

I experienced this firsthand when I co-founded two social enterprises—Hapinoy and Rags2Riches (R2R), almost a decade ago with some good friends.

We experienced rejection, running out of capital, and changes in our business model. We went through many of the hardships every budding entrepreneur experiences, which is why Filipino startups have a very special place in my heart.

So when I became a legislator, I was determined to push for policies that empower Filipino MSMEs.

The first law I passed was the Go Negosyo Act and I am happy to report that there are now over 500 Negosyo Centers around the Philippines. We also passed the Youth Entrepreneurship Act and other laws that support the development of our micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). But there is still much more we can do to encourage startups, particularly our innovative and technology startups.

These are businesses that provide unique and relevant solutions to our problems— from daily hassles like finding a taxi during rush hour, to improving the delivery of healthcare, providing support for our farmers, and even addressing unemployment. And today, I would like to share with you some of these solutions.

The first is *HealthBlocks*. HealthBlocks focuses on the issue of complicated and extensive personal healthcare information.

In countries like Australia and England, health records are centralized for better access to accurate health information about patients. HealthBlocks took this idea and created an application that can facilitate the centralization of health information in the Philippines, Asia or anywhere in the world.

Imagine all your health records accessible at the touch of a button and easily but securely given to your doctors, healthcare providers, or insurance companies. HealthBlocks will not only improve convenience but will also allow for better diagnosis and treatment of patients.

Another startup is called *Cropital*. Cropital is attempting to solve the problem of many of our farmers and this is the lack of access to loans with reasonable terms. This startup allows anyone to sign up online and choose a local farming community to invest money in. Then they manage the funds of each farm and ensure that your money goes to the right resources.

After harvest season and the farmer's produce are sold, the investor gets his return based on the agreed-upon-terms of the community.

Through technology and the concept of crowdsourcing, Cropital is able to match our farmers with those with the means to invest, empowering farmers in their agri-business. Another innovative solution!

The third example is *Virtualahan*. Virtualahan is attempting to solve the problem of unemployment.

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ment. *Virtualahan* actually stands for “virtual *eskwelahan*,” which provides digital skills training for persons with disabilities (PWDs), unemployed youth, and full-time parents so they can be hired as virtual assistants for NGOs and social enterprises around the world.

To solve the problem of unemployment, *Virtualahan* is using the power of technology and the internet—which is why we must also work to improve our internet services in the country.

But back to our innovative businesses, HealthBlocks, Cropital and *Virtualahan* are just three of over 200,000 startups in the Philippines with the potential to solve our country’s problems and contribute to the lives of Filipinos through the products they create and the jobs they generate.

The Innovative Startup Act aims to give these startups a better chance of succeeding by reducing barriers to their success.

This policy seeks to support innovative startups, first, through financial subsidies like tax breaks and grants; second, through ease of red tape in business registration; and third, through technical assistance and training programs.

Plus, there is a provision for an Innovative Startup Venture Fund of P1 billion that startups can apply for.

Through this measure, innovative startups will also be entitled to free use of equipment, facilities and other services from government agencies, such as testing and fabrication facilities, and services for the patenting or licensing of their product with the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines.

Let’s take this opportunity to empower our innovators and entrepreneurs with a heart for nation-building.

Ipasa po natin ang Innovative Startup Act at himukin po natin ang ating mga makabagong negosyante na lumikha ng mga solusyon para sa bayan! Maraming salamat po and I encourage all my colleagues to support Senate Bill No. 1532 under Committee Report No. 142.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1532

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. 141 on Senate Bill No. 1531 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 141 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1531

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 1531 (Committee Report No. 141), entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION, ENHANCING THE EFFICIENT USE OF ENERGY, GRANTING INCENTIVES TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS, 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.

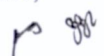
The Chair recognized Senator Gatchalian for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR GATCHALIAN

Senator Gatchalian, on behalf of the Committee on Energy, submitted for plenary consideration Senate Bill No. 1531, entitled “An Act Institutionalizing Energy Efficiency And Conservation, Enhancing The Efficient Use Of Energy, Granting Incentives To Energy Efficiency And Conservation Projects, And For Other Purposes” under Committee Report No. 141.

The full text of Senator Gatchalian’s sponsorship speech follows:

Usually, when we talk about energy and the economy, more is better. The focus is to meet the ever-increasing power demands of a growing economy by increasing energy supply. In essence,



the simple arithmetic of the matter is that the more electricity we have to consume, the more productivity we can squeeze out of the economy.

The bill I am sponsoring on the floor today, however, takes a different approach to addressing the perennial need for more energy. The empirical foundations of this piece of legislation show that when it comes to energy consumption, less is actually more. The “less is more” theory stems from the two central concepts of this bill.

The first is energy efficiency – the way of managing and restraining the growth of energy consumption resulting in the delivery of more services for the same energy input or the same services for less energy input.

The second is energy conservation, which refers to the reduction of losses and wastages from energy production to energy consumption through the adoption of technologically-feasible, economically sound, environmentally-friendly, and socially affordable measures.

A simple example of energy efficiency and conservation at work is something that is becoming more and more common these days – the motion-sensitive LED light bulb. Compared to the conventional light bulbs, the LED light bulbs require less electricity to produce the same amount of light. This makes it more efficient. Meanwhile, the motion sensor makes sure that the LED light bulb only turns on when there is someone in its vicinity. This embodies conservation because it eliminates wastage and makes sure that the light bulb only consumes power at times when we need the lights on.

Now, obviously, this is a simple example. Yet, employing these easy concepts in the big picture can make a fundamental change in Philippines energy policy. In the long run, by institutionalizing energy efficiency and conservation standards, we will be enhancing the stability, sustainability and affordability of our energy supply while driving economic productivity to even greater heights. This is supported by three decades’ worth of experience of advanced countries with high levels of energy consumption.

The 29-member International Energy Agency estimates that energy efficiency investments made by its member countries since 1990 saved their citizens US\$550 billion in 2014 alone. Included in the saved energy cost is US\$80 billion due to reduced fossil fuel imports. This decrease in fossil fuel use also had significant effects on environmental sustainability, reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 10 billion tons from 1990 to 2015.

Meanwhile, further research from the International Energy Agency in a 2014 study, entitled “Capturing the Multiple Effects of Energy Efficiency” outlines even more direct and indirect impacts of energy efficiency policy on economic activity. For example, an analysis of GDP changes due to large-scale energy efficiency policies shows a positive effect on economic growth, ranging anywhere from 0.25% to 1.1% per year. Energy efficiency policies also positively impact employment opportunities, showing a potential for job creation ranging from eight to 27 jobs per year per 1 million euro invested in energy efficiency measures.

In addition, energy efficiency policies have been found to have a positive effect on the finances of government spending on energy, increased tax revenues due to more robust economic activities and long-term savings on public energy subsidies and incentives.

To synthesize, energy efficiency and conservation strategies cover all three fronts of the 3S vision for energy which has guided our legislative agenda for the energy committee. First, these policies boost the stability of the energy supply by ensuring that we are able to maximize the existing power supply. The reduced need to generate additional power, in turn, enhances the sustainability of the energy supply by avoiding additional greenhouse gas emissions. More importantly, the mix of efficiency and conservation outcomes leads to consumer savings in the long run.

However, despite the clear empirical benefits of implementing a national energy efficiency policy framework, the Philippines remains to be the only ASEAN member-state without national legislation on the matter. And while there exists an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Roadmap under the Philippine Energy Plan 2016 to 2030, there remains a need to legislate this to institutionalize the country’s energy efficiency policies, empower DOE to effectively implement them and to mandate energy end-users to pursue energy efficiency.

Having outlined the benefits of instituting a comprehensive energy efficiency policy framework and underscored the need for legislative action, allow me to finally go through the salient points of Senate Bill No. 1531. At this point, I would like to thank the authors of the two bills which served as the basis for the committee report I am sponsoring today: Senate Bill No. 30, filed by our esteemed peer and my good friend, Sen. Loren Legarda; and Senate Bill No. 525, filed by the honorable gentleman from the minority, Sen. Antonio F. Trillanes IV.

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In essence, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act of 2017 lays down a solid foundation for a comprehensive energy efficiency policy framework in the following ways:

First, the bill instructs all energy end-users to use energy resources efficiently and promote the development and utilization of new and alternative energy efficient technologies and systems.

Second, it mandates the creation of the National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan, and the development and maintenance of a National Energy Efficiency and Conservation Database.

Next, the bill integrates energy efficiency and conservation into local governance, empowering LGUs through the creation of a Local Energy Efficiency and Conservation Plan, and the integration of the Guidelines on Energy Conserving Design on buildings in the issuance of building permits.

To bring these efficiency standards to life, the bill requires the development, implementation and review of Minimum Energy Performance standards for , first, energy-consuming products such as machinery, equipment and appliances; and second, the commercial, industrial and transport sectors. It also requires the creation of an energy efficiency rating and labeling system, guidelines on energy conserving design for buildings; and fuel economy performance labeling for transport vehicles.

The bill will also identify designated establishments based on annual energy consumption. These energy-intensive establishments will have to meet certain obligations, such as the establishment of targets, plans and methods for the implementation of energy efficiency and conservation projects; the employment either of a Certified Energy Conservation Officer or a Certified Energy Manager to meet these targets; the submission of an annual Energy Consumption and Conservation Report; and the conduct of a triennial Energy Audit.

To encourage widespread compliance with the worthy goals and strict standards set by the measure, the bill will also provide incentives to establishments that will implement or are implementing energy efficient projects. These incentives will be in the form of fiscal incentives through the Board of Investments' annual investment priorities under the Omnibus Investment Code, non-fiscal incentives through awards and recognition, as well as technical assistance from government agencies and financial assistance from government financial institutions.

The provisions of this Act will be implemented by the Department of Energy, which will be designated as the lead agency in the planning, formulation, development, implementation, enforcement and monitoring of energy management policies and other energy efficiency and conservation initiatives. To effectively execute its mandate, DOE is given the power to: examine and test energy-consuming products for verification of compliance with Minimum Energy Performance standards; visit and conduct on-site inspections of designated establishments and impose fines and penalties for violations.

To ensure that the government will lead by example in energy efficiency and conservation practices, this bill will also establish the Inter-Agency Energy Efficiency and Conservation Committee. The committee will be charged with approving government energy efficiency projects and implementing the Government Energy Management Program. Through this, all current and future government buildings will be required to meet the standards set by this Act. This includes, of course, the future Senate building.

In sum, the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act of 2017 will institute a comprehensive and detailed energy efficiency and conservation regime in the Philippines, aimed at enhancing the stability and sustainability of the Philippine energy supply, with resulting consumer savings. I am confident that the passage of this legislation will foster robust inclusive economic growth as we strive to meet the country's ambitious long-term socio-economic goals. This legislation has been a long time coming, and it is encouraging to see that the Philippines has come one step closer to meeting the international standard of energy efficiency.

Once again, thank you.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Preliminarily, Senator Legarda thanked Senator Gatchalian for prioritizing important measures such as the Innovation Act in the Committee on Economic Affairs, and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation bill.

She said that it was with great pleasure for her to register her full and unequivocal support for the passage of Senate Bill No. 1531, which seeks to institutionalize energy efficiency and conservation by providing incentives and by encouraging government agencies and local government units to ensure



the efficient use of energy in their offices, facilities and transportation units, by incorporating energy saving methods in local development plans.

She agreed on the need to institutionalize energy efficiency and conservation as a national way of life as she urged everyone to work towards the efficient and judicious utilization of energy by developing and implementing energy efficiency and conservation plans and programs.

Senator Legarda emphasized that it is the duty of every citizen to promote and encourage the development and utilization of efficient renewable energy technologies and systems to ensure optimal use and sustainability of the country's energy resources. Thus, she called on her colleagues to support the passage of the Senate Bill No. 1531.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1531

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 Wednesday, August 2, 2017.

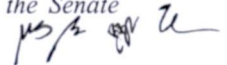
It was 3:42 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.



ATTY. LUTGARDO B. BARBO

Secretary of the Senate



Approved on August 2, 2017