

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**S e n a t e**

**Pasay City**

# **Journal**

**SESSION NO. 6**

Wednesday, August 4, 2004

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**SESSION NO. 6**

Wednesday, August 4, 2004

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:30 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session order.

**PRAYER**

Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago read the following hymn by Jane Parker Huber:

Great God of All Wisdom

Great God of all wisdom, of science and art,  
O grant us the wisdom that comes from the  
heart.

Technology, learning, philosophy, youth –  
All leave us still yearning for Your word of  
truth.

Where people are starving, where wars  
devastate,  
A future we're carving of anguish and hate.  
God, turn us around and invade all our lives  
Till justice is found and Your righteousness  
thrives.

Call us to a new day of promise and trust  
That outlines a new way of life that is just.  
Call us to build bridges, deep chasms to clear,  
Mark trails over ridges of bias and fear.

Creator of visions as well as of stars,  
O mend our divisions and heal all our scars.  
You reign over history, both present and past,  
Most challenging mystery from first to  
the last.

Amen.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate, Oscar G. Yabes, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, E. J.	Flavier, J. M.
Biazon, R. G.	Lacson, P. M.
Cayetano, C. P. S.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Defensor Santiago, M.	Lim, A. S.
Drilon, F. M.	Madrigal, M. A.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Ejercito Estrada, L. L. P.	Pimentel Jr., A. Q.
Enrile, J. P.	Revilla Jr., R. B.

With 16 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Arroyo, Gordon, Magsaysay, Osmeña, Recto, Roxas and Villar arrived after the roll call.

**APPROVAL OF THE JOURNALS**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journals of Session Nos. 4 and 5 and considered them approved.

**REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

The Secretary of the Senate read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

**BILLS ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 251, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 7 (C)  
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6982,  
ENTITLED "AN ACT  
STRENGTHENING THE SOCIAL  
AMELIORATION PROGRAM  
IN THE SUGAR INDUSTRY,  
PROVIDING THE MECHANICS  
FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

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Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development**

Senate Bill No. 252, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7202, ENTITLED AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE RESTITUTION OF LOSSES SUFFERED BY SUGAR PRODUCERS FROM CROP YEAR 1974-1975 TO CROP YEAR 1984-1985 DUE TO THE ACTIONS OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED AGENCIES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Agriculture and Food**

Senate Bill No. 253, entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES BY ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, PROVIDING FOR MECHANISMS OF IMPLEMENTATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Agriculture and Food; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 254, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES TO UNDERTAKE A TEN YEAR AGROFORESTATION PROGRAM, PROVIDING MECHANISMS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 255, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE BOARD OF AGROFORESTRY UNDER THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATIONS COMMISSION, PROVIDING FOR MECHANISMS OF IMPLEMENTATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

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

Senate Bill No. 256, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT, CONSERVE AND REHABILITATE THE SEAWEEDS AND SEASHELLS RESOURCES IN ANY FORM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 257, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY GENERATION AND TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 258, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY

SHARING AMONG PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO ATTAIN THEIR FULLEST DEVELOPMENT AS SELF-RELIANT COMMUNITIES APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

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

Senate Bill No. 259, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8048 ENTITLED, AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE CUTTING OF COCONUT TREES, ITS REPLENISHMENT, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 260, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE MANGO INDUSTRY, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE MANGO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Trade and Commerce; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 261, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND

INDUSTRY SYSTEM, PROMOTING ORDER, EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF SERVICES BETWEEN AND AMONG CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Economic Affairs

Senate Bill No. 262, entitled

AN ACT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE MICRO-CREDIT FINANCING AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3844. AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE CODE OF AGRARIAN REFORM IN THE PHILIPPINES", APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 263, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER PROMOTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6977, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR SMALL ENTERPRISES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; and Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 264, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FAIR CREDIT BILLING SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

Senate Bill No. 265, entitled

AN ACT FIXING THE RATES OF INTEREST UPON LOANS AND FOREBEARANCES BY AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. TWENTY SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY-FIVE, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

Senate Bill No. 266, entitled

AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN CONSUMER PROTECTION, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 267, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL CONSUMER PRODUCTS TO SPECIFY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE LABELS THE NUTRITION INFORMATION THAT EACH CONSUMER PRODUCT CONTAINS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 77 OF R.A. NO. 7394 ALSO KNOWN AS THE CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 268, entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE MANUFACTURE, REPAIR, REQUALIFICATION, SALE AND DISTRIBUTION OF LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) CYLINDERS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Energy**

Senate Bill No. 269, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL RETAILERS OF LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) TO HAVE A SCALE OR WEIGHING MACHINE IN THEIR STORES OR ESTABLISHMENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development**

Senate Bill No. 270, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SOME PROVISIONS OF THE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1460, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE INSURANCE CODE OF 1978 BY PRESCRIBING A CRIMINAL PENALTY UPON ANY PERSON FOR REFUSING TO SETTLE ANY CLAIM FOR LOSS OR DAMAGE FOR WHICH AN INSURER MAY BE LIABLE WITHIN THE PERIOD PRESCRIBED BY THE CODE

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 271, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING BUSINESS ONE-STOP SHOP (BOSS) CENTERS FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES IN ALL REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL CENTERS IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; Economic Affairs; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 272, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE PROHIBITION AGAINST MONOPOLIES AND CARTELS OF BASIC NECESSITIES OR PRIME COMMODITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SEVENTY-EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY-ONE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PRICE ACT

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Trade and Commerce**

Senate Bill No. 273, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE ADVERTISING INDUSTRY IN ORDER TO PROTECT CONSUMERS, PROMOTE THE GENERAL WELFARE, AND ENCOURAGE ADVERTISING WHICH UPHOLDS TRUTH AND INCULCATES IN OUR PEOPLE DESIRABLE MORAL VALUES AND CULTURAL TRADITIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; Trade and Commerce; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 274, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE DRINKING WATER BUSINESS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Trade and Commerce**

Senate Bill No. 275, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE ENTREPINOY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY THEREBY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE LIVELIHOOD MOVEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 276, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE REGULATORY POWERS OF THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6939, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

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

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Senate Bill No. 277, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING COUNTRYSIDE CREDIT THROUGH COOPERATIVE BANKS AND ENCOURAGING THE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE BANKS BY AMENDING CHAPTER XIII OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6938, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COOPERATIVE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; Cooperatives; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 278, entitled

AN ACT RESTRUCTURING THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION REVIEW AND CLASSIFICATION BOARD, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE THAT PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBER ONE THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX (1986) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media**

Senate Bill No. 279, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 31 AS NATIONAL THANKSGIVING DAY AND AN ANNUAL HOLIDAY

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 280, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE MUSIC INDUSTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 281, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES, STRENGTHENING ITS POWERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 282, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF ALL OBJECTS OF UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE IN PHILIPPINE WATERS

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 283, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 284, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 122-A, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ACT CREATING THE OFFICE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Cultural Communities; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 285, entitled

AN ACT TO SPUR THE PLANTING OF A BILLION TREES THROUGH COMPLEMENTARY TREE PLANTING PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, COMMUNITIES, SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES, AND CIVIC AND NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, ESTABLISHING MINI-FOREST RESERVES IN CITIES, MUNICIPALITIES AND SUBDIVISION PROJECTS, PROMOTING FOREST PLANTATIONS, AND PROTECTING THE REMAINING NATURAL FORESTS, CREATING A FUND THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Local Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 286, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO PLANT TREES ALONG NATIONAL AND LOCAL HIGHWAYS WITHIN ITS TERRITORIAL BOUNDARIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Local Government; Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 287, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES IMPOSED AGAINST FAILURE TO SECURE AN ENVIRONMENTAL CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE FOR UNDERTAKINGS IN ENVIRONMENTALLY CRITICAL AREAS OR VIOLATIONS OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREOF, THEREBY AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1586 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

Senate Bill No. 288, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE COASTAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Agriculture and Food; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 289, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE OFFENSE OF ILLEGAL LOGGING IN WATERSHEDS AND OTHER PROTECTED AREAS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 290, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE CEBU WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

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AUTHORITY, CHARGED WITH INTEGRATING AND COORDINATING VARIOUS AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONAL INSTRUMENTALITIES DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY HAVING TO DO WITH THE WATER SUPPLY AND SERVICES FOR METRO CEBU AND CEBU PROVINCE

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 291, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING AND ESTABLISHING RIVERS, RIVER SYSTEMS, BEACHES SHORES AND WATERWAYS AS ECOLOGICAL ZONE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 292, entitled

AN ACT TO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL WATER CRISIS PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Public Services; Environment and Natural Resources; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 293, entitled

AN ACT DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO NULLIFY TITLES OVER LANDS NOT YET CLASSIFIED AS ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE AT THE TIME OF THE ISSUANCE

OF SAID TITLES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Agrarian Reform**

Senate Bill No. 294, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 26, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING A SPECIAL PROCEDURE FOR THE RECONSTITUTION OF TORRENS CERTIFICATE OF TITLE LOST OR DESTROYED," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 295, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 7942, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE MINING ACT OF 1995

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources**

Senate Bill No. 296, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISION ON FREE ELEMENTARY EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance**

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Senate Bill No. 297, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOL IN EVERY MUNICIPALITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 298, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7743, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL, CITY, AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING THE NECESSARY FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 299, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING FREE PUBLIC PREPARATORY EDUCATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 300, entitled

AN ACT TO EXPAND AND REVITALIZE THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR GIFTED AND HANDICAPPED

## CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance**

### ANNOUNCEMENT OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

At this point, Senator Pangilinan announced the resumption of interpellations on the speech of Senator Biazon.

### INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

At the outset, Senator Defensor Santiago associated herself with the suggestion of Senator Biazon in his speech that guidelines and procedures be formulated to ensure that funds for family planning and reproductive health would be used to promote all methods of family planning. She noted that Senator Biazon has raised a battle cry against the powerful Catholic Church in a predominantly Catholic country.

Senator Defensor Santiago observed that many terms had been used to suggest the concept of birth control: "birth control" was first used in 1914; it was substituted by "family planning" in 1930; and eventually, by "planned parenthood." She said that to Catholics at that time, these terms had essentially negative connotation, that is why the preferred terminology for the Catholic church today is "responsible parenthood."

When the world was young, she said, it was public policy to favor the birth of children since social and political well-being were generally thought to be related to increased population but in this post-industrial period, people have realized the advantages of limiting the size of their families. Notwithstanding the change in public opinion and behavior, she stated that the position of the Catholic church on the issue remains as it always has been. She disclosed that as elucidated in the book entitled *The New Dictionary of Social Thought*, the Catholic church continues to affirm that natural family

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planning and sexual abstinence are the only morally acceptable means of controlling births although many within the Church, whether lay persons or clerics, who actually object to the official policy on family planning, cannot make their objections public. She noted, however, some slight improvements in the Catholic position, namely: 1) an affirmation of the obligation of responsible parenthood; 2) an acknowledgment of the interpersonal significance of sexual intercourse for the promotion of stable marriages and family well-being; 3) the affirmation of the rights of women to full social and political participation. She observed that from the very beginning up to Vatican II, the Catholic church had taken an intransigent position that sex is for procreation. She stated that she could not understand why people who had sublimated their sexual urges dare to teach others when to have sex, based on the calendar.

Moreover, Senator Defensor Santiago pointed out that the Catholic church, in fact, is not opposing the control of population growth; and that the key issue is not the ends sought to be achieved but the means to the end. Senator Biazon noted that many Catholics now agree to the proposition to limit the number of children in the family even as they still push for the use of the natural method.

To the Pope's argument that if people practice artificial methods of birth control, there would be an increase in marital infidelity, sexual promiscuity especially among the young, and further loss of respect for the personal dignity of women, Senator Biazon surmised that the arguments were merely constructed to support Catholic teachings but, without empirical data, they are just perceptions.

As to the Pope's second argument that the main purpose of sex is to procreate because the Bible says, "Go forth and multiply," Senator Defensor Santiago contended that such argument is a fundamentalist or a literal way of interpreting the Bible which is not just one book but a series of books written by different authors over different generations and edited by different individuals. Moreover, she said that the Bible was first written in Aramaic, the dialect of Jesus Christ, and subsequently translated to Hebrew, to Latin, and to all the Latin-based languages

including English. She said that newer and newer versions of the Bible come out because people keep on discovering the non-literal usages of the various dialects in which it is written.

If indeed God said, "Go forth and multiply," Senator Defensor Santiago wondered if this impacts the argument that sex is for procreation. Senator Biazon believed that to prohibit the *cohabitation of man and woman, who is in the menopausal stage, goes against human nature*, so changing interpretations on the sole purpose of the sexual act are emerging even among members of the church.

On the assertion that contraceptives destroy life, Senator Biazon said that the universally accepted interpretation is that life begins at conception to which even medical and religious practitioners agree. However, he said that the question of whether or not conception begins at fertilization or at implantation is subject to debate. He said that the definition changes from age to age, for instance, St. Thomas Aquinas propounded that the beginning of life is at fertilization and not at implantation.

Senator Defensor Santiago agreed that nothing is ever fixed such that, in philosophy, it is not accepted that all knowledge changes.

On the third and last argument of the papal encyclical entitled *Humanae Vitae* which states that, "Each and every married act must remain open to the transmission of life," Senator Defensor Santiago pointed out that birth control remains a controversial issue within the Catholic Church: that even John Paul II himself has repeatedly admitted that over 75% of Catholics disagree with the official teachings of the Church and they use various methods of contraception. She expressed the view that since the arguments of the Pope on the natural or rhythm method are very porous because they have many loopholes, they are useless in social policy.

Senator Defensor Santiago pointed out that the Philippine Constitution provides that, "The separation of the Church and State shall be inviolable." However, she observed that all cases that were pertinent to the issue and decided by the Supreme Court concerned limitations on what

the State can do with respect to the Church and none on what the Church cannot do with respect to the State.

She recalled that the settlers who went to America to escape persecution in England came out with the "Wall of Separation" doctrine whereby there is no communication or inter-doctrinal relationship between Church and State. She said that eventually, this was replaced by the "Line of Separation" doctrine. The difference, she explained, is that a wall is permanent and fixed while a line is flexible and can be moved according to developments over the years. Up to this day, she said, the U.S. Supreme Court has adopted the principle of "benevolent neutrality" whereby certain acts that favor churches or religions are allowed such as paying the chaplain of the U.S. Senate with public fund, observing certain religious holidays and exempting religious properties from income tax.

However, she noted that the definition of the term "principle of separation of Church and State" by the Supreme Court, to wit, "the avoidance of government entanglement through pragmatic maneuvering between the permissible accommodation of religious freedom and the impermissible promotion of religious belief," is very hard to understand, even for lawyers. At present, she said, there is simply no way to determine in the Philippines whether an act of the State concerning the Church or an act of the Church concerning the State violates this constitutional principle.

In this regard, she pointed out that under the freedom of religion clause and the freedom of expression clause of the Constitution, church members, including clerics and officials, are free to express their opinions on birth control and the proper methods of implementing them. However, she asked whether it would not be a violation of the principle of the separation of Church and State if the Catholic church, in spite of the existence of a law that promotes artificial methods of birth control, were to impose a sanction on all Catholics who practice artificial birth control methods or declare them anathema to the church, one of the worst punishment the Church could impose. Senator Biazon replied that it would depend on the kind of measures that would be taken by the church.

Senator Defensor Santiago asked what would happen if Congress passed an artificial birth control law and endorsed the same to the President for signature and, at the same time, the Catholic church begins to exert pressure on the legislators by denouncing those who voted in favor of the bill and encouraging the faithful not to vote them to office.

Senator Biazon admitted that it would be very difficult to put a limitation on what the Catholic church can do but such an act, he opined, might constitute an interference with the affairs of the State, thus, a violation of the principle of the separation of Church and State. However, he believed that the Catholic church or any religious sect, for that matter, has the right to preach its own doctrines and beliefs. In this connection, he pointed out that many Catholics are now using contraceptives, an indication that a lot of them do not believe in the rigid teachings of the Catholic church against birth control.

Stating that he is a senator not only for Catholics but also for all Filipinos, Senator Biazon said that the constitutional principle is a wise concept because many countries have multi-religious societies.

On the issue of conscience, Senator Defensor Santiago pointed out that the Catholic handbook defines it "as the inner self's accusation that follows a wrongful deed or omission as a person." Given that definition, she said, it is axiomatic that conscience must make decisions in the light of the moral certitude that the action being contemplated is morally right.

Senator Defensor Santiago believed that when the Catholic church criticizes the State for its information campaign on the available family planning methods, it is in effect stifling the freedom of conscience and freedom of choice of a Catholic. She noted that today, there is a very murky relationship between the ecclesiastical authority of the Catholic church and the freedom of conscience of a Catholic.

In view thereof, Senator Defensor Santiago asked whether the Catholic church should be told in no uncertain terms that threatening supporters of the artificial family planning

methods would be an interference with the freedom of conscience of the individual Catholic that Vatican II proclaimed and encouraged. Senator Biazon replied that conscience emanates from the heart and mind of an individual who follows certain beliefs based on his religious upbringing. Senator Defensor Santiago said that in good conscience, an educated but poor mother cannot give birth to so many children, knowing she cannot feed them or provide for their basic needs. Hence, she believed that morality is ultimately a matter of personal virtue.

In closing, Senator Defensor Santiago challenged the Senate and the public to answer the following questions:

- 1) To what extent should moral norms reflect the contingent and the historical aspects of reality in the light of the fact that the Philippines is a Third World country beset by the endemic problem of poverty?
- 2) Who should have the task of deciding what behavior is morally right or whether their opinion as legislators is inferior to the opinion of a cardinal or a pope who, like them, is just an ordinary human being?;
- 3) Is morality inherently a matter of personal character and virtues, especially charity and prudence?

If rightness is to be achieved, Senator Defensor Santiago asked whether a person should act according to an inner norm or an externally formulated norm. She pointed out that the bottom line in the controversy on birth control is whether a moral choice should be made according to an educated person's inner moral standards or the dictates of certain officials of the church to which the individual belongs. Her violent opposition to any suggestion of dictatorship, she said, indicates the support she would give to the bill.

#### INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO

At the outset, Senator Cayetano commended Senator Biazon for his courage in tackling a

subject considered taboo in the Philippines. She recalled three major issues that were raised in the speech namely, reproductive health and right to information as regards family planning; the right of the unborn child; and the relation of population growth to the country's economic development.

Senator Cayetano expressed the view that an objective discussion on women's reproductive health is hindered by the misinformation that such discussion ultimately leads to an acceptance of abortion.

Asked whether his position does not advocate abortion, Senator Biazon stressed that he was not pushing for the legalization of abortion. He believed that the right of an unborn child starts at the beginning of life or at the moment of fertilization. But he argued that children already born also have certain rights. He cited that the *fatwah*, which was issued by the Islamic religious leaders in the country, supports the family planning policy; it asserts that the *Koran* defines a child's feeding right extends to two years without another child being born, otherwise, both children might be deprived of sustenance from their mother. Hence, he said, the *fatwah* does not only recognize the right of an unborn child but also assures that no life is terminated as it begins.

Senator Cayetano noted that the information was very enlightening to breastfeeding mothers which should be looked into by non-Muslims.

On reproductive health and the right to information, Senator Cayetano cited the constitutional provisions, specifically, Section 15 of Article II on the right of the people to health, and Section 11 of Article XIII on the adoption of an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development. She took cognizance of the strong move worldwide to bring about awareness on women's health issues considering that many earlier studies were conducted on men, the result of which were not applicable to women. She noted that Senate Bill No. 203, proposing the establishment of an office of research on women's health, sponsored by Senator Loi Ejercito Estrada, would improve not just awareness but the actual condition of women's health.

Asked by Senator Cayetano whether he was advocating an informed choice by providing information regarding reproductive health, the use of contraceptives, birth spacing and other similar information, Senator Biazon replied in the affirmative.

Asked whether the Catholic church and other religious or cause-oriented groups basically oppose the proposed bill because government would have an information campaign on reproductive health that includes the use of contraception or because of the wrong notion that the bill authorized the government to mandate or impose the use of contraceptives, Senator Biazon replied that the first organized opposition to the bill was based on the belief that it was pushing for the legalization of abortion.\*

Senator Biazon conceded that the bill provides for a post-abortion case. Noting that there are instances when women go through abortion, whether self-induced or accidental, he said that it is unthinkable to deny medical care to such women in case they needed it. He conceded that different sectors differ in their interpretations, for instance, the religious sector feared that the information campaign would encourage the use of contraceptives.

On the use of natural contraception espoused by the current family planning program of the government, Senator Biazon expressed no opposition to it. In fact, he said, the first method to be pushed should be the natural method but that it would need a better and massive information drive as it is not fool-proof.

Asked whether a different national family planning program was being advocated for Muslims and other religious groups, Senator Biazon replied in the negative. He said that a program cannot be provided for just one sector of society, otherwise, such would be class legislation.

As a new legislator, Senator Cayetano said that she wanted to keep an open mind on the issue to avoid inadvertently representing only one group of people with a particular religious or moral following. Adverting to statistics on the high incidence of unwanted teen pregnancies and the high mortality rate of pregnant adolescents, she asked whether there is a government program for the youth that provides

them information on pregnancy, sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases and reproductive health, be it in the school curriculum or on the barangay level. Senator Biazon replied that there are subjects in the secondary and tertiary levels but these are not very organized as the presentation depends on the teachers.

Senator Cayetano suggested a review of the curriculum to find out if health education has evolved with the changing times.

Asked if there are foreign or local studies that show an increase in the number of youth engaged in sexual activity after artificial contraception devices, particularly condoms, were made available, Senator Biazon expressed the view that whether the availability of condom is the cause or the consequence of increased sexual activity among the youth needed validation given the fact that other factors determine the sexual activity of a certain sector of society. He stated that the Internet, the movies and the tabloids have exposed everyone to pornography, thus, the increased sexual activity among certain age groups cannot be attributed alone to the availability of condoms.

As regards the belief within the Catholic church that the use of contraceptives promotes promiscuity, Senator Cayetano noted that in this time and age, it is very clear that everything promotes promiscuity and the reality of the situation is that the media, the Internet and the movies provide the youth additional information.

Asked if the current government's family planning program includes providing information on the impact of having children on the socioeconomic status of the family, Senator Biazon said it is generally known that the capacity to provide for the basic needs of the children is dependent on the earning power of the family.

Citing the case of two couples in Pasay City with the same economic status, Senator Biazon noted that the couple with only two children can afford to send them to school, whereas the couple with 10 children had to ask their eldest child to work as a tricycle driver to supplement the family income. He added that the number of children affects the health of the mother. He lamented that, sadly, those who can

\*As corrected by Senator Cayetano on August 8, 2004

afford are the ones who have fewer children while those who cannot afford are the ones who have more children. He emphasized that the thrust of the proposed national policy is to make information, basic medical services and contraceptives available to those who need them.

Asked if the two-child policy proposal has a tax benefit component, Senator Biazon replied that this could be provided for in the implementing rules and regulations of the measure once it is enacted into law. He added that agencies like DOH or the DepEd could be tapped to implement the national policy.

As regards the P1 million budget of the DOH for responsible parenthood, Senator Cayetano pointed out this amount is negligible if it is for disseminating information to 80 million Filipinos. In this regard, she asked if the barangay health workers could also function as educators. Senator Biazon replied that the program is being implemented but its effectiveness is in question because of the insufficient budget.

Senator Cayetano opined that the discussion on the issue of managing population versus focusing on the economy is a chicken-and-egg situation. Studies show that women who are educated postpone marriage and childbirth to pursue higher education and a better career, and end up having fewer children, she said. The studies, she stated, support the argument that focusing on human development – which includes decent jobs, basic human services, housing and medical care – should be on the priority list. She cited the opinions of economic experts that the economy cannot cope with a rapidly increasing population. The ultimate objective of the different advocacies, she emphasized, should be to provide Filipinos a better life. In conclusion, she said that the discussion on providing women with information, improving access to health care and issues on women's reproductive health are important considerations that would further the common goal of having a better and brighter future.

Senator Pangilinan stated that Senator Roxas would interpellate Senator Biazon on Monday, August 9.

## INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR EJERCITO ESTRADA (L)

At the outset, Senator Ejercito Estrada (L) opined that the population problem is so extensive and complicated that if it is ignored, the country's population would increase out of proportion.

Asked whether the ballooning population would become a major headache for the government, Senator Biazon replied in the affirmative. He noted that the country's population which currently stands at 84 million would likely grow to 98 million by 2010.

Adverting to a Pulse Asia survey which revealed that 75% of Filipinos view the growing population as a hindrance to the country's development, Senator Ejercito Estrada wondered if the Macapagal-Arroyo administration is disregarding public sentiment in formulating policies since the President did not even mention the population issue in her SONA. Senator Biazon assumed that this was because President Macapagal-Arroyo thought it is better to let local government units address and implement the family planning programs rather than craft a national policy.

Upon further query, Senator Biazon agreed that the natural family planning method promoted by the administration has been ineffective in reducing population growth. He recalled that when the Marcos administration was confronted with a very high population growth in the '60s and '70s, the former president implemented a family planning program using artificial contraception which reduced the growth rate from 3.7 percent to 2.36 percent. But while he agreed that the government should implement a more active strategy to address the population problem, he believed that such a strategy should be defined by law rather than left to the Chief Executive who may change the program from time to time. As an example, he noted that until 2002, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) gave the Philippines \$5 million (P275 million) annually for the family planning programs; the amount was reduced to \$3 million (P165 million) in 2003; and there was no funding in 2004 which meant that the country has no available funds for

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contraceptive devices. He believed that it might be useful to do research on the effect of the USAID assistance on the number of births in 2003, 2004 and 2005 as the data could be used to craft a family planning program and its required funding.

Senator Ejercito Estrada informed the Body that she filed two bills which could help solve the population problem: Senate Bill No. 62 creating a National Family Welfare Commission; and Senate Bill No. 74 limiting the grant of additional tax exemption to families with only two children.

Asked which agency handles the formulation of a population policy, Senator Biazon replied that the Population Commission (PopCom) implements the policy at the grassroots level, depending on available resources. On the other hand, he noted that even the implementation of the population program of the DOH depends on the personal thinking of the health secretary. Upon further query, he disclosed that the government allocates about P50 million for the PopCom.

Asked whether it would be more prudent to have the DOH absorb the functions of the PopCom, Senator Biazon maintained that the matter would have to be studied closely considering that there is nothing that could prevent the next president from reviving the PopCom. However, he agreed that in principle, the DOH should implement any family planning or population program.

Replying to further queries, Senator Biazon said that there was no allocation in the 2004 national budget for the procurement of contraceptives. He recalled that during the deliberations on the 2004 budget, he precisely asked that funds be set aside to replace the USAID assistance for contraceptive supplies. Moreover, he said that any fund for the population program is used only for public information and education rather than for the procurement and distribution of contraceptives.

On reports that health secretary Manuel Dayrit had realigned the budget for the purchase of contraceptives to other items, Senator Biazon said that he had no concrete information on the matter.

Noting that the 2002 family planning survey conducted by the National Statistics Office revealed that about 1.8 million couples do not have access to birth control supplies, Senator Ejercito Estrada inquired whether the government has any program to bridge the gap. Senator Biazon replied in the negative, reiterating that the population program is left to the local government units which is worrisome as the population issue is a ticking bomb.

Asked to differentiate House Bill No. 16 (Reproductive Health Care Act) filed by Representative Edcel Lagman from his own bill, Senator Biazon disclosed that the former contains a provision encouraging a two-child policy. But he clarified that said policy merely encourages families to limit their children to two by offering them tax incentives much like that currently offered to four-children families. Moreover, he said that he himself would be against a mandated two-child policy as such would constitute some form of population control. He stressed that he is not advocating population control but family planning which leaves the decision on the number of children to the couple rather than to the State. He affirmed that he was against setting a mandatory limit on the number of children per family as such a policy would raise a constitutional issue, especially when enforced through legislation.

Senator Ejercito Estrada expressed apprehension over the rapid population growth which would mean, unless addressed, an increase in the number of families with ailing children. She agreed with Senator Biazon that the time has come for the Body to seriously look into the issue of population management to come up with an integrated and comprehensive population policy.

#### INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR LAPID

Asked by Senator Lapid if the proposed measure also covers farmers, Senator Biazon replied that it covers all Filipinos, specifically those in the rural and poverty-stricken areas. He noted the migration of people from rural areas to the urban areas, as a result of which, the population growth rate in urban areas today is between 3.7 percent and 7 percent, double



the national average of 2.6%. He opined that farmers are moving to the cities because of the scarcity of land to till; the effects of the GATT-WTO on their livelihood; and the absence of landlords who used to provide for their needs. He observed that the migration of farmers is compounding the problems in the urban areas.

Asked if the Muslims are opposed to artificial family planning methods, Senator Biazon replied in the negative. He stated that the *fatwah* issued by the Islamic religious leaders supports family planning.

At this point, Senator Pangilinan announced that at the request of the other senators who had reservation to interpellate, the interpellation on the speech of Senator Biazon would be suspended until Monday, August 9, 2004.

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Emma Lirio-Reyes, read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referral:

#### RESOLUTION

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION  
PROVIDING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Pangilinan

To the Committee on Rules

#### SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

#### BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 301, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADVANCED STUDIES DEVELOPMENT

PROGRAM FOR EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYEES FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

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

Senate Bill No. 302, entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING AND REGULATING TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES IN ALL HIGHER AND BASIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, CREATING A TUITION FEE RATIONALIZING COUNCIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 303, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE 100 CHED-SUPERVISED INSTITUTIONS (CSIs) OF THE PHILIPPINES TO BE CALLED POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGES OF THE PHILIPPINES (PSCP) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 304, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING SECTION 9, CHAPTER 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9155, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNANCE OF BASIC EDUCATION ACT OF 2001" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 305, entitled

AN ACT TO INTEGRATE A COMPUTER EDUCATION PROGRAM INTO THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 306, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE TEACHING OF DISASTER AWARENESS AND DISASTER MITIGATION AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; National Defense and Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 307, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING INCLUSION OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP AS A SEPARATE SUBJECT IN THE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 308, entitled

AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE AVAILABILITY OF BETTER TRAINED AND QUALIFIED MERCHANT

MARINE OFFICERS AND ENGINEERS IN THE MERCHANT MARITIME INDUSTRY BY PROVIDING FOR APPROPRIATE SIMULATOR COURSES AND REDUCING THE PERIOD OF SHIPBOARD APPRENTICESHIP

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and National Defense and Security**

Senate Bill No. 309, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM DISALLOWING STUDENTS WITH DELINQUENT TUITION FEES TO TAKE THE MID-TERM OR FINAL EXAMINATIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 310, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO GIVE PROPER NOTICE OF THEIR INTENDED CLOSURE OR PHASE-OUT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS, STUDENT BODY, AND ALL EMPLOYEES AFFECTED THEREBY, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 311, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS, AMENDING SECTION 100 OF

REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER 7160,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF  
1991 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Local Government;  
and Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 312, entitled

AN ACT EQUALIZING THE SALARY  
GRADE OF ELEMENTARY AND  
HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPALS, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

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

Senate Bill No. 313, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL  
INSURANCE BENEFITS TO ALL  
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS,  
PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE  
PAYMENT OF ITS PREMIUMS,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

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

Senate Bill No. 314, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
REORGANIZATION OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,  
CULTURE AND SPORTS  
PAYROLL SERVICE DIVISION  
AND PROVIDING FOR FUNDS  
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and  
Culture; and Civil Service and Government  
Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 315, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 272  
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF  
1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Local Government;  
and Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 316, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
LEGITIMATION OF CHILDREN  
BORN TO PARENTS BELOW  
MARRYING AGE, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 177  
OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209,  
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE  
OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Youth, Women  
and Family Relations; and Constitutional  
Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 317, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 57 OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, AS  
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE  
PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Youth, Women  
and Family Relations; and Constitutional  
Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 318, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT AND CRISIS  
ASSISTANCE CENTERS FOR  
WOMEN AND CHILDREN IN  
EVERY REGION OF THE  
PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING

FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 319, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE USE, PRODUCTION, SALE, DISTRIBUTION OR DISPENSATION OF ABORTIVE DRUGS AND PROHIBITING THE USE, PRODUCTION, SALE, DISTRIBUTION OR DISPENSATION OF ABORTIVE DEVICES, DEFINING THE SAME, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE REVISED PENAL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 320, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN BUILDINGS, INSTITUTIONS, ESTABLISHMENTS AND PUBLIC UTILITIES TO RESERVE SUFFICIENT AND SUITABLE PARKING OR SEATING SPACES FOR THE USE OF EXPECTANT MOTHERS

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Public Services

Senate Bill No. 321, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING MOTHERS WHO TAKE COCAINE OR OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS DURING PREGNANCY AND THEREBY

CAUSE DEATH OR SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY TO THE UNBORN CHILD OR NEW-BORN AND AMENDING ARTICLES 255 AND 264 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 322, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING SURROGATE MOTHERHOOD INCLUDING INFANT SELLING AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 323, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT OF ELDERLY MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 324, entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE REVISED SECURITIES ACT REGARDING FUTURES TRADING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Economic Affairs

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Senate Bill No. 325, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE COUNTRY'S URBAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM THROUGH THE CREATION OF A HOUSING BANK WITHIN THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. EIGHTY-ONE (E.O. 81), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE DEVELOPMENT BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 326, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS WORKERS BANK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 327, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES SECURITIES EXCHANGE AND GRANTING ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; Economic Affairs; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 328, entitled,

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PRE-NEED PLAN CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

Senate Bill No. 329, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND STRATEGIC STUDIES TO INCLUDE RESEARCH AND FORMULATION OF STRATEGIC OPTIONS FOR NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SECURITY POLICIES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Economic Affairs; and National Defense and Security**

Senate Bill No. 330, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE MAYON RECONSTRUCTION AND REDEVELOPMENT FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Finance**

Senate Bill No. 331, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY, INCREASING THE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS' PARTICIPATION IN, AND THEIR BENEFITS FROM, THE COCONUT INDUSTRY, AND BOLSTERING THE INDUSTRY'S DEVELOPMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED FOURTEEN HUNDRED AND SIXTY-EIGHT, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED COCONUT INDUSTRY CODE

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Ways and Means**

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Senate Bill No. 332, entitled

AN ACT ABOLISHING THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND TRANSFERRING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 333, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF MARGINALIZED SECTORS IN THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (NEDA), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 1 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 107, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committee on Economic Affairs

Senate Bill No. 334, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE EDUCATION AND LICENSURE OF PHYSICIAN AND THEIR PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

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

Senate Bill No. 335, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE STANDARD OF DENTAL

PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4419 ENTITLED, AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PRACTICE OF DENTISTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 336, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SERVICE CONTRACTING PROGRAM UNDER WHICH THE GOVERNMENT WILL SUBSIDIZE PARTICIPATING HOSPITALS IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE INDIGENT PATIENTS WHO CANNOT BE ADMITTED IN GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 337, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DETENTION OF PATIENTS IN HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CLINICS ON GROUNDS OF NON-PAYMENT OF HOSPITAL BILLS OR MEDICAL EXPENSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 338, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF GOVERNMENT AMBULANCES.

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PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR  
VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Health and  
Demography; and Civil Service and  
Government Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 339, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE  
NATIONAL NUTRITION  
PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Health and  
Demography; Local Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 340, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE AND  
ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION  
AND OPERATION OF PRIVATE  
NONPROFIT EMERGENCY RESCUE  
UNITS

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Health and  
Demography; Local Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 341, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A POSITION OF  
RURAL DENTIST IN EVERY  
RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER  
THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

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

Senate Bill No. 342, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE  
CAPABILITY OF THE

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND  
HEALTH CENTER, ESTABLISH A  
RESEARCH FUND THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment  
and Human Resources Development; and  
Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 343, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COST  
SHARING SCHEME TO PROVIDE  
FOR A HOSPITAL CARE  
PROGRAM IN LOCAL GOVERN-  
MENT UNITS AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Local Government;  
and Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 344, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL  
PROTECTIONS TO BUYERS OF  
REAL ESTATE ON INSTALLMENT  
PAYMENTS BY REQUIRING  
SUBDIVISION OR REAL ESTATE  
OWNERS TO HAVE AN  
INDIVIDUAL TITLE ON EVERY  
LOT AVAILABLE FIRST BEFORE  
OFFERING THE SAME FOR SALE,  
PROHIBITING ANY MORTGAGE,  
LIEN OR ENCUMBRANCE ON  
THE SAME, MAKING THE  
ANNOTATION ON THE TITLE OF  
THE CONTRACT TO SELL OR  
OF SALE MANDATORY, MAKING  
IT COMPULSORY FOR THE  
EXECUTION OF A DEED OF  
ABSOLUTE SALE AND THE  
DELIVERY OF THE TITLE TO  
THE BUYER UPON COMPLETION  
OF INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS,  
AND PROVIDING OTHER  
PROTECTIVE MEASURES,  
INCLUDING THE IMPOSITION OF  
PENALTY FOR VIOLATION  
THEREOF

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Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development**

Senate Bill No. 345, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE REAL ESTATE COMMISSION, PRESCRIBING ITS DUTIES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 346, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement**

Senate Bill No. 347, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE INCENTIVES FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO UNDERTAKE RENTAL RESIDENTIAL HOUSING AT RATES AFFORDABLE BY LOW AND MIDDLE-INCOME FAMILIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 348, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL HOMELOTS DISTRIBUTION PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Environment and Natural Resources**

Senate Bill No. 349, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RIGHTS OF THE ACCUSED AND PERSONS UNDER INVESTIGATION FOR THE COMMISSION OF A CRIME, PROVIDING FOR CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES IN CASE OF VIOLATION THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights**

Senate Bill No. 350, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE COMMISSION OF ACTS OF TORTURE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights**

#### REMINDER OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan reminded the Body of the necrological services for the late Sen. Arturo M. Tolentino at ten o'clock in the morning of the following day.

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**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, August 9, 2004.

*It was 5:55 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

  
OSCAR C. YABES  
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on August 9, 2004