

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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SESSION NO. 13

Monday, August 23, 2004

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

SESSION NO. 13
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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:32 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid led the prayer, to wit:

Mahal na Panginoon, lubos Po kaming nagpapasalamat sa kaayusan at kapayapaang nangingibabaw sa aming bayan sa kabila ng aming mga iba ibang prinsipyo at paniniwala.

Kami Po ay nananalangin na biyayaan Mo kami ng lakas ng katawan, kalinawan ng isip at kadakilaan ng puso upang magampanan ang inaasahan sa amin ng taong-bayan.

Kami Po ay nananalangin sa Inyo pagpalain Ninyo ang bayang ito. Buong puso Po kaming dumudulog sa Inyo upang kami ay magkaisa sa pagtalakay sa usaping pangkabuhayan, seguridad at iba pang mga bagay-bagay na tutugon sa karaingan ng nakararami.

Itinataas Po namin ang lahat ng ito sa Inyo, Mahal na Panginoon.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Liturgikon Vocal Ensemble of the University of Santo Tomas led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song entitled *Prayer of Saint Francis*.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

With the permission of the Body, the Chair suspended the session to enable the Members to

greet Senator Lapid who celebrated his birthday on August 21.

It was 3:40 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:41 p.m., the session was resumed.

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.	Lacson, P. M.
Arroyo, J. P.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Biazon, R. G.	Lim, A. S.
Cayetano, C. P. S.	Madrigal, A. M.
Defensor Santiago, M.	Magsaysay Jr., R. B.
Drilon, F. M.	Osmeña III, S. R.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Ejercito Estrada, L. L. P.	Pimentel Jr., A. Q.
Enrile, J. P.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Flavier, J. M.	Roxas, M.
Gordon, R. J.	Villar Jr., M.B.

With 22 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Recto arrived after the roll call.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 12 and considered it approved.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

On a question of personal privilege, Defensor Santiago delivered the following speech:

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UNMASKING A CHARACTER ASSASSIN

I respectfully rise on a question of personal privilege, which, under Senate Rule XXXIX, has precedence over all business of the day, except a motion to adjourn. By contrast, under Rule XL, a privilege speech on a matter of public interest may only be allowed during privilege hour, after special orders have been considered.

A few weeks ago, I delivered a privilege speech on a matter of public interest, entitled *Anak ng Amari*, requesting an inquiry, in aid of legislation, on the controversial Joint Venture Agreement between NHA and RII Builders, Inc. That contract was approved by then President Ramos in 1994, under his Proclamation No. 465. Since then, Ramos has acted like a man in a state of panic, skirting the issue, pointing fingers at innocent people, notably former President Aquino and former Justice Secretary Drilon, now our Senate President.

Last Saturday, of course, it became my turn. Ramos attacked me not because he was replying to media questions, but because he had been muckraking against me, gathering mud to sling. To make sure that his mudslinging would be carried by media, he carefully arranged his presentation, which carried the following badges of malice:

1. Ramos went to the extraordinary expense of calling a press conference, and scored a cheap shot by landing in a newspaper front page, holding the photo of a malnourished child. That was psywar at its most devious. Nobody is quarreling over the welfare of the poor. What we are questioning is whether certain public officials enriched themselves in the guise of helping the poor.

2. Ramos also issued a press release, timed for maximum publicity on a Saturday, when media usually lack news to report, and are more inclined to print non-news. All political veterans know that press releases on character assassination are usually released on Saturday. They have higher chances of being picked up by the media, and the person being assassinated would likely be unable to defend herself promptly since offices would be closed.

Ramos tried to assassinate my character, by pointing out that when, for a brief period, I served as a member of the board of directors of the Public Estates Authority, the PEA allegedly recommended certain contracts similar to the one I am now criticizing. That is barefaced prevarication, a deliberate misstatement and attempt to create an incorrect impression. It is like comparing the character of a vestal virgin, with the character of a serial rapist. There is a world of difference because previous PEA contracts, unlike the Smokey Mountain contract, did not involve the release of billions of public funds of the Filipino people to the developer. The main issue in the Senate investigation is the unauthorized release of P3.1 billion, which until now Ramos is incapable of answering.

I hold in my left hand Presidential Decree No. 757, which is the charter of the National Housing Authority. Ramos authorized the contract between NHA and the developer notwithstanding that in not a single line of this law is there any provision giving the NHA jurisdiction over reclaimed lands.

Now I hold in my right hand Presidential Decree No. 1084, known as the PEA Charter, which provides among others:

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Purposes. – The Public Estates Authority is hereby created for the following purposes:

b) To develop, improve, acquire, administer, deal in, subdivide, dispose, lease and sell, any and all kinds of lands, buildings, estates and other forms of real property owned, managed, controlled and/or operated by the government.

Thus, it is very clear that in merely approving the contract, Mr. Ramos already violated the law because the law clearly states that only the Public Estates Authority has authority over reclaimed lands whether the acquisition or the disposition. Nothing in the law allows the National Housing Authority to exercise jurisdiction over reclaimed lands.

The first question therefore that Ramos must answer in that famous crack of his is: Why did he give this contract to the NHA when the law clearly says that the contract should be given to the Public Estates Authority? *Ibinigay niya ang kontrata sa isang ahensiya ng gobyerno na walang kapangyarihan sa reclaimed land. Pagkatapos, pilit niya akong idinadamay dahil ako ay naging member ng board of directors hindi lamang sa NHA kundi ng Public Estates Authority. Ano ang pakialam ng PEA dito sa iskandalong ito? Pinupwersa niya talaga na idamay ako.*

Ngayon, kung iyon ang gusto niya, ayaw niya palang idaan sa batas ito kundi idadaan niya sa black propaganda, sabihin lamang niya at pag-usapan natin ang buhay pribado niya, lalung-lalo na ang mga babae sa buhay niya.

Ramos is fudging the issue, and trying to exculpate himself by directing black propaganda against the whistleblower. Ramos' self-exculpating press release is pure character assassination, which cleverly tries to malign me, by using the principle of guilt by association. The

Supreme Court has officially denounced what Ramos is trying to do. According to the Supreme Court, there is no such thing as guilt by association.

But still, out of courtesy to my colleagues, I will explain. At that time, I was Commissioner of Immigration and Deportation. To augment my low salary of some P12,000 a month, President Aquino appointed me as member of the board of directors of three government corporations – PEA, Philippine Retirement Authority, and Landbank.

I was neither chairperson nor general manager of the board of any of these three corporations, notably the PEA. I had no duty and no power to decide on the constitutionality of PEA transactions. At that time, the Aquino Administration followed PD No. 1084, signed in 1977 by President Marcos and known as the PEA Charter. Its charter expressly authorizes PEA to sell public land. As a mere PEA board member, I was bound by the presumption of constitutionality, that is, that the law is constitutional until the court rules otherwise. That ruling came very much later in the 2002 case of PEA-Amari. Further, I was also bound by the presumption of regularity in the discharge of official functions. PEA had been recommending to the President similar contracts long before I joined it.

The main function of the PEA board was to check the office and financial capability of the developer. We, in the board, devoted ourselves to that function. We never recommended that government should release any sum like P3.1 billion or any other amount from public funds to bail out a developer, which is the issue before us.

In retrospect, the 1977 PEA Charter was superseded when the Aquino Administration promulgated the 1987 Constitution, which prohibits the sale of public land to private corporations. However, at that time, the Aquino

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Administration presumably believed that although the 1987 Constitution prohibits the sale of reclaimed land to a private corporation, joint venture agreements over reclaimed land were not "sales" because such agreements were signed when the land was not yet reclaimed, and the area consisted merely of water. Thus, there was as yet no land, subject to sale. It took until 2002 to clarify the meaning of the term "sale" through the Supreme Court decision in the PEA-Amari case.

In the law, the term "sale" is complicated. *Ito kayang puntong ito ay maintindihan ng isang military na heneral, na sa pagkaintindi ko ay kailanman hindi lumaban sa kalabang kung hindi nakaupo sa aircon na kuwarta nag-iissue ng press release habang siya ay heneral?* I am proud to put in the record that my brother, former Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, in one single day, deserved and was given the highest military decoration in the Armed Forces for bravery under attack. *Tingnan natin sa resumé ni Mr. Ramos kung anong bravery award ang ibinigay sa kanya kung hindi ang kanyang bravery sa pag-atake at pagsisinungaling laban sa kapwa niya. Iyan, punong-puno siya ng katapangan.*

Maintindihan kaya niya that in law, the term "sale" is complicated? Because it is very finely distinguished from such other transactions as barter, exchange, gift, bailment, accord and satisfaction, and mortgage. The meaning of "sale" is further complicated by distinctions drawn between absolute and conditional sales, and between executed and executory sales. In other words, the interpretation of the term "sale" made during the Aquino Administration had reasonable basis. But in 2002, the Supreme Court ruled that a contract where a corporation undertakes the expense of reclaiming land, and then gets paid in the form of a portion of the reclaimed land is a prohibited "sale."

On the basis of the Amari ruling in 2002, I have recommended that the inquiry to be jointly conducted by the Committees on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations, and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises, and perhaps Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement should include the question of the effect of the Amari ruling on all reclaimed lands. Shall we apply the principle of retroactive invalidity? In that case, all reclaimed lands and all their improvements will revert to the State. Or shall we apply the principle of vested interest where these owners of reclaimed land might be allowed to keep their land but they may have to pay compensation to the State?

These are questions of first impression in our legal system and cannot be easily answered by cursory reading of the available literature.

In any event, the gravamen of my privilege speech in the Smokey Mountain anomaly consists of the following questions, which Ramos despite his theatrics and psywar has consistently failed to answer:

1. Why was there no public bidding? He says there was but he is only telling a deliberate half-truth. A deliberate half-truth is nothing less than a lie. There were three revisions of the contract. It appears that there was bidding for the first version but there was no bidding for the second version, which was the version that Ramos approved.
2. The contract provided that the developer would fully finance the project. But during the Ramos term, this provision was inexplicably violated and instead the government financed the project at a cost of some P3.1 billion. The money came from government financial institutions

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such as SSS, which contributed some P1 billion. Under the Constitution, only Congress and only Congress may authorize the disbursement of public funds. If there was no congressional authority for the release of the P3.1 billion, then, Ramos violated the Constitution.

Ramos has tried to make a career of character assassination against me simply because I have not, and will never, concede his fraudulent, alleged victory over me in the 1992 elections. He is a man haunted by his own conscience. He has declared, with a pretense at bravado, that he will testify at the Senate hearing, but until now he has not even explained why, when he was president, he may have authorized the release of P3.1 billion in public funds to a private corporation. Did he have any legal basis, or will he continue to dance around this issue?

He is again trying to assassinate my character because of my privilege speech on this contract that he authorized. As a reaction, I charge that Ramos has absolutely no credibility because of the following illegal, immoral, shameless and disreputable acts:

1. Ramos cheated the Filipino people in the 1992 presidential elections by means of the notorious Sulo Hotel Operations Group (SHOG). It was dedicated to Operation *Dagdag-Bawas*, consisting mostly of snowpake erasures on the very face of the provincial certificates of canvass. Using his party machinery, he had himself proclaimed with a mere margin of some 800,000 votes over me. During the recount, the Supreme Court hearing officers upheld my objections to his 400,000 votes. If the recount had been allowed to continue, I would certainly have succeeded in similarly invalidating

400,000 more of his votes, thus proving that his alleged victory was a hoax. Ramos was never an elected or *de jure* president; he was a spurious and at best a *de facto* president.

When Speaker de Venecia, in full view of the media, requested me to shake the Ramos hand, I did so, to observe civilized conduct and avoid being churlish, although there was a suspicion in the back of my head that just shaking the Ramos hand might be toxic and fatal to my health. But no amount of photo opportunities can erase an indubitable historical fact. I have absolutely no doubt that eventually, perhaps after I die, history will vindicate me and the Filipino voters.

Since Ramos was a fraudulent president, and as such, is a chronic prevaricator, he has no credibility.

2. After I filed my election protest against him in 1992, Ramos—through various emissaries—approached some people close to me, and offered me the sum of P200 million, allegedly to refund my campaign expenses but actually to convince me to drop my election protest. Some of my friends to whom this offer was made are still around, and can testify that I refused to be bought. Another Ramos effort to buy me off included an offer of “power sharing” *kuno* made before a crowd in Iloilo City, my hometown. *Ano ang ibig niyang sabihin? Na tatlong taon siyang Pangulo at ako naman ay kalahating tatlong taon? Kasi uso na ngayon ang power-sharing dahilan dito sa taong ito.* Still, another was the appearance of opinion columns urging me to accept a seat in the Supreme Court, or other government

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positions, in the name of "reconciliation." In the Catholic Church to which I belong, reconciliation with fraud is known as mortal sin.

Since Ramos tried to buy me off during my election protest, he has no credibility.

3. After his charm offensive failed, Ramos took off the gloves. During the presidential campaign, I nearly died when a car crashed against mine on a highway near Pangasinan, the Ramos home province. The driver of the crashed car was a military man. Why am I not surprised? During my electoral protest, armed military men entered my house while I was away on a speaking engagement. They tied up all the househelpers, ransacked the bedrooms, and confiscated my family's guns, which were all duly licensed. Somehow, I was not surprised—and neither was I intimidated.

Since Ramos was presumably the mastermind behind my near-fatal car crash, and was behind the armed trespass on my house in UP Village by the military, he has no credibility.

4. Ramos authorized a covert black propaganda group holed up inside the Philcoa Bldg. in Quezon City to destroy me and his other opponents during his term of office, like then Mayor Alfredo Lim. The black propaganda group, using public funds, published a magazine called *Smart Files*, which was dedicated to character assassination. It has since been exposed by the media.

Since Ramos apparently used public funds for character assassination, and has evidently

made immoral attempts to destroy me, animated by his dream to bury his political sins, together with my political corpse, he has no credibility.

5. The Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism has impliedly charged Ramos with what it euphemistically calls "institutionalized political PR." Last May, the Center posted on the Internet an article entitled *Spinning the News* by Ibarra Mateo, with a Ramos photo on the front page. The article called Ramos "media-savvy" and quoted a reporter who stated that Ramos institutionalized the so-called media relations officers.

The article said that Ramos availed himself of publicists from big advertising and public relations firms. He appointed a psywar expert as a press undersecretary, and consequently the article said that this was "another mark that Ramos had a full understanding of the importance of psywar experts to man the premier government propaganda machine.... It was also at the start of the Ramos Administration that small, independent public relations groups began handling 'public accounts,' says one editor."

Since apparently Ramos handles exposés against him by bribing the illegitimate media on an institutionalized basis, he has no credibility.

6. It appears that the Ramos Administration consisted of a series of scams—Centennial City scam, Smokey Mountain scam, IPP scam, referring to Independent Power Producers. All these scams took place during the prelude to the 1997 Asian financial crisis, and thus

took place during a time when our economy was growing. Ramos claimed personal credit for our national economic growth, when in truth it was not due to any effort on his part, but was due to a global economic upswing. Because economic prospects looked good, Ramos for a while enjoyed and exploited his reprieve from public and media scrutiny. However, when the 1997 financial crisis exploded, Ramos was quick to blame the global economy for the slowdown in our own national economy. What a master of prevarication! I am fairly confident that more Ramos scams will surface in the future.

Ramos is merely an *ersatz* economic guru, and at that he is ill-prepared to play the part. Despite the multitudinous volumes of self-praising propaganda that he has financed and issued, Ramos is nothing more than a military man specializing in psychological warfare, defined as the use of propaganda, threats, and other psychological techniques to mislead, intimidate, demoralize, or otherwise influence the thinking or behavior of an opponent.

Since Ramos is a self-confessed psywar expert, he has no credibility.

There appears to be no end to the Smokey Mountain scam.

A few weeks ago, the *Philippine Daily Inquirer*, in a front page article, reported: Smokey Mountain Agreement terminated in August last year, stating that "The contract was actually terminated last year according to Memorandum of Agreement dated August 27, 2003 and signed by the NHA and the developer."

However, it appears that although the contract has been terminated, the administration has promised to pay the developer, RII Builders, P1.8 billion in expenses. *Nakatanggap na ang pribadong korporasyon na ito ng halagang mahigit sa tatlong bilyong piso galing sa mambabayad ng buwis ng Pilipinas. Ngayon ay pinakansela ang kontrata pero may kondisyon na dadagdagan pa iyong natanggap nila na P1.8 bilyon. Samakatuwid ang developer ay mababayaran ng kabuuang halaga na halos limang bilyon kahit hindi niya natapos ang development ng Smokey Mountain area. He promised that he would build low-cost housing units there, that it would be a beautiful Shangrila, with lots of parks, with commercial and industrial zones, with an institute to provide vocational training for the jobless. Are they there? Pero nakatanggap siya ng P1.8 bilyon at ngayong hapon na ito, may nagbigay sa akin ng kopya ng NHA Board Resolution No. 4807 dated February 18, 2004, allocating the sum of P217,000,000 to the same developer. Akala ko tapos na ang kontrata noong Agosto noong nakaraang taon? Ngayon meron na naman nitong Pebrero na resolusyon ng gobyerno na bigyan pa ng dagdag na P217,000,000. Ito ba ay kasali doon sa P1.7 bilyon na hinihingi pa ng developer o magkahiwalay ba ito? Kaya nakapagtataka talaga itong kasong ito.*

In conclusion, to prevent further defense by propaganda, defense by character assassination, and defense by squid tactics on the part of Ramos or any other person involved in the Smokey Mountain case, I respectfully move that the period of interpellation should now be declared closed, with an appeal to the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations and the secondary committees to start the investigation immediately.

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INQUIRY OF THE CHAIR

Noting that Senator Defensor Santiago had moved that the period of interpellations on her speech be closed so that it could be referred to the Blue Ribbon Committee, the Chair asked what Senator Enrile has to say on the matter since he was interpellating Senator Defensor Santiago before the same was suspended.

Senator Enrile informed the Body that he was writing a material on the course of action and a possible solution to the problem, taking into consideration the concerns of Senator Defensor Santiago, the role of the people involved in the project and the interest of the nation, which matters he intended to take up during the investigation.

REMARKS OF SENATOR BIAZON

Senator Biazon said that he would no longer interpellate Senator Defensor Santiago if the privilege speech would also be referred to the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement as he had requested.

He explained that he would focus on the housing component of the project because out of the 3,520 intended beneficiaries, only 1,000 have been relocated so far.

So as to obviate the referral of the speech to the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement, Senator Enrile suggested that Senator Biazon file a resolution calling for an inquiry into the housing programs in all reclamation projects in the country.

Senator Biazon said that he would heed the suggestion of Senator Enrile.

At this juncture, Senator Pangilinan manifested that Senator Osmeña wanted to interpellate Senator Defensor Santiago.

REMARKS OF SENATOR DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

Senator Defensor Santiago stated that it would be best that the questions be raised and answered during the committee hearing; besides, other senators had made reservation to avail themselves of the privilege hour.

REMARKS OF SENATOR OSMEÑA

Senator Osmeña clarified that he merely wanted to find out exactly how much of the P3.1 billion had been paid back to the government. He disclosed that the registration papers of RII Builders, which was incorporated on September 8, 1998, showed a paid-up capital of only P500,000; however, it was awarded a P3 billion contract. He stated that he wanted to find out if Reghis Romero had increased the firm's capitalization.

Senator Defensor Santiago expressed her appreciation for the information. She gave assurance that during the investigation, the matter would be looked into as it seems to aggravate the criminal liabilities of the public officials and the developer involved in the project.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Defensor Santiago to the Committees on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises.

As regards the referral to a third committee, Senator Pangilinan stated that the Committee on Rules would resolve the matter by tomorrow.

The Chair instructed the Committee to also take note of the remarks of Senator Biazon.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR ENRILE

On a matter of personal and collective privilege, Senator Enrile delivered the following speech:

"BAYAN ANG BIDA"

I rise on a matter of personal and collective privilege because last week, after the nominal voting on the legislative calendar, certain remarks were made on the floor which ought to be clarified. And I am going to do this not for my

sake but for the sake of the Records of the Senate and for the sake of the Senate itself.

For instance, a newcomer like me in this Chamber, according to my recollection, said, in effect, in the vernacular that: *Ang mga baguhan ay walang nakikitang maganda rito. Sa Senado animo ay may pelikula – may kontrabida at may bida; parang naghihiwalay ang mga senador; baka raw inililigaw natin ang mga baguhan dito dahil hindi sila binibigyan ng kopya ng mga privilege speech, at kung binibigyan man, ay huli na o maliliit ang mga letra at mahirap basahin; at kailangan daw alalayan ang mga baguhan; hindi raw naman sila tumatangging magpaalalay sa mga datihan dito sa Senado; at bakit daw kung oras ng session may nagtatawanan sa Senado. Sino raw kaya ang pinagtatawanan?*

I have no quarrel with the statement. But I would like, for the sake of the Senate, that it be clarified and corrected.

These remarks have implied negative impressions on this Senate. And these impressions must not be allowed to enter and remain in the Senate records without any effort, at least, to clarify and correct them. And this is the reason why I have decided to take the floor this afternoon.

I regret to say that the Senate is not a school. It is not a place of learning where one may expect to acquire knowledge and intellectual skills to get ahead in this world. In fact, the reverse is true. It is a place where knowledge acquired and experience gained beforehand are applied. If some people are not prepared to be here, that is their own personal problem, although we will try as best as we can to work with them and to accommodate them.

The Senate is a place to craft and enact wise and good laws. And the quality and wisdom of the laws passed in this Chamber are precisely the product of the individual and collective knowledge, wisdom and experience brought here by all the Members.

When we come to this Senate, there is an implicit assumption that each one of us is fully equipped for the job and for the responsibility it entails. When one takes his oath to join this august Body, he is a senator, no more, no less. It is a grievous disrespect to any Member of the Senate to regard him less than equal of the other members. *Kaya hindi po dapat sabihin na “alalayan” o “magpaalalay” ang sinuman dito sa Senado.*

Tayong mga senador ay patas-patas dito. Lahat tayo ay pare-parehong halal ng mga mamamayan. Walang mas mataas o mas mababa sa isa't-isa. Tayong lahat ay senador ng bansa.

Totoo po na tayo ay dapat magtulungan. Okay iyan. Ngunit huwag sana nating sabihin na tayo ay dapat “alalayan” ng mga kasama natin. Kahit na tayo ay handang magpaalalay o hindi tayo “tumatangging magpaalalay,” huwag sana nating ilagay sa Record ng Senado ang bagay na iyan sapagkat, sa aking paningin, pangit na banggitin iyan sa Record ng Senado.

Kapag ginawa natin iyan, para bagang iniinsulto natin ang mga mamamayan na bumoto sa atin. Para bagang sinasabi natin na hindi sila marunong kumilatis sa mga ibinuboto nila na mga mambabatas kahit pa man may kaunting katotohanan iyan.

Marahil, mas maganda at tama na tayo ay umalalay sa isa't-isa sa mga punto o isyu kung saan ang ilan sa atin ay mas may higit na kaalaman o karanasan.

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Tanggap naman kasi ng lahat na bawa't isa sa atin ay may kanya-kanyang tinatawag na "field of expertise, experience, special concerns and advocacies" na inihain natin sa taumbayan upang hingin ang kanilang boto.

And I dare say that we have no rule which obliges anyone of us to furnish Members of the Senate beforehand with copies of any privilege speech that is about to be delivered on the floor. The distribution of copies of a privilege speech to the Members of the Senate before it is delivered on the floor is addressed to the generosity and judgment of the senator who is going to speak. The Members are not entitled to any advance copy of any privilege speech as a matter of right. In fact, it is a common practice in this Chamber that privilege speeches are delivered extemporaneously. And very often we do that. Only the other week I did that.

Ipagpaumanhin din po ninyo sa akin na salungatin ko ang sinabi ng baguhan na kasama natin dito. Sinabi niya na dito daw sa Senado, ang nakikita niya na animo ay may pelikula – may kontrabida at may bida.

Hindi po totoo iyan. Wala pong pelikula dito sa Senado. At hindi ko alam kung sino ang tinukoy na kontrabida at bida. Ang Minorya ba o ang Mayorya?

At kung sakali man na may animo'y pelikula kayong nakikita, marahil nagkakamali po kayo. Dito po sa Senado, ang mga eksena ay hango sa tunay na buhay, sa ating demokrasya, at sa tunay na mga suliranin ng ating bansa.

Ang pinag-uusapan po dito ay mga paksa o issue na nauukol sa mga mabibigat na problema ng bayan natin. Walang pinapalagpas po dito sapagkat iyan po ang natural at gawain ng isang kapulungan na gaya ng Senado. Lahat po ay tinatalakay. Lahat

ay sinusuri. Walang sinisino o sinasanto dito sa Senado. Kaya ang mga lalahok dito sa Senado ay kailangang sapat at malawak ang kaalaman at karanasan.

Kung mainit man sa paningin ng mga baguhan ang talakayan dito, hindi nangangahulugan iyan na tayo ay nag-aaway. Hindi po. Natural lamang iyan sa talakayan dito sa Senado. At hindi bawal ang ngumiti o tumawa sa Kamara ng Senado, maliban na lamang kung sila ay humahalakhak at nakagagambala sa deliberasyon ng Senado.

At kung sakali man na may nagtatawanan, marahil po na hindi naman siguro kayo ang pinagtatawanan. At tama ang sinabi ng naturang baguhan na kasama natin dapat magrespetuhan tayo, walang bastusan at walang iringan.

Tama din po ang inyong paningin. Tayong mga senador ay parang naghihiwalay. Ngunit dapat po nating maunawaan na dito sa Senado ay nahahati tayo sa dalawang pangkat: Mayorya at Minorya. At magkaiba po ang ating ginagampanan na katungkulan at eksena.

Kayo po na nasa Mayorya ang may pananagutan sa bayan at katungkulan na ibinigay ng bayan na magpanukala ng mga dapat gawin upang mahango ang bansa sa kahirapan, karahasan, at kasawian. Kayo din ang Mayorya sa kapangyarihan, sa pribilehiyo, sa trabaho, at sa boto.

Kami po sa Minorya ang inatasan ng bayan na tagapagsuri sa mga panukala ninyo na remedyo sa mga suliranin na bansa. Kami ang tagapagsalungat kung sakali na sa paningin namin ay hindi tama o hindi sapat ang inyong mga ginagawa o isinasangguni na remedyo sa mga problema ng bayan. Ganoon din

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kung sa akala namin ay hindi makakabuti sa bayan ang inyong mga desisyon o mga programa—dapat tututulan namin ang inyong mga ginagawa o isinasangguni. At ganoon din kung, sa aming akala at paningin, ang inyong mga desisyon o programa ay mali.

Dapat naming isigaw sa bayan ang mga iyan upang sa ganoon ay malaman ng madla ang mga nangyayari sa loob ng Kongreso, at upang maunawaan nila ang buong katotohanan. Walang personalan! Walang alitan! Trabaho lamang natin iyan dito.

Ngunit kahit na kami ay nasa oposisyon at tagapagsuri at tagapagsalungat sa Mayorya, kami din po ay tutulong sa paghahanap ng mga paraan at sa pagsasampa ng mga panukalang batas na sa aming akala at paningin ay makakatulong sa kaginhawaan at kagandahan ng ating bayan at sa buhay ng ating mga kababayan.

Sa loob po ng Senado walang kontrabida at bida. Ang bida po ay ang bayan. Ang kontrabida po ay iyong mga nagkukulang sa kanilang panunungkulan sa mga mamamayan, iyong mga hindi tumutupad, o ayaw tumupad, o hindi tapat sa kanilang sinumpaan na tungkulin sa bayan.

When we debate in the Senate, it does not mean that we quarrel with each other, or that we fight one another. It simply means that we argue our respective side of the debate.

We do it in the spirit of looking for the best possible solution to a given problem. We do it to test the strength and weaknesses of our respective positions. We do it for the people, not for ourselves. And we decide the issue by voting on it as we did in the case of the legislative

calendar, which was presented to us for consideration last week.

No one in this Senate has a monopoly of good ideas, or certitude for that matter. Everything is open to scrutiny and debate. This Senate is simply following the Socratic *dictum* that an unexamined life is not worth living. The fact that we adopted rules to govern our proceedings suggests the notion that intense debates and searching questions are the essence and hallmark of a deliberative body like this Senate.

In my maiden privilege speech delivered on the second day of our regular session on July 27, 2004, I likened our country to a “ticking bomb that needs to be diffused”. I pointed out the widespread poverty stalking the land, the burgeoning unemployment affecting our people, and the dire condition of law and order in the country, including our weak and unhealthy economy, our huge borrowings and alarming fiscal deficit, and the rising power rates, water charges, fuel costs, transportation fares, and escalating prices of basic and essential commodities.

And it was because of the critical and mounting problems of the country that I urged the Senate to brace itself and move with haste, summon its energy and harness its collective wisdom, and exercise its independent initiative and leadership and respond without delay to our deepening national malaise.

I also urged the Senate to be the fulcrum of unity for the nation in view of, my belief, that unity is the irreducible imperative of our national progress, to do away with passivity and to be proactive, to shun any bickering and to focus entirely on the job ahead, to buckle down to work and forego the luxury of rest and recreation so that we can respond with dispatch to the urgent demands of our people for deliverance.

Handwritten initials or signature.

I further asked this Senate to arrest its fading glory and rekindle its glitter in the past, to regain its stature as the repository of the hopes and aspirations of the people, to be the stouthearted and courageous sentinel and protector of the commonweal, and to return to what it used to be as the authentic and concrete *senatus populi* of the nation.

I also suggested that we must explore new roads to progress; that we must adopt unorthodox solutions to our national ills; that we must forego palliative remedies; that we must be ready to take a bitter purgative so to speak; that we must expiate the demons of lethargy, energy, inertia, vacillation, indolence, corruption, disorder and discord; that we must eschew paying political debts; that we must avoid filial relations and cronyism as bases for national decisions; and that we must now discard entrenched privileges so that we can repair our damaged national condition.

And I promised, as a member of the Minority, that I was prepared to help and work with the Majority for the sake and for the good of the people, without the least abandoning or compromising my role as a member of the Opposition; that I will support any initiative, measure or program that will redound to the benefit and progress of the country; that I will not obstruct whatever will contribute to the well-being of the people, but that I will constructively fiscalize and scrutinize every measure, every decision, every policy, and anything for that matter that will come before the Senate for consideration; that I will expose, oppose, and use every means and skills available to me under the rules of the Senate to stop any program, measure, or initiative that I honestly believe to be detrimental and inimical to the national interest; that I will not waive, abandon, or surrender the tradition, the vigor, and the vibrancy of democratic debate in the Chamber; and that in serving the interest of the people,

I will give no quarters to anyone, and no one can tell me to shut up.

While I am prepared and ready to cooperate and help and work with the Majority, humbly, I say, I do so on my own volition and on my terms, and not on the command or at the behest of the Majority.

I thought I made myself clear in my maiden privilege speech. Evidently, some were not listening or worse, they did not understand me then. And so I have to repeat myself at length, and I hope this time, they hear me loud and clear.

It was for all the above that I was constrained to vote NO to the approval last week of the proposed legislative calendar.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR LAPID

At the outset, Senator Lapid expressed appreciation to Senator Enrile for giving him a chance to clarify his statements when he explained his affirmative vote for the adoption of the proposed legislative calendar. He clarified that he did not place on record that there were protagonists and antagonists in the Senate but the tension during the voting made him say things he did not mean. He stated that he merely wanted to stress that the new senators are asking the help of their experienced colleagues, and he sees nothing wrong in this. He believed that all senators are on equal footing, having the same power and opportunity to serve. He said that he sees nothing wrong in seeking the assistance of experienced senators like Senator Enrile who is, in fact, his idol.

Senator Enrile stated he was cautioning against the use of certain terms during parliamentary debates. He assured Senator Lapid that he (Senator Enrile) was willing and ready to help but that new senators should not be upset when they are corrected as he just wanted to set the record straight. He stressed that the Members should help one another for the sake of the country and for their own professional growth. He gave the assurance that he did not take

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Senator Lapid's statements literally but he saw the need to correct the Records in order not to leave a negative impression on future generations.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR GORDON

Senator Gordon observed that Senator Enrile is very attentive to the situation in the Senate. He expressed intrigue at hearing Senator Enrile offer conciliation and support for the second time and wondered if the latter had felt spurned in his offer to help address the serious ills of the country.

Senator Enrile informed the Body that he was invited by Malacañang to attend the LEDAC meeting the next day and he was accepting the invitation because of his desire to help in whatever way he can. His second privilege speech, he explained, recognized the prerogative of the Majority to administer the Senate's affairs especially in matters pertaining to policy formulation. But if the Body, indeed, wants to produce a positive output, he stressed, the same privilege should be given to the Minority in choosing the committees that they desire to handle, not on a "take-it-or-leave-it" basis. As a Member of the Senate, he believed that he is no more nor less than any of his colleagues.

Senator Gordon expressed the view that Senator Enrile's offer was extraordinary, given at an extraordinary time and he suggested that the Senate work together and identify priority measures which both the Majority and the Minority could push. He stressed that the country has serious problems and it was important to set aside personal grievances and work together for the development of the country.

On Senator Gordon's willingness to participate and if necessary, give up his membership in the committees, Senator Enrile clarified that he was not interested in any of the committees. It was in the spirit of cooperation and for the sake of the people that he offered to assist the Majority, he stressed, but he did not want to displace the Majority as the leaders of the Senate, the role given to them by the Filipino people. But as a fellow Filipino, he underscored

that he wants to help find a solution to the serious problems of the country. However, if the Majority feel that they would not be needing his assistance, he declared that he will perform his function as fiscalizer to ensure that laws are well-crafted and well-debated.

Senator Gordon proposed that the Body prioritize the measures so that it would not be reduced to reacting to little issues which come out from time to time. He believed that a caucus of the Majority and Minority would ensure the passage of needed legislation, posthaste, the beneficiaries of which would be the Filipino people.

Senator Enrile gave the assurance that he would not obstruct the passage of legislations but would in fact help craft laws. He clarified, however, that bills are initiated through committees by way of hearings before they are refined on the floor and finally approved by the Body. He stressed that the Minority are willing to handle committees they have selected, not assigned to them by the Majority. Reacting thereto, Senator Gordon explained that he only wanted to identify basic principles or thrusts in legislation which could be achieved by both sides so that the committees could be given to members based not on spoils but on the talents, expertise and knowledge of the Members.

Adverting to his second privilege speech, Senator Enrile stated that he did not flippantly ask the criteria for the distribution of committee memberships because as pointed out by Senator Gordon himself, the committee to which a Member belongs should be where he could perform his utmost. He stressed that he would not handle any committee which in his opinion does not address the serious problem of the country. Moreover, he stated, he was fighting on the principle that the Members are all equal such that the committees are not owned by the Majority party but by the Filipino people as the committees are the instruments for the betterment of the people. As the Minority are equally elected by the people, he said that they should also be given the same courtesy to select their own committees as the Members of the Majority.

Senator Gordon agreed that it is not a question of titles but of vital national interest as the country is in dire need of immediate reform. He conceded that a committee should be given to one most knowledgeable of the committee's jurisdiction, subject to the political realities attached to his membership. Stressing the need for urgency and importance, he reiterated that the Body find ways of working together to prioritize needed legislations. He repeated his call that the Body hold a caucus as soon as possible.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ANGARA

At the outset, Senator Angara agreed with Senator Gordon that the Body should set aside personal and partisan interests. He noted that Senator Enrile's speech was a reiteration of his earlier offer of cooperation which he (Senator Angara) had also echoed in a speech.

Senator Angara informed the Body of a study by the UP School of Economics which warned that the Philippines will experience an Argentinian type of economic crisis where the country would be forced to declare a moratorium on debt payment because it could not meet its foreign and domestic obligations. He recalled that during the 1985 political crisis, the same school came out with a similar study and a conclusion which was almost prescient. As the UP School of Economics commands a huge following both locally and overseas, he asked about the impact of the school's new study on the country.

Senator Enrile conceded that the country is facing a serious problem. He said that he had sounded the alarm in his earlier speeches. Contrary to the prediction of UP professors, he believed that the country's economic collapse would come earlier than two years unless the problem is addressed. In fact, he stressed, legislators have only one legislative year to address the situation.

Senator Enrile said that the government had already spent more than one half of the new administration's 100 days as well as put in place personnel to initiate its programs. He pointed out that the Body had not even organized

the Commission on Appointments; he did not know whether the proposed national budget had already been prepared, analyzed and refined for submission to Congress, and the revenue bills were yet to be crafted. He lamented that the Body was losing time. He reiterated his suggestion that the Body forego the luxury of recess to get more work done.

Believing that longer session days are not the ultimate solution to the problem, Senator Angara cited two strategic measures recommended by the UP School of Economics: first, for the political leadership to have a consensus on the things that must be done; and second, for the public to be aware of the economic crisis being faced by the country.

Replying to Senator Angara's query, Senator Enrile agreed that the Body could start from these basic strategic premises but he cited the discussion on the legislative calendar in order to emphasize the urgency of the situation. He noted that in his speech he had entreated the Body to do away with entrenched privileges and political debts and instead, to adopt unorthodox methods of addressing the country's problems.

Senator Angara agreed to the observations. He noted that the UP paper supplied the figures while Senator Enrile's speech supplied the political vision, both of which were consistent in sounding the wake-up call. He said that following the traditional rules in the Senate would result in the passage mostly of pet bills. He therefore agreed with Senator Gordon that the Majority and Minority must get together because the country is set to face a crisis which will bankrupt many companies, lay off thousands, if not millions of Filipinos, and will make the Philippines a pariah in the international community.

Should such an economic storm come, Senator Enrile believed that no one could stop it. He opined that the government would not have the power to stop hungry hordes that would spill into the streets. He said that the elite would be affected because such a financial debacle would result in a standstill society, where people could not travel, much less withdraw their savings. Senator Angara stressed that not being

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able to withdraw one's savings is probably the cruelest part of the scenario.

Senator Angara opined that the UP economists were not exaggerating when they said that the country's level of debt was already 78% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), and the consolidated public sector debt was already 138% of the GDP, almost the same level as Argentina's when it declared a moratorium.

Senator Enrile replied that it does not need an economist to understand the problem: the proposed budget of the government expenditure of P901 billion should have corresponding funding sources. He believed there is no other way to fund it unless friendly countries like Japan or America would help; or the government would sell assets, raise taxes, and borrow what could not be raised as income. This, he said, is the common sense approach to public finance. He stressed the need to determine immediately the projected revenue and the collection period based on enacted tax laws, and whether or not the collection would be sufficient to cover the needs of the government without having to increase taxes. Should there be an increase in taxes, he pointed out the government should know what sectors of the economy would bear the cost.

Senator Angara agreed as he stated that the matter should be discussed point by point.

Senator Enrile clarified that he was not trying to disparage the program offered by the government economic managers but that he was only suggesting an extensive study of the tax program including tax collection, tax amnesty, and the various tax proposals like the abolition of the VAT, gross income taxation and tax on franchises. He believed that there are justified ways of raising money from some sectors of the economy rather than passing on to the public the financial burden which is politically messy.

But Senator Angara noted that the ongoing discussion either in the LEDAC or in the government is about the eight-point tax program which, apparently, is unrealistic and is not being discussed with the opposition. He doubted

if there could be a consensus out of that in-house discussion. While LEDAC is a fine institution, a common forum to discuss legislative programs, he noted that it is not a think-tank that can come out with innovations.

On a related matter, Senator Enrile observed that most of the unpaid tax assessments are bloated, therefore, the entire face value of government receivables can hardly be collected.

On the issue of tax credit scam, Senator Enrile informed the Body that Shell Philippines bought a tax credit certificate subject to the principle of *caveat emptor* and used it to offset a tax. He wondered how Shell can claim that it has discharged its obligation to the government on the basis of good faith when in taxation, there is no principle of good faith. The U.S. Supreme Court, he said, ruled that "the power to tax is the one great power upon which the whole national fabric is based; it has the power to destroy as well as the power to make a life."

Senator Angara lamented that despite Senator Enrile's unprecedented offer of cooperation and assistance at this time of crisis, the administration has not taken advantage of his wisdom because it wanted to do things the traditional way. He said that if the administration would not take Senator Enrile's unprecedented offer, "so be it"; but the Minority would be doing their task of fiscalizing.

Senator Enrile stressed that the primary responsibility of crafting tax measures belongs to the Majority, but the Minority would be willing to help in this effort.

Senator Angara expressed apprehension that if the process would be done in the traditional way, there would be no strategic structural change and reform passed within the legislative year, unless the Members would agree that these tax measures must be passed ahead of any other bill. He expressed fear that the prediction of the UP School of Economics would come true in the same manner that it came true in 1985 when it predicted the collapse of the Marcos administration.

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**PROPOSED SENATE
RESOLUTION NOS. 39 AND 45**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 39, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 45, entitled

**RESOLUTION HONORING AND
COMMENDING THE OUT-
STANDING TEACHERS OF 2004.**

Secretary Yabes read the text of the resolution, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Constitution provides that the State shall give priority to education;

WHEREAS, education is fundamentally and inalienably valuable in society and nation building as it shapes the Filipino nation by molding the mind, the values and the spirit of its citizens;

WHEREAS, on the hands of our teachers who mold young minds lies the future of the nation;

WHEREAS, the Filipino teachers whose heroic dedication to their profession have earned for teaching our utmost respect as the noblest of all professions;

WHEREAS, the dedication of our outstanding teachers to their profession is even more remarkable when we consider the difficulties and hardships under which most of them work and the attractions of other jobs and career opportunities;

WHEREAS, in tribute to the unstinting dedication and commitment of the Filipino teacher, the Metrobank Foundation, has for the past 20 years, given due recognition to our country's modern day heroes through its annual Search for Outstanding Teachers;

WHEREAS, in honor of the perseverance and devotion of the Ten Outstanding Teachers, as chosen by Metrobank Foundation, namely:

1. Mrs. Annabelle S. Catimbang- Iriga
City Division Integrated Special
School
2. Mrs. Meilrose B. Peralta – Kidapawan
City Pilot Elementary School
3. Mrs. Lina L. Jala – Triple Union
Elementary School
4. Mrs. Josephine C. Deligente –
Fernando Ma. Guerrero Elementary
School
5. Mr. Allan M. Canonigo – New
Ormoc City National High School
6. Mrs. Genersol G. Monton – Fort
Bonifacio High School
7. Mrs. Mariecon G. Ramirez – Ilocos
Norte National High School
8. Mr. Noel G. Solis – Zamboanga del
Norte National High School
9. Dr. Antonio Miguel L. Dans – Univer-
sity of the Philippines-Manila
10. Dr. Manuel B. Dy, Jr. – Ateneo de
Manila University

Due recognition for their efforts should be conferred upon them: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, as it is hereby resolved, That the Senate commend the abovenamed awardees for their exemplary competence, dedication to service, and commitment in providing quality education.

Thereafter, Secretary Yabes read Proposed Senate Resolution No. 45, to wit:

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RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE PHILIPPINE SENATE IN CONGRATULATING AND RECOGNIZING THE 2004 METROBANK FOUNDATION OUSTANDING TEACHERS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES,

Whereas, the teaching profession is considered the noblest profession of all;

Whereas, the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the significance of teachers in society as it enshrined a tenet declaring, “[t]he State shall x x x ensure that teaching will attract and retain its rightful share of the best available talents through adequate remuneration and other means of job satisfaction and fulfillment” (Art. XIV, Sec. 5[5]);

Whereas, the Filipino teachers of the recent years are multi-tasking and paragon of flexibility and intellectual prowess, they are the second parents of students guiding the latter achieve the success for the future, they are the hardworking personnel performing election duties, and they are performing myriads of duties in society from science and technology to community/civic works, in fact, a number of them are soldier-teachers deployed in the Buliok complex and some war-torn and insurgency infested areas in Muslim Mindanao;

Whereas, the teaching profession is one of the biggest professional groups in the country, as manifested by the following information from the Department of Education and Commission on Higher Education (2003-04):

	<i>Public</i>	<i>Private</i>
Elementary	338,944	32,183
High School	120,516	37,883
College (faculty)	34,865	64,078

Whereas, the Filipino teachers are classified as the most underpaid professionals but shining beacons/partners for nation-building;

Whereas, this year the Metrobank Foundation has selected an outstanding corps of women and men comprising the finest Filipino mentors and this year’s recipient of the 2004 Outstanding Teachers Award, namely:

1. **MRS. ANNABELLE S. CATIMBANG**
Iriga City Division Integrated Special School
2. **MRS. MEILROSE B. PERALTA**
Kidapawan City Pilot Elementary School
3. **MRS. LINA L. JALA**
Triple Union Elementary School
4. **MRS. JOSEPHINE C. DELIGENTE**
Fernando Ma. Guerrero Elementary School
5. **MR. ALLAN M. CANONIGO**
New Ormoc City National High School
6. **MRS. GENERSON G. MONTON**
Fort Bonifacio High School
7. **MRS. MARIECON G. RAMIREZ**
Ilocos Norte National High School
8. **MR. NOEL G. SOLIS**
Zamboanga del Norte National High School
9. **DR. ANTONIO MIGUEL L. DANS**
University of the Philippines

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10. DR. MANUEL B. DY, JR.
Ateneo de Manila University

Whereas, recognition for their unselfish dedication, commitment to the youth, and honesty in public and private service must be accorded: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the Senate of the Philippines, To express the sense of the Philippine Senate in congratulating and recognizing the 2004 Metrobank Foundation Outstanding Teachers of the Republic of the Philippines.

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE
RESOLUTION NOS. 39 AND 45**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 39 taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 45 was adopted by the Body.

Senator Pangilinan requested the Secretariat to consolidate the two resolutions, subject to style.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Upon nomination by Senator Pangilinan, on the part of the Majority, and Senator Pimentel, on the part of the Minority, there being no objection, the Body elected the following senators to the committees hereunder indicated:

**COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION
AND MASS MEDIA**

Chairman:

Revilla

Members:

Villar	Lim
Lapid	Madrigal
Roxas	Lacson
Gordon	Ejercito Estrada (J)

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

Chairman:

Villar

Members:

Recto	Osmeña
Arroyo	Ejercito Estrada (J)
Cayetano	Lim
Lapid	Angara
Revilla	
Biazon	

**COMMITTEE ON URBAN PLANNING,
HOUSING AND RESETTLEMENT**

Chairman:

Biazon

Members:

Villar	Ejercito Estrada (J)
Lapid	Osmeña
Revilla	Madrigal
Gordon	Lim
Cayetano	
Magsaysay	

**COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND
HUMAN RIGHTS**

Chairman:

Arroyo

Members:

Revilla	Osmeña
Cayetano	Enrile
Gordon	Lim
Villar	Madrigal

Upon nomination by Senator Pimentel, on the part of the Minority and Senator Pangilinan, on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the Body elected the following senators to the committees hereunder indicated:

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COMMITTEE ON BANKS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CURRENCIES

Chairman:

Angara

Members:

Lim	Magsaysay
Enrile	Biazon
Osmeña	Villar
Ejercito Estrada (J)	Roxas
	Gordon

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Chairman:

Lim

Members:

Angara	Villar
Ejercito Estrada (J)	Magsaysay
Osmeña	Biazon
Enrile	Lapid
	Revilla
	Gordon
	Recto
	Cayetano

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE, WELFARE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Chairman:

Osmeña

Members:

Madrigal	Magsaysay
Ejercito Estrada (L)	Lapid
Lim	Villar
	Cayetano

COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS

Chairperson:

Madrigal

Members:

Ejercito Estrada (L)	Magsaysay
Lim	Cayetano
Angara	Roxas
Osmeña	Revilla
	Gordon

COMMITTEE ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES

Chairperson:

Madrigal

Members:

Ejercito Estrada (J)	Biazon
Lim	Villar
Osmeña	Lapid
	Gordon

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 5:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:39 p.m., the session was resumed.

CORRECTIONS ON COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

At this juncture, Senator Pimentel made the following corrections on the Minority membership in the committees hereunder indicated:

COMMITTEE ON BANKS, FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CURRENCIES

Chairman:

Angara

Members

Lim
Enrile
Osmeña

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COMMITTEE
GOVERNMENT

ON LOCAL

Chairman:

Lim

Members:

Enrile
Ejercito Estrada (J)
Osmeña
LacsonCOMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE,
WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

Chairman:

Osmeña

Members:

Madrigal
Ejercito Estrada (L)COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN
AND FAMILY RELATIONS

Chairperson:

Madrigal

Members:

Ejercito Estrada (L)
Lim
Osmeña

Upon nomination by Senator Pimentel, on the part of the Minority, and Senator Pangilinan, on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES

Chairman:

Lim

Members:

Pimentel
Ejercito Estrada (L)
Osmeña
Revilla
Magsaysay
Cayetano
Lapid
VillarCOMMITTEE ON LABOR,
EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Chairman:

Ejercito Estrada (J)

Members:

Osmeña
Lim
Enrile
Lacson
Magsaysay
Lapid
Gordon
Villar
Recto
Biazon
Revilla
Roxas

Senator Pangilinan manifested that Senator Biazon had withdrawn as member of the Committee on Public Works in view of the excess members from the Majority.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 5:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:47 p.m., the session was resumed.

Upon nomination by Senator Pimentel, on the part of the Minority, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture:

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Members:

Lim
Madrigal
Osmeña

In view of the excess number of Minority members in the committees, Senator Pimentel manifested that Senators Madrigal and Lim had withdrawn from the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Law; and Senators Ejercito Estrada (J) and Lim, from the Committee on Public Services.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Upon nomination by Senator Pimentel, on the part of the Minority, there being no objection, Senator Lim was elected member of the Committee on Energy.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR BIAZON

Senator Biazon pointed out that the Committee on National Defense and Security, whose vice chairman is Senator Magsaysay, has only 18 members - 11 from the Majority and 7 from the Minority. However, he said that the required number of 12 from the Majority could not be filled up because three members from the Majority are *ex officio* members.

Senator Biazon pointed out that there are no proposed or additional rules to be adopted and Senator Magsaysay had been designated as Vice Chairman, in view of which, there would not be an organizational meeting since the Rules state that an organizational meeting of the Committee is required to elect a vice chairman or to adopt its rules.

Asked by the Chair whether the number of committee members could be reduced in view of fact that it is impossible to elect the number required to fill up the committee, Senator Biazon said that he would pose no objections to making all 19 senators committee members, regardless of their party affiliations.

The Chair referred the matter to the Committee on Rules for proper disposition.

REPRESENTATIVE TO THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL

Upon nomination of Senate President Pro Tempore Flavio, there being no objection, Senator Pangilinan was elected as the Senate's representative to the Judicial and Bar Council.

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. 751, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING LIBRARIES OF PRIVATE AND PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS WITH INTERNET ACCESS TO INSTALL A SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY FOR BLOCKING INTERNET WEBSITES DISPLAYING OBSCENE AND VIOLENT MATERIALS PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 752, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF FILIPINOS FROM OBSCENE AND INDECENT MATERIALS TRANSMITTED THROUGH COMPUTERS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ART. 201 OF ACT NO. 3815 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

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Senate Bill No. 753, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE PUBLICATION OF LEWD PHOTOGRAPHS AND SEX STORIES AND ARTICLES IN PRINT MEDIA, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 754, entitled

ANTI-INCEST ACT

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 755, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING UNLAWFUL THE COMMERCIAL USE OF TELEPHONES FOR MAKING INDECENT OR OBSCENE COMMUNICATIONS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 756, entitled

AN ACT PUNISHING ANY OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR REGISTERING STOLEN MOTOR VEHICLE, INSERTING FOR THE PURPOSE, A NEW SECTION BETWEEN SECTIONS FIFTY-SEVEN AND FIFTY-EIGHT OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED FORTY-ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-SIX

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Public Services; and Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Senate Bill No. 757, entitled

THE CODE OF PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR THE PRACTICE OF POLITICAL PUBLIC RELATIONS

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 758, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987 PROHIBITING COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF A REGULAR COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES WITHIN SIX YEARS AFTER RELIEF FROM ACTIVE DUTY FROM BEING APPOINTED AS MEMBERS OF THE CABINET

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 759, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF SOCIAL WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 760, entitled

AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE THE PARTICIPATION OF

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NON - GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOs) AND STRENGTHEN THEIR ROLE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 761, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ARTISTS CAREER SERVICE, RECOGNIZING THE SPECIAL QUALIFICATIONS OF ARTISTS IN GOVERNMENT, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 762, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE PROCEDURE FOR THE EXPEDITIOUS HOLDING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION IN CASE OF VACANCY IN THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER SIXTY-SIX HUNDRED AND FORTY-FIVE, ENTITLED AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE MANNER OF FILLING A VACANCY IN THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 763, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANTS

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 764, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FIVE (5) YEAR WARRANTY PERIOD FOR GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1594, PRESCRIBING POLICIES, GUIDELINES, RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE CONTRACTS PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Public Works; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 765, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MARITIME AND OCEAN AFFAIRS CENTER AS AN ATTACHED AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PROVIDING FOR ITS FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Foreign Relations; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 766, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE SEPARATION PAY OF EMPLOYEES WHO ARE TERMINATED FROM EMPLOYMENT ON GROUNDS

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OF DISEASE, AND PROVIDING THE CONDITION FOR SUCH TERMINATION, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE 284 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED FORTY TWO (PD 442), AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 767, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE PROHIBITED ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN ON ACCOUNT OF SEX, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 135 AND 137 OF P.D. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 768, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR UNIFORM WARNINGS ON PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT FOR OCCUPATIONAL USE

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 769, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING MATERNITY LEAVE BENEFITS REGARDLESS

OF MARITAL STATUS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE 133 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 770, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE RELEASE OF RETIREMENT, SEPARATION PAY AND BENEFITS WITH INTEREST FOR RETIRING OR RESIGNING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES WITH ADMINISTRATIVE, CRIMINAL AND CIVIL CASES WHO ARE EVENTUALLY EXONERATED OR CLEARED THEREFROM

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 771, entitled

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT ADVERTISING

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 772, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING CERTAIN INCENTIVES TO RESIDENT FILIPINOS WHO WILL TRAVEL TO DOMESTIC TOURIST DESTINATIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Tourism; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 773, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING MEASURES TO ENSURE PEDESTRIAN SAFETY AND CONVENIENCE

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Public Works; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 774, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR DRUG AND ALCOHOL TESTING FOR DRIVERS OF PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Public Services; and Public Order and Illegal Drugs

Senate Bill No. 775, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION AND REMEDIES TO BUYERS OF NEW AND USED MOTOR VEHICLES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 776, entitled

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN GUARANTEED UNDER SECTION SEVEN, ARTICLE III OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 777, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING TELECOMMUNICATIONS FRAUD AND DESTRUCTION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 778, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING AS A CRIME THE ACT OF DRIVING A MOTOR VEHICLE WHILE UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF LIQUOR AND/OR PROHIBITED DRUGS AND PROVIDING GRADUATED PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Public Services

Senate Bill No. 779, entitled

AN ACT ENSURING SAFETY OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY ALONG ROAD PASSAGES CROSSING RAILROAD TRACKS, PROVIDING LIABILITIES FOR DAMAGES THEREON, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Local Government; and Public Services

Senate Bill No. 780, entitled

AN ACT TO ENSURE SAFETY DURING SEA AND AIR TRAVEL, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 781, entitled

AN ACT CRIMINALIZING OVERLOADING OF PASSENGER SHIPS, FERRIES AND LAND COMMUTER VEHICLES, PROVIDING THE PENALTY OF RECLUSION TEMPORAL AND RECLUSION PERPETUA TO DEATH, AS THE CASE MAY BE, FOR THOSE FOUND TO HAVE ACTED IN VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 782, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING DRIVERS AND OPERATORS OF TAXICABS WHO CHOOSE AND/OR REFUSE TO LOAD AND RENDER SERVICES TO PASSENGERS, INSTITUTING PENALTIES THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 783, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 784, entitled

AN ACT IMPOSING HIGHER PENALTIES FOR VEHICULAR ACCIDENTS

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 785, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR UNIFORM STANDARDS OF LIABILITY FOR HARM ARISING OUT OF GENERAL AVIATION ACCIDENTS

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 786, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPINE COAST GUARD AND VESTING IN IT THE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY OF ENFORCING MARITIME SAFETY RULES AND REGULATIONS AS WELL AS ANY OTHER MATTER RELATED TO THE PERFORMANCE OF SAFETY OF LIFE AND PROPERTY FUNCTION WITHIN PHILIPPINE TERRITORIAL WATERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 787, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATORY REPORTING OF MARINE CASUALTIES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Public Services; and Justice and Human Rights

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Senate Bill No. 788, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT CONSUMERS BY PROMULGATING UNIFORM MANUFACTURING STANDARDS FOR BICYCLE HELMETS AND PROMOTING ITS USE

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 789, entitled

THE JUDICIAL RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 790, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING SPECIAL PROTECTION AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO MEDIA PERSONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 791, entitled

THE RIGHT TO TRAVEL ACT

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 792, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF THE WORDS "MUSLIM" AND "CHRISTIAN" IN PRINT AND BROADCAST MEDIA TO DESCRIBE ANY PERSON

SUSPECTED OF OR CONVICTED FOR HAVING COMMITTED CRIMINAL OR UNLAWFUL ACT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 793, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SEC. 250 OF THE TAX REFORM ACT OF 1997 WITH REGARD TO THE LATE-FILING OF THE INFORMATION RETURN OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 794, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING SINGLE UNMARRIED WOMEN WITH CHILDREN SAME BASIC PERSONAL EXEMPTION AND ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION FOR DEPENDENTS AS ENJOYED BY MARRIED WOMEN AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 795, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING TAX EXEMPTION ON THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES INCURRED BY A TAXPAYER, AMENDING SECTION 35 (B) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 796, entitled

AN ACT FIXING THE RATES OF INTEREST UPON LOANS AND FORBEARANCES BY AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF ACT NO. TWENTY-SIX FIFTY-FIVE (2655), AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 797, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 2 AND 5 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1179, ENTITLED "AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER THREE, TITLE EIGHT OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED SIX HUNDRED AND THREE OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHILD AND YOUTH WELFARE CODE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 798, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING ARTICLE 39, TITLE III OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 226, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS INVESTMENTS CODE OF 1987, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committees on Ways and Means; and Economic Affairs

Senate Bill No. 799, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED EIGHTY-FIVE HUNDRED AND FIFTY OR OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 800, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES, PROHIBITING PYRAMID SALES SCHEME, PROVIDING HIGHER PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 46, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT TO THE PROPOSED "PROMOTION OF RESOLUTION FOR ISSUES CONCERNING VICTIMS OF WARTIME SEXUAL COERCION ACT" IN THE HOUSE OF THE COUNCILORS IN JAPAN

Introduced by Senator Gordon

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 47, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF

THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INVENTORY OF THE COUNTRY'S CONSOLIDATED PUBLIC SECTOR DEBT WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FINDING A SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committees on Finance; and Economic Affairs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 48, entitled

RESOLUTION REQUIRING THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS), SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) AND OTHER GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS (GFIs) TO REPORT THEIR FINANCIAL CONDITIONS BEFORE THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE, IN AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, IN ORDER TO ENSURE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY INVOLVING PUBLIC FUNDS

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 49, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE ALLEGED CRISIS IN MEDICAL EDUCATION IN THE COUNTRY AS EVIDENCED BY THE DECREASE IN THE NUMBER OF MEDICAL BOARD PASSERS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 50, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONDOLENCE OF THE SENATE ON THE DEMISE OF KALINGA RTC JUDGE MILNAR LIMAWEN AND DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE SERIES OF DEATHS OF MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE LEGISLATION THAT WILL PROMOTE THEIR SAFETY AND PROTECTION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Public Order and Illegal Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 51, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE ALLEGED RAMPANT TAX EVASION BY COMPANIES AND CORPORATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Ways and Means

COAUTHOR

Upon his request, Senator Angara was made coauthor of the following bills filed by Senator Flavier: Senate Bill Nos. 1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 22, 26, 29, 30, 32, 34, 36, 46, 51, 53 and 54.

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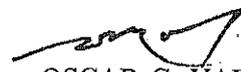
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ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until four o'clock in the afternoon of the following day.

It was 6:07 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.



OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on August 24, 2004