

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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Journal

SESSION NO. 20

Wednesday, September 8, 2004

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

SESSION NO. 20
Wednesday, September 8, 2004

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:34 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Juan M. Flavier read the prayer prepared by Sen. Ralph G. Recto, to wit:

Let us together rejoice as one family and celebrate the birth of our Blessed Mother.

Pray that the virtues and values of our Blessed Mother help guide us through life's journey.

May our Blessed Mother watch over us, her ever-faithful children, through days of turmoil as well as days of calm.

In you, the reign of God has dawned, a reign of grace and peace, love and justice.

Bestow upon us your strength of commitment.

Take away from all our hearts the selfishness.

Help keep our hearts aflame with charity and filled with love.

Bless us, Blessed One, of your faith and devotion.

In these times of crises and woes, we place ourselves under your motherly protection.

May these weaknesses unite us to be strong and humble.

Before thy grace, may we be delighted at the sight of Thy shining virtues.

Humbly we ask that You, in turn, may do for us these things for which we pray in the name and through the power of the most Holy Spirit who lives and reigns in the unity of the Father and the Son, one God, forever and ever.

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:

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|----------------------------|----------------------|
| Angara, E. J. | Gordon, R. J. |
| Arroyo, J. P. | Lacson, P. M. |
| Cayetano, C. P. S. | Lapid, M. L. M. |
| Defensor Santiago, M. | Madrigal, M. A. |
| Drilon, F. M. | Magsaysay Jr., R. B. |
| Ejercito Estrada, J. | Osmeña III, S. R. |
| Ejercito Estrada, L. L. P. | Pimentel, A. Q. |
| Enrile, J. P. | Roxas, M. |
| Flavier, J. M. | Villar Jr., M. B. |

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

Senators Biazon and Recto arrived after the roll call.

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

Senator Lim was on official mission.

Senator Pangilinan was on leave.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Flavier, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 19 and considered it approved.

[Handwritten initials]

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. 1151, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL
MARKET CODE OF THE
PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

**To the Committees on Local Government;
and Trade and Commerce**

Senate Bill No. 1152, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING PERMANENT
RESIDENCE STATUS UNDER
CERTAIN CONDITIONS TO
VIETNAMESE REFUGEES
THROUGH A SOCIAL
INTEGRATION PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

**To the Committees on Justice and Human
Rights; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1153, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE
PHILIPPINE CEREALS RESEARCH,
DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION
INSTITUTE (PHILCEREAL), AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1154, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE
PHILIPPINE 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 Pimentel Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1155, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING AN ELECTIVE
OFFICIAL IPSO FACTO RESIGNED
FROM HIS OFFICE UPON THE
FILING OF HIS CERTIFICATE OF
CANDIDACY

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1156, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE JOSE R.
REYES MEMORIAL MEDICAL
CENTER (JRRMMC) INTO A
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH)
NATIONAL CENTER FOR TRAUMA,
CANCER AND DERMATOLOGY
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1157, entitled

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE
GOVERNMENT FROM ALLOWING
ANY NON-GOVERNMENT ENTITY
FROM OCCUPYING ANY BUILDING,
OFFICE OR OTHER PREMISES

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WHERE GOVERNMENTAL
FUNCTIONS ARE BEING
PERFORMED

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

To the Committee on Civil Service and
Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 1158, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE TEACHING
OF HUMAN RIGHTS AS
MANDATORY IN ALL PUBLIC
AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1159, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL
AGRARIAN REFORM ADJUDIC-
ATION COMMISSION, DEFINING
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

To the Committees on Agrarian Reform;
and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1160, entitled

AN ACT TO MODIFY THE ACADEMIC
SCHOOL YEAR FROM JUNE
UNTIL MARCH TO SEPTEMBER
UNTIL JUNE, PRESCRIBING A
SET OF COURSES ADAPTED TO
THE RAINY SEASON, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

To the Committee on Education, Arts and
Culture

At the instance of the Chair, there being no
objection, the Reference of Business was

suspended so the Body could consider the
resolutions on Beslan.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

With the permission of the Body, the Chair
suspended the session.

It was 3:40 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:42 p.m., the session was resumed.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 72

Upon motion of Senator Flavier, there being no
objections, the Body considered Proposed Senate
Resolution No. 72, entitled

RESOLUTION STRONGLY
CONDEMNING THE HOSTAGE
CRISIS IN BESLAN, RUSSIA AS
AN ACT OF TERRORISM,
AND EXPRESSING DEEPEST
SYMPATHIES FOR THE VICTIMS
OF THE CRISIS AND THEIR
FAMILIES,

taking into consideration Proposed Senate
Resolution No.78, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE
SENSE OF THE SENATE
CONDEMNING IN STRONGEST
TERMS THE TERRORIST ATTACK
IN BESLAN, NORTH OSSETIA,
RUSSIA, EXTENDING ITS
DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO
THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS,
TO THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE AND
THE DUMA, THE PARLIAMENT
OF RUSSIA.

COAUTHORS

Senator Pimentel manifested that Senators
Angara, Ejercito Estrada (L), Ejercito Estrada (J),
Enrile, Lacson, Lim, Madrigal, and Osmeña
are coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution
No. 78.

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Thereupon, at the instance of Senator Pimentel, the Chair recognized Senator Gordon for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR GORDON

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 72, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 78, Senator Gordon stated that the event in Russia was a matter of serious concern to everyone. He recounted that in the beginning of September, the Beslan community celebrated the opening of classes and parents brought their children to school, looking forward to a peaceful year of learning and of life. Instead, he said, armed terrorists from Chechnya swamped down on the innocent children, held them hostage for several days, with the hostage drama viewed by the whole world through international television. As a result, he said, 350 people, half of them children, were killed by booby traps that were placed everywhere, while the other hostages, who were practically naked because of the heat, were shot as they tried to escape their captors.

Senator Gordon reported that as a result of the rescue attempt, 10 soldiers were killed; 400 people were hospitalized, 220 others were still missing; and scores of grieving families were burying their dead. He expressed concern at the very disturbing scenario unfolding before the world today. He lamented that communications technology has brought to the viewers' attention the escalating and indiscriminate killing of innocent people as though it were an ordinary occurrence.

He recalled that a few years ago, hijacking of aircraft was resorted to in exchange of hostages for prisoners. With tremendous media coverage, he pointed out that hijacking and terrorist incidents escalated throughout the world, citing the Munich Olympics where Israeli hostages were paraded and killed by terrorists; in Japan, a sarin gas attack in a subway; and in the U.S., the September 11 attack that created a paradigm shift in the way terrorism is conducted. He noted that the terrorists not only grabbed hostages but also airplanes which they used to ram the Twin

Towers and the Pentagon as if to tell the world that nothing, not even life, is precious anymore. For instance, he said, in Israel, young people strapped on bombs to attack civilian and military targets. On October 23, 2002, he added, Chechen rebels seized 800 hostages in a Moscow theater; after a three-day siege, Russian forces stormed the building, killed most of the rebels and the 115 hostages lost their lives as a result. He cited a CNN report which recounts the various attacks launched by Chechen rebels since June 1995. He recounted that Chechen terrorists attacked a hospital in Kizlyar, Dagestan on January 1996, taking hundreds of hostages, many of whom died; and Chechen terrorists bombed a military hospital in Mozdok on August 1, 2003 which killed 50, mostly soldiers. He said that even if the rebels have a real axe to grind against Russia, the methodology of their advocacy has caused so many deaths.

Senator Gordon asserted that it is not enough to condemn these attacks and sympathize with the traumatized families. He declared that the whole world must take action but he conceded that the Philippines has nothing to offer but words. He, however, believed that it is never too late to express sympathy and to pray for the victims of the dastardly act, as well as for their families and the officials of the Russian government. Also, he noted, it is in the nature of Filipinos to give comfort during tragedies.

Senator Gordon stated that the Majority, just like the Minority, agreed to pass a joint resolution to express the sense of the Senate and the whole country in condemning in the strongest terms, the terrorist attack in Russia and extending deepest condolences to the victims' families, to the Russian people and to the Duma. He said that a prayer is also offered for the whole world to start looking for a better way to stop the terrorist onslaught. He also appealed to the media to put in a better light the resolution of the problem rather than to show a very explosive situation without sending the message that the world must act on these matters.

Finally, Senator Gordon appealed to the Members to approve the resolution.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

At the outset, Senator Defensor Santiago stated that the Constitution provides that the Philippines adopts the generally accepted principles of international law as part of the law of the land, one of which is the principle of self-determination. The terrorist attack in Russia, she said, was executed in the pursuit of the principle of self-determination. She then asked what the impact of the resolution would be on the country's allegiance to the international community of nations.

Senator Gordon replied that there is also the principle of respect for human rights and protection of children at war, which the Philippines espouses. He expressed the belief that the Body would not be interfering in the affairs of Russia or for that matter, in the advocacy of the Chechnyans, but would be condemning the dastardly behavior of killing innocent women and children in the effort to get self-determination.

Senator Defensor Santiago informed the Body that self-determination under contemporary international laws is applied only to a community or a country that has previously been under the colonial domination of another state; following said principle, the colonized state can take certain actions against the colonizing state. She said that it was not the situation in Chechnya, so the resolution would not in any way diminish the country's commitment to the international principle of self-determination. Senator Gordon agreed to the observation.

Asked if the thrust of the resolution is to emphasize that terrorism is not an acceptable methodology for obtaining self-determination, Senator Gordon replied in the affirmative. He pointed out that there are channels through which advocacies can be made without having to kill women and children.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

Thereafter, upon motion of Senator Flavier, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations and proceeded to the period of amendments.

FLAVIER AMENDMENT

On the last paragraph, after the word "families," as proposed by Senator Flavier and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the deletion of the period (.) and the insertion of the phrase TO FURNISH THE EMBASSY OF RUSSIA A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION.

ENRILE AMENDMENT

As proposed by Senator Enrile and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the rewording of the title of the resolution, as follows:

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE SENSE OF OUTRAGE OF THE SENATE FOR THE TERRORIST ATTACK IN BESLAN, NORTH OSSETIA, RUSSIA, WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF MANY RUSSIANS, INCLUDING CHILDREN, AND EXTENDING ITS DEEPEST CONDOLENCES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS, TO THE RUSSIAN PEOPLE, AND TO THE DUMA, THE PARLIAMENT OF RUSSIA.

INSTRUCTION OF THE CHAIR

At the instance of Senator Flavier, there being no objection, the Chair directed the Secretariat to consolidate the two resolutions.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 72

Upon motion of Senator Flavier, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 72, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 78, was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

REFERRAL OF SENATOR BIAZON'S SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Flavier, there being no objection, the Chair referred Senator Biazon's privilege speech to the Committee on Health and Demography.

INTERPELLATIONS ON SENATOR ANGARA'S SPEECH

At this juncture, Senator Flavier announced the commencement of interpellations on Senator Angara's privilege speech.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR BIAZON

At the outset, Senator Biazon said that one of the issues that the government must look into in the light of globalization is competitiveness in trade, commerce and agriculture. He pointed out that subsidy provided by developed countries to their agricultural sector is one of the issues he has always raised in international conferences.

Asked about the possible effects of the US\$1 billion subsidy-a-day on the competitiveness of the country's agricultural products, Senator Angara informed the Body that the World Trade Organization has been trying to push the momentum for a global agreement on trade but the issue of agriculture has always been a sticky point because the subsidies given to farmers of developed countries, if summed up, would total to about US\$1 billion a day which would translate to about US\$33,000 per capita in Europe, US\$30,000 in the United States, and US\$32,000 in Japan. He remarked that there is no way for the local farmer to compete with the corn farmer of Iowa, for instance, because the latter is heavily subsidized, both in production and in export, while the Filipino farmer, except for a small price subsidy, receives no subsidy at all.

Senator Angara revealed that while the World Trade Organization agreed in Doha that it would tackle a development goal for agriculture, the effort failed in Cancun. He reported that a "breakthrough" in Geneva was made where the three big trading blocs composed of the U.S., the European Union and Japan agreed to a certain trade-off. He said that the U.S. has agreed to cut down on its export subsidy and the EU on its production subsidy so that talks regarding agriculture could move on. But he noted that it would still be a long way to get an agriculture agreement which would help Filipino farmers. He said that the domestic market would largely be closed to many developed countries and the country's price competitiveness will always lag behind.

Senator Angara recalled that when he was the agriculture secretary, he asked a group of academicians and leaders of the agriculture sector to make a list of local products that can be competitive or can simply be protected for the domestic market or are absolutely noncompetitive. Tropical fruits, he said, are classified as highly competitive with Thailand -- the number one competitor from Southeast Asia. But in many items, he said, the Philippines is far behind.

Senator Biazon asked how the Philippine government responded to the unilateral act of the U.S., for instance, the 35% tariff on imported steel and the 12% tariff on Philippine tuna.

Senator Angara replied that he does not know of any countermeasure that the Philippine government has undertaken. He explained that technically, a country can use its safeguard measures to retaliate against any particular import that may be damaging to its domestic products. The U.S., for instance, imposed a 25% additional tariff on steel imports from Japan and Europe being dumped in the American market, while due to strong lobbying, it imposed additional tariffs on Philippine tuna as well as on shrimp imports from Vietnam and China. However, he said that in international trade, the aggrieved party can also retaliate aggressively such as in the case of the European Union where higher tariffs were imposed on key imports of the U.S. He opined that the Philippine government might have been too passive in using the safeguards provided by the World Trade Organization agreement. For instance, he pointed out that the process of imposing anti-dumping duties in the country has become so protracted that by the time it is implemented the harm has been done and the affected industry is already dead. He stressed that the success of such safeguards depends on how quickly these measures are utilized.

At this juncture, Senator Roxas clarified some matters related to the tuna issue. He explained that in its effort to combat the growth and exportation of narcotics in the Andean nations of South America, the U.S. decided to impose zero tariffs on tuna exports from these countries to provide them with an alternative source of income,

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but before it implemented a zero tariff, in accordance with the Most Favored Nation principle of the WTO, it had to seek a waiver from the rest of the 147 member-nations. He said that the Philippines did not want to grant the waiver because its own tuna industry would be adversely affected. He related that in the negotiations, it was agreed to differentiate between canned tuna and tuna in pouches. Since the Philippines is only in the canned tuna business, he said that the U.S. gave concession for canned tuna imports from the Philippines and pouched tuna from the Andean nations, on the other hand.

Moreover, Senator Roxas pointed out that tuna was also the subject of international trade debates and negotiations when the European countries wanted to impose zero tariff concessions on tuna from their former colonies in Africa and the Caribbean even as it imposed a 24% duty on Philippine canned tuna. He said that vehement objections from the Philippines resulted in lesser tariff on Philippine tuna products than in the past. He agreed with Senator Angara that negotiations and hard bargaining within the WTO context must be aggressively pursued.

On another matter, noting that the Philippines is the largest market for American agricultural products in Southeast Asia with an import trade of more than \$800 million, Senator Biazon asked whether the Philippines could use this as a leverage for pushing its own agricultural exports. Senator Angara replied in the affirmative. He recalled that during his term as agriculture secretary, the U.S. diverted the sale of chicken quarters to Asia following the closure of the Russian market. Although Thailand and Malaysia rejected these imports, he lamented that the Philippines accepted the offer even though it almost eliminated and destroyed the domestic poultry industry. As the Philippines is the primary importer of U.S. soya bean used as feeds for poultry and livestock, he informed the Body that he met with the board members of the Soya Bean Association of America in St. Louis, Missouri and explained to them how the dumping of chicken legs and quarters into the Philippine market would completely destroy the poultry industry, thus, adversely affecting the importation of American soya bean. Not long after that meeting, he disclosed, the U.S.

discontinued its shipment of chicken legs and quarters to the Philippines. He underscored that the Philippines can use trade as a leverage either to protect local industries from harm or to gain markets for its exports.

On a related matter, Senator Angara opined that the government should look into the country's livestock and dairy production as he observed that the Philippines' dairy imports from New Zealand and Australia amount to some US\$300 million which is a huge drain on the country's foreign exchange. This, he said, is largely because the native cattle industry has been nearly replaced with the importation of light cattle for fattening. But with the breeding in Muñoz of local carabaos whose milking capacity is thrice that of a cow's and whose nutritional content is equally good as that of a cow, he believed that livestock and dairy production are areas the country should look into. He added that so many things can be done to improve the state of the agriculture industry if only the people are single-minded in purpose. Moreover, he pointed out that the agriculture modernization plan is now as good as dead because no one is really implementing the AFMA.

Replying to Senator Biazon's further queries, Senator Angara affirmed that AFMA required a total funding of P120 billion over a six-year period which would have helped the local agricultural and fisheries industry become more competitive.

Asked if the government had seriously provided for the implementation of the AFMA since the Ninth Congress, Senator Angara recalled that except for two years, the AFMA was never fully funded and implemented. He explained that there was only one year when the initial P17 billion appropriation was actually released as the releases ranged from P12 billion to P14 billion, still an increase over and above the normal DA budget which had supported a lot of initiatives in agriculture. He said that he was fortunate that the full funding occurred during his term as agriculture secretary; most likely, he opined that this was because he kept badgering the budget secretary and then President Estrada about the implementation of the AFMA. He said that this initial investment is now paying off as the

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country's agricultural growth, which used to average 1.2% per year for the past 20 years and which is below the 2.3% population growth rate, has now improved to between 3% to 4% a year since 1999. Moreover, he said that it is the agricultural sector as well as remittances from overseas Filipino workers that is presently sustaining the economy.

Asked if a major component of AFMA's funding is allocated for irrigation, Senator Angara replied that while he could not recall the nominal amounts, irrigation is not the biggest component of AFMA. But he conceded that irrigation commands a big amount because of the government's desire to put under irrigation many of the country's lands. He added that irrigation is the favorite object of the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) fund, particularly from Japan, thus, irrigation projects are mostly ODA-funded. He recalled that the biggest allocation was given to the grains (rice and corn) sector which includes irrigation, development of high-breed rice and propagation of certified seeds to farmers. In 1990, he said, only about 15% of the farmers utilized certified seeds; the rest used the traditional seeds which they set aside every harvest and replant the following season and which yielded 1.7 to 1.8 tons a hectare compared to the certified seeds' yield of three tons a hectare. He stated that by simply supporting the seed producers and asking them to lend the rice farmers the certified seeds which they will repay after harvest, he was able to increase the use of certified seeds to 65% by the year 2000. Consequently, he stressed, rice production increased by nearly one million tons a year.

Senator Angara informed the Body that the high-breed technology for rice which was developed by China was transferred only to two countries: the Philippines and Vietnam. He said that the technology would not only triple the yield from three tons a hectare to a minimum of nine and a maximum of 12 tons a hectare. He said that this revolutionary breakthrough aims to plant high-breed rice in at least a hundred thousand hectares that will easily make up for the annual shortage of about 1 million tons of rice imported by the country which costs the government P7 billion to P8 billion a year.

Senator Angara disclosed that China was not a signatory to the GATT/WTO at that time it transferred the technology to the Philippines in a big ceremony in Beijing in the presence of its President. He clarified that the country did not pirate the technology but the present administration could be accused of the crime for renaming the high-breed rice from China to "Gloria rice."

On another matter, Senator Biazon asked whether the Congressional Oversight Committee on Agriculture and Fisheries Modernization is overseeing the deployment of the P120 billion fund to determine whether there is really an extra infusion of funds into the modernization program and not just identifying existing programs as part of the implementation of the AFMA.

Senator Angara replied that COCAFAM under the chairmanship of Senator Magsaysay must be looking into the use and allocation of the annual P17 billion appropriation. Nonetheless, he stressed that the essential thing is to release whatever has been appropriated because investment in agriculture must be continuous in order to sustain its development. He expressed optimism for the prospects of agriculture in the Philippines if only the government would be single-minded about developing the agricultural sector. For instance, he said, the government need not spend P7 billion to P8 billion a year for rice importation if it could only save the 20% wastage of the harvest. He said that 10% of the country's annual harvest of almost 13 million tons a year is already 1.3 million tons of *palay* which will translate to almost a million tons of rice enough to make the Philippines self-sufficient in rice. He lamented that despite the availability of the so-called integrated rice mill complex in the country, farmers still incur 20% loss every harvest. He maintained that by simply employing the integrated rice mill where fresh harvest is dried into millable *palay* within 36 hours and at the end of the process, rice is already classified and bagged, the *palay* farmer who is subject to the whim of the trader due to lack of storage and drying facilities would become a rice farmer who can sell rice at twice the price of *palay*, and besides, the country would save what it is wasting now. He proposed that the grain sector should prioritize post-harvest facilities like an integrated rice mill and the

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cold-chain system for the vegetable sector. He believed that if the country would invest in post-harvest facilities, it could preserve and conserve what it already has and save billions of dollars in imports.

On another matter, Senator Biazon noted that towards the end of the 11th Congress, there were 31 unfunded legislated programs that would require roughly P1.3 trillion to implement. He said that one of the major unfunded legislated programs was indeed the AFMA which had an original appropriation of P120 billion in 1990. He opined that there is a need to reprioritize the different components of the AFMA, the biggest of which is irrigation. He cited the Casecnan Dam which was supposed to provide irrigation to 70,000 hectares of agricultural lands. He said that the government is paying Casecnan P2 billion a year for 25 years for the water alone, but the lands cannot fully use the water from the dam because there are no canals. He asked whether the COCAFAM can have those irrigation canals constructed.

Senator Angara replied that either the COCAFAM or the Committee on Agriculture can look into the matter. He disclosed that Casecnan is one of the most expensive projects of the Ramos government because the per kilowatt cost of the electricity generation of Casecnan is almost P4.50, probably the highest in the industry. He said that there is no way the government can amortize the cost by simply charging fees because the farmers, obviously, will not pay for the water that they are not using.

As regards the San Roque Dam, Senator Biazon stated that the government has a pending loan with Japan in the amount of P10.4 billion for the construction of a retention pond where excess water is retained for use during the dry season.

Senator Biazon said that the second component would be the repair of the weir along the river that has caused the water to flow straight from the San Roque dam to the China Sea, and the third component would be the construction of canals.

Asked whether the canal system should be accorded special attention by the COCAFAM, Senator Angara replied in the affirmative. He explained that in the same spirit that he is strongly advocating the installation of post-harvest facilities to conserve what is already available, he would advocate for the construction of ancillary facilities like canals to be able to make full use of the primary facilities already paid for. But he reiterated that such would require a strong political will and single-mindedness.

On another point, Senator Biazon said that as a result of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, the role of the landlords was lost particularly in providing capital, management expertise, as well as the economy of scale in production.

Asked how the lost role of the landlord would be addressed, Senator Angara explained that the substitute parent in other countries is usually the government; however, the Philippines has been quite slow in prodding government banks, such as the Landbank and the thrift banks, to provide necessary financing to the farmers. In retrospect, he opined that the biggest loss was that investments on land stopped when the banking system refused to accept land as collateral for an agricultural loan. The second biggest loss, he affirmed, was the economy of scale now being demanded by a globalized economy. He stressed that given the average landholding in the Philippines of 1.7 hectares and without available financing or government subsidy, the country's farms could never become efficient.

Senator Angara cited AFMA as the solution to regaining competitiveness, describing it as the road map to development. However, he believed that the country would never become a first-world country if it continues to aspire to be a third-world country with third-world credentials and a third-world type of government.

Senator Biazon affirmed that the small farmers badly need capital and could only turn to the usurers for loans with 20% interest every harvest time, and in the process they are losing as much as 80% of their income. He then

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asked whether the programs during the Marcos administration such as the PRRM, Bank on Wheels and *Masagana 99* could be revived to provide the lost capital to small farmers.

Senator Angara replied that the *Masagana* program at bottom was, in fact, a subsidy program. Although the P700 million subsidy was never repaid by the farmers, he said that it was better because it helped thousands of farmers. He said that the *Masagana* program was very successful in terms of agricultural productivity as the country was in fact exporting rice during the two years of the *Masagana* program. He agreed that the program could be revived within the WTO parameters even as he debunked as a gross misconception the claim that the WTO prohibits the Philippines from providing subsidy to its agriculture. On the contrary, he clarified that the WTO allows a developing country like the Philippines to grant subsidy up to ten percent of its gross agricultural production which would mean P25 billion a year as outright subsidy to agriculture without violating WTO parameters.

On a related matter, Senator Biazon asked why the construction of a dam did not push through in Salug Valley, Zamboanga del Sur where 80,000 hectares of land, if irrigated, could tremendously increase the country's rice production capability. Senator Angara said that the project was not pursued simply for lack of resources. Moreover, he lamented that for fifteen years, the Malmar irrigation project in Maguindanao, which would provide irrigation to 20,000 hectares of prime agricultural land in Maguindanao and North Cotabato, could not be completed because of the peace and order situation. He said that the Japanese and Korean contractors and engineers have left the area because of incidences of kidnapping. Only the Chinese contractors are staying put, he added.

Asked if cooperatives could take on the lost role of the landlords, Senator Angara said that cooperatives would definitely be the ideal answer to the farming communities; however, cooperativism did not take deep roots in the country except for a select few. He noted that the cooperative movement in the country symbolizes the very typical Filipino weakness of

not being able to work together, and he faulted the Cooperative Code provision requiring one to be a member of the cooperative to become an officer or a board member. He believed that such exclusivity has kept professional managers from running the cooperatives. In effect, he said that cooperatives have become more or less a close family affair, thus, preventing the movement from flourishing. He underscored the need to revisit some provisions of the Cooperative Law to make local cooperatives as strong as those in Korea, Japan and other Asian countries.

Senator Biazon said that as chairman of the cooperatives committee during the last Congress, he realized the need to re-culture the Filipinos towards cooperativism, especially on the mentality for dole-outs. He said that one of the worst things that could happen to a cooperative is when a politician interferes or intervenes in the appointment of officials of a cooperative, especially if he helped generate its capital. Relative thereto, he informed the Body that he had filed several bills that would strengthen cooperativism.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ROXAS

Adverting to the part of the speech relating to globalized trade in agriculture, Senator Roxas agreed with Senator Angara that it is important for the country to be vigilant and aggressive in pursuing the defenses available to it arising from the effects of the WTO treaty.

Asked about his views with respect to local products which have no comparative advantage, Senator Angara recalled that when he was secretary of the Department of Agriculture, he commissioned academics, businessmen and industry leaders to identify domestic agricultural products into (1) competitive; (2) needing subsidy; and (3) absolutely noncompetitive. He believed that the country can be competitive in vegetables like lettuce which can be easily produced in Tagaytay, Lipa or Lucban because of their semi-temperate climate. He informed the Body that with the help of an Israeli friend, he set up a demonstration farm in Tagaytay and it was able to produce vegetables such as lettuce, green pepper and tomatoes that are comparable to those imported by Manila's 5-star hotels from

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Australia. These vegetables are now available in the farm, he stated, and because buyers go to the farm, there is no marketing cost. Thus, he pointed out, the farm proved that the Philippines is capable and can be competitive in producing much of the vegetables that the country imports. Products which are highly competitive, he reported, are tropical fruits like mango, banana, pineapple and durian; and certain aquaculture products like *bangus* and *tilapia*. He cited meat and dairy as among the agricultural products that need to be maintained just to help the local farmers. But he conceded that sugar is not competitive but the country cannot afford to drop the sugar industry despite the higher production cost compared to that in Brazil, Australia and Thailand because almost 35 provinces now produce sugar, which was the reason that he fought for a higher tariff for sugar. He clarified that he is for globalized open trading but he objects to other countries imposing barriers to Philippine exports.

At this juncture, Senator Pimentel informed the Body that Mindanao can also produce the vegetables mentioned by Senator Angara such as in typhoon-free Claveria, Misamis Oriental where tomato grows in abundance because of the temperate climate.

Senator Angara affirmed Senator Pimentel's comments, adding that the country can be competitive in meat from Mindanao which is free from foot-and-mouth disease. He explained that he mentioned Tagaytay, Lipa and Lucban because of the Manila market where there is a high demand for imported vegetables.

Supporting Senator Pimentel's remarks, Senator Roxas said that Mindanao is also a food basket for the country but products grown and produced in Mindanao may become uncompetitive when the transport cost is factored in. He said that he would welcome Senator Pimentel's inputs at the hearings of the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Economic Affairs.

Adverting to his experience when he was still in the Executive branch, Senator Roxas observed that it is the adjustment process in a globalized trading environment that needs attention and management. He averred that, theoretically, it was easy to designate competitive or noncompetitive

products but real work is needed in the adjustments each of the sectors might have to go through. On the issue of chicken parts, he noted that the U.S. and other developed countries favor the consumption of chicken for taste and health reasons but some consideration must be given to a Third World housewife who can obtain these chicken parts at a lesser cost than a whole chicken for an equally delicious meal.

Senator Angara conceded that such is the classic dilemma of an economy like the Philippines in terms of weighing whether to favor the consumer or protect the producer. And he observed that the historical bias has always been to pamper the consumers, as a result of which the country has supply problems and high cost of food.

Senator Angara pointed out that a Filipino family spends 54% of its income on food alone whereas its Asian neighbors spend no more than 30%. He emphasized the need to strike a balance between support to the producers and price consideration for the consumers. He stressed that this is where government intervention can mean a lot. Providing subsidy to the production, marketing and transport of goods would help balance the opposing interests, he believed.

Senator Roxas agreed that managing mutually beneficial interests is at the very heart of these difficult issues. He believed that the Senate can provide leadership on this issue of globalized trade which is not well understood by the public.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO THE COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Flavier, there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Angara and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Agriculture and Food.

COAUTHOR

Senator Flavier manifested that Senator Angara is coauthor of Senate Bill Nos. 119, 1127 and 1137.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS*(Continuation)*

Secretary Yabes read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

Senate Bill No. 1161, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING A LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISE FOR THE OPERATION OF A DOMESTIC AIR SERVICE

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

To the Committee on Public Service

Senate Bill No. 1162, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE YOUNG FARMERS PROGRAM, PROVIDING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO YOUTH ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1163, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING FILIPINO PROFESSIONALS WITH COMPETENCY IN MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SUBJECTS, THE PRIVILEGE OF TEACHING ON A PART-TIME BASIS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1164, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 1165, entitled

AN ACT EXTENDING THE UTILIZATION PERIOD OF THE AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8178, ENTITLED "AN ACT REPLACING QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT RICE, WITH TARIFFS, CREATING THE AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 1166, entitled

AN ACT ORDAINING A CODE FOR SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1167, entitled

AN ACT MERGING THE BONDED EXPORT MARKETING BOARD OF THE DEPARTMENT OF

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TRADE AND INDUSTRY WITH THE BOARD OF INVESTMENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1168, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA FOR SOCIAL WORKERS AND SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT WORKERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 1169, entitled

AN ACT TO LIBERALIZE THE OPERATIONS OF RURAL BANKS AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7353, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NEW RURAL BANKS ACT OF 1992 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1170, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING THE FILIPINO CHILDREN FROM MALNUTRITION INSTITUTIONALIZING FOR THIS PURPOSE "THE MILK FEEDING PROGRAM", APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Youth, Women and Family Relations; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1171, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROMOTION OF BIO-ORGANIC FARMING IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1172, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PARENTAL CHOICE IN TELEVISION PROGRAMMING BY ADOPTING A UNIFORM RATING SYSTEM AND BLOCKING DEVICE, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1173, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A COFFEE RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND EXTENSION CENTER, AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

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Senate Bill No. 1174, entitled

AN ACT ENCOURAGING THE GENERATION, DEVELOPMENT, CREATION, PROMOTION AND MARKETING OF PHILIPPINE INVENTIONS CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE A NATIONAL INVENTORS COMMISSION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committees on Science and Technology; Trade and Commerce; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1175, entitled

AN ACT TO FURTHER AMEND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1146 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE ACT OF 1977

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 1176, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL SEPARATION BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS) WHO OPT TO RESIGN OR RETIRE BEFORE THE MATURITY OF THEIR INSURANCE POLICY THROUGH REFUND OF INSURANCE PREMIUMS PAID INCLUSIVE OF GOVERNMENT SHARE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT

NO. 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GSIS ACT OF 1997" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 1177, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE LIABILITY OF HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS CONCERNED FOR GROSS VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTED BY MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1178, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992," AS AMENDED, ADJUSTING THE ALLOCATION OF REVENUES FROM THE SALE, LEASE, JOINT-VENTURE AGREEMENTS AND OTHER TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING MILITARY BASES AND RESERVATIONS, ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; National Defense and Security; and Ways and Means

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Senate Bill No. 1179, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE EXPANSION OF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM BY PRIVATE ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS, COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES AND SCHOOLS AS A CONDITION FOR THE INCREASE IN TUITION FEE AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES APPLICATION

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 1180, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF LENDING COMPANIES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 1181, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FUND KNOWN AS THE TRANSPORT COOPERATIVES LOAN FUND TO FINANCE THE ACQUISITION OF VEHICLES BY TRANSPORTATION COOPERATIVES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1182, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS TO BE KNOWN AS THE "JOSE RIZAL LIBRARY OF CONGRESS," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1183, entitled

AN ACT TO PREVENT WANTON AND INDISCRIMINATE ROAD DIGGINGS AND ROAD REPAIRS BY REQUIRING THE PUTTING UP OF CONSPICUOUS SIGNAGE OR LARGE BILLBOARDS ON THE SITES OF SUCH ROAD WORKS ANNOUNCING THE COMMENCEMENT AND COMPLETION DATES THEREOF, IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committee on Public Works

Senate Bill No. 1184, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 29 AND 30 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINO ACT OF 1995

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1185, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING CASH PRIZES AND OTHER INCENTIVES TO ALL NATIONAL ARTISTS OR "ARTISTA NG BAYAN" AWARDEES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

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Senate Bill No. 1186, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 1187, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, SALE AND POSSESSION OF GUN REPLICAS AND REPLICAS OF SIMILAR DEADLY WEAPON, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committees on Public Order and Illegal Drugs; and Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 1188, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING FARMER ORGANIZATIONS TO UNDERTAKE RICE IMPORTATIONS, PROVIDING FUND ASSISTANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 1189, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING SKILLS TRAINING AND RETRAINING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1190, entitled

AN ACT TO SUBSIDIZE NEWSPAPER SUBSCRIPTIONS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1191, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE TEACHERS BANK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 1192, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE STRENGTHENING OF NON-FORMAL EDUCATION BY CREATING ITEMS FOR DISTRICT NON-FORMAL EDUCATION COORDINATORS AND TEACHERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1193, entitled

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

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Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1194, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR GREATER FISCAL AUTONOMY IN FAVOR OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) IN THE CHOICE OF DEPOSITORY BANKS, AMENDING SECTION 311 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 1195, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED EIGHT THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED NINETY-ONE (RA 8791), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SECURITIES REGULATION CODE

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1196, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING THE SALE OR IMPORTATION OF COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE FROM THE PAYMENT OF VALUE ADDED TAX AND DONATIONS THEREOF FROM DONOR'S TAX, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Enrile

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1197, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE ALLOWABLE PERSONAL AND ADDITIONAL EXEMPTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 35 (A) AND (B) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Enrile

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1198, entitled

AN ACT REDUCING THE INCOME TAX RATES OF INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CHAPTER III, SECTION 24 (A) (1) (c) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Enrile

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1199, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING MONOPOLIES, ATTEMPT TO MONOPOLIZE AN INDUSTRY OR LINE OF COMMERCE, MANIPULATION OF PRICES OF COMMODITIES, ASSET ACQUISITION AND INTERLOCKING MEMBERSHIPS IN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF COMPETING CORPORATE BODIES AND PRICE DISCRIMINATION AMONG CUSTOMERS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Enrile

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Senator Enrile manifested that Senator Lacson is a coauthor of Senate Bill No. 1199.

Senate Bill No. 1200, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING PARAGRAPH (D), SECTION 324 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 1201, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING AND REGULATING THE OPERATION OF CABLE TELEVISION IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Public Services; Public Information and Mass Media; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1202, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 22, "AN ACT PENALIZING THE MAKING OR DRAWING AND ISSUANCE OF A CHECK WITHOUT SUFFICIENT FUNDS OR CREDIT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1203, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE PAYMENT OF FILING FEES FOR COMPLAINTS CHARGING VIOLATIONS OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 22, AS AMENDED, FILED WITH THE PROSECUTION OFFICES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1204, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 215 AND 216 OF THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED, BY UPGRADING THE SALARIES, ALLOWANCES AND RETIREMENT BENEFITS OF LABOR ARBITERS AND THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 1205, entitled

AN ACT TO RATIONALIZE THE ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF ALL LAWS ON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Environment and Natural Resources

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Senate Bill No. 1206, entitled

AN ACT TO ENSURE PUBLIC ACCESS TO OFFICIAL INFORMATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 1207, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9167 BY PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL FILM ARCHIVE TO BE MANAGED BY THE FILM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1208, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE SHOWING OF TELEVISION ADVERTISEMENTS FEATURING SEX VIOLENCE TO CHILDREN OF TENDER AGE

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 1209, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND REFORM THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF R. A. NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

OF 1991 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Local Government; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1210, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION, REIMBURSEMENT FOR HOSPITALIZATION EXPENSES, AND OTHER BENEFITS, TO CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE BETWEEN REBELS AND THE MILITARY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1211, entitled

AN ACT ENHANCING THE ADMINISTRATION OF JUVENILE JUSTICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1212, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SEVEN THOUSAND NINE HUNDRED FORTY-ONE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PARTY-LIST SYSTEM ACT

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong
Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1213, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL
INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND
MATHEMATICS EDUCATION
DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong
Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1214, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong
Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1215, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF
THE WORD "MUSLIM" OR
"ISLAMIC" IN PRINT, RADIO,
TELEVISION INCLUDING CABLE
TELEVISION AND OTHER FORMS
OF BROADCAST MEDIA TO
REFER TO OR DESCRIBE ANY
PERSON SUSPECTED OR
CONVICTED OF ANY CRIME
OR UNLAWFUL ACT AND
PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong
Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1216, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
COMPULSORY REGISTRATION
OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong
Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Public Works; and
Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 1217, 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 Ramon Bong
Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1218, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING
AUTHORITY AND ACCOUNT-
ABILITY FOR BASIC EDUCATION
IN THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION, INSTITUTING
A FRAMEWORK FOR
GOVERNANCE, DEFINING THE
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES
FOR BUILDING AND
CONSTANTLY IMPROVING AN
EDUCATION SYSTEM THAT
ENABLES THE FILIPINO
CHILDREN, OUT-OF-SCHOOL
YOUTH AND ADULT LEARNERS
TO BECOME CARING, SELF-
RELIANT, PRODUCTIVE AND
NATIONALISTIC CITIZENS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1219, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4670, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 1220, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SUMMARY TITLING OF REAL PROPERTIES USED AS SITES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1221, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL SITES AND THE CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE, REHABILITATION, AND REPAIR OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN THE PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Public Works; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1222, entitled

AN ACT GIVING INDIGENT BUT GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR CAPABILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1223, entitled


AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN BOARD TO IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM FOR THE POOR, DEFINING ITS IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES, RULES AND REGULATIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1224, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO AT LEAST FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THEIR STUDENT POPULATION WHO ARE POOR BUT DESERVING STUDENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES



Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong
Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1225, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong
Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1226, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A DEPARTMENT
OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC
RESOURCES, PROVIDING FOR
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong
Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1227, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING AFFORDABLE
HEALTH CARE SERVICES,
THROUGH THE HEALTH
MAINTENANCE ORGANIZA-
TIONS, REGULATING THEIR
OPERATIONS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1228, entitled

AN ACT IDENTIFYING AND
PROMOTING RESEARCH ON
HEALTH IMPLICATIONS OF
BREAST IMPLANTS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

**To the Committees on Health and
Demography; Youth, Women and Family
Relations; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1229, entitled

A BILL TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM
EXPOSURE TO ENVIRONMENTAL
TOBACCO SMOKE IN THE
PROVISION OF CHILDREN'S
SERVICES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

**To the Committees on Health and
Demography; and Youth, Women and Family
Relations**

Senate Bill No. 1230, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL
DECREE NO. 1818

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1231, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING IMMUNITY FROM
PERSONAL CIVIL LIABILITY,
UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCE,
TO VOLUNTEERS WORKING ON
BEHALF OF NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATIONS AND
GOVERNMENTAL ENTITIES

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Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 1232, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE FAILURE TO REPORT ACTS OF HAZING, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1233, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SCIENCE START GRANT PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1234, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING HARASSMENT AND INVASION OF PRIVACY FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 1235, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE REDUCTION OF METALS IN PACKAGING

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1236, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE OPTIMUM PERFORMANCE IN REVENUE COLLECTION THROUGH THE GRANT OF SPECIAL INCENTIVES AND REWARDS FOR EXEMPLARY SERVICE AND THROUGH LATERAL ATTRITION IN REVENUE-GENERATING AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1237, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING PROGRAMS REGARDING EARLY DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND INTERVENTIONS FOR NEWBORNS AND INFANTS WITH HEARING LOSS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1238, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING GRANTS TO BUSINESS AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING MODEL HIGH SCHOOLS OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 1239, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING CREDIT CARD FRAUD AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

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Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1240, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION
TO CHILDREN WHO TESTIFY IN
COURT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

**To the Committees on Justice and
Human Rights; and Youth, Women and Family
Relations**

Senate Bill No. 1241, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE
PRACTICE OF REAL ESTATE
SERVICE IN THE PHILIPPINES,
CREATING A REAL ESTATE
COMMISSION AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1242, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE
DISTRIBUTION TO THE PUBLIC
OF VIOLENT VIDEO
PROGRAMMING DURING HOURS
WHEN CHILDREN ARE
REASONABLY LIKELY TO
COMPRISE A SUBSTANTIAL
PORTION OF THE AUDIENCE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1243, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PRIVACY
PROTECTION COMMISSION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1244, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN
ENVIRONMENTAL MARKETING
CLAIMS MONITORING PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1245, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A
NATIONAL LAND USE
FRAMEWORK AND ITS
IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1246, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
MINIMUM CONTENTS OF A
COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF
ELECTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT
AND TO CONGRESS BY THE
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1247, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS FROM HAVING THEIR MONEY INVOLUNTARILY COLLECTED AND USED FOR POLITICAL ACTIVITIES BY A CORPORATION, ORGANIZATION OR GROUP

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1248, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE TO ANALYZE AND DISSEMINATE INFORMATION REGARDING THE ADMISSIBILITY AND QUALITY OF TESTIMONY OF WITNESSES WITH EXPERTISE RELATING TO BATTERED WOMEN, AND TO DEVELOP AND DISSEMINATE TRAINING MATERIALS TO FACILITATE THE APPROPRIATE USE OF SUCH EXPERTS TO PROVIDE TESTIMONY IN CRIMINAL TRIALS OF BATTERED WOMEN, PARTICULARLY IN CASES INVOLVING INDIGENT WOMEN

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, Miriam

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1249, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR ELEMENTARY, SECONDARY, AND TERTIARY SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT, TRAINING, AND IMPROVEMENT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1250, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING SCHOOL BUS SAFETY STANDARDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, Miriam

To the Committee on Public Services

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Flavier, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o' clock in the afternoon of Monday, September 13, 2004.

It was 5:51 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

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

Approved on September 13, 2004