



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

S e n a t e

Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 25

Tuesday, September 21, 2004

**THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

SESSION NO. 25
Tuesday, September 21, 2004

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:40 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Joker P. Arroyo led the prayer, to wit:

I was assigned last week to say the prayer today. I forgot it. I ask the forgiveness of my colleagues. And this emphasizes the imperfection of humans. A lesson for all of us, a lesson for me, particularly, that we cannot stand alone; that at all times, we need the help of God as I sought the help of God just so I could fulfill my mission today.

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:

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

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

Senators Angara, Biazon, Magsaysay, Osmeña and Recto arrived after the roll call.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

Senator Pangilinan acknowledged the presence of the students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines led by their adviser Prof. Perla Carpio.

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. 24 and considered it approved.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1701, entitled

AN ACT TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY
MEDICAL SERVICES AND TRAUMA

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1702, entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT FOOD,
MEAT AND POULTRY PRODUCTS
THAT CONTAIN A GENETICALLY
ENGINEERED MATERIAL, BE
LABELED ACCORDINGLY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

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Senate Bill No. 1703, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING DISCOUNTS
TO UNDERPRIVILEGED COLLEGE
STUDENTS ON BASIC AND
EDUCATION SERVICES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1704

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE
DESIGNATION OF THE SAFEST
ROUTES FOR THE TRANSPORT-
ATION OF HAZARDOUS AND
NUCLEAR WASTES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1705, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE
AUTHORITY OF THE DEPARTMENT
OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY
REGARDING FRAUD COMMITTED
IN CONNECTION WITH SALES
MADE WITH A TELEPHONE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 1706, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING EXECUTIVE
ORDER NO. 209, ALSO KNOWN AS
THE FAMILY CODE OF THE
PHILIPPINES, ARTICLES 221
AND 236

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1707, entitled

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT EMPLOYERS,
LABOR CONTRACTORS AND
LABOR ORGANIZATIONS FROM
DISCRIMINATING AGAINST
ANY INDIVIDUAL BECAUSE
OF AGE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

**To the Committee on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources Development**

Senate Bill No. 1708, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL
CENTER FOR INFORMATION
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
RELATING TO ALL TYPES OF
FAMILY RESOURCE AND SUPPORT
PROGRAMS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1709, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING AND PENALIZING
THE CRIME OF MURDER
COMMITTED UNDER EXTRA-
ORDINARY CIRCUMSTANCES
AMENDING ARTICLE 248 OF THE
PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1710, entitled

AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE THE
DONATION OF FOOD FOR
CHARITABLE PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Gordon

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

Senate Bill No. 1711, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AT LEAST ONE (1) SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTER FOR EACH SCHOOL DIVISION AND AT LEAST THREE (3) SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTERS IN BIG SCHOOL DIVISIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER INCENTIVES AND SUPPORT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1712, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING QUALITY STANDARDS IN MAMMOGRAPHY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, Miriam

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1713, entitled

AN ACT TO COMBAT FINANCIAL FRAUD PERPETRATED AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, Miriam

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1714, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PLACEMENT OF BILLBOARDS SIGNS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, Miriam

To the Committee on Public Works

Senate Bill No. 1715, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING PUBLIC OFFICERS, EMPLOYEES AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM CHARGING TO THE GOVERNMENT THE SALARIES OF THEIR PERSONAL/PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, Miriam

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 1716, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES TO INFLUENCE THE GOVERNMENT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, Miriam

To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1717, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 70 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1529 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS PROPERTY REGISTRATION DECREE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago, Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1718, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER AND BROADENING THE COVERAGE OF THE SPECIAL PROGRAM FOR EMPLOYMENT OF

STUDENTS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7323, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

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

Senate Bill No. 1719, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF REAL ESTATE SERVICE IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD FOR REAL ESTATE SERVICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

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

Senate Bill No. 1720, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT PATIENTS AGAINST MEDICAL MALPRACTICE, PUNISHING THE MALPRACTICE OF ANY MEDICAL PRACTITIONER AND REQUIRING THEM TO SECURE MALPRACTICE INSURANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1721, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC OFFICERS TO SUBMIT THEIR RESPECTIVE INCOME TAX RETURNS FILED WITH THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE FOR THE LAST TEN (10) YEARS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lim

To the Committees on Ways and Means; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 1722, entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE SECURITY OF TENURE OF EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, STRENGTHENING THEIR RIGHTS, PROHIBITING CONTRACTING-OUT OF WORK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lim

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 1723, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 880, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC ASSEMBLY ACT OF 1985, TO BE KNOWN AS THE FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY ACT OF 2004

Introduced by Senator Lim

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1724, entitled

AN ACT TO DECRIMINALIZE LIBEL INVOLVING ALL FORMS OF MASS MEDIA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lim

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

Senate Bill No. 1725, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING, REORGANIZING AND STREAM-LINING THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, AND DECLARING A

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NATIONAL POLICY FOR TOURISM
AS THE PRIMARY ENGINE OF
INVESTMENT, EMPLOYMENT,
GROWTH AND NATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

Introduced by Senator Gordon

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

Senate Bill No. 1726, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A PERCENTAGE
OF THE VALUE OF FORFEITED
PROPERTIES DERIVED FROM
ANTI-CORRUPTION CASES
PROSECUTED BY THE
OMBUDSMAN TO BE EARMARKED
FOR THE OFFICE OF THE
OMBUDSMAN AMENDING FOR
THIS PURPOSE SECTION 6 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1379
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
FORFEITURE LAW

Introduced by Senator Mar Roxas

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

Senate Bill No. 1727, entitled

PANUKALA PARA PAGTIBAYIN
ANG DEKLARASYON NG BUWAN
NG AGOSTO NG BAWAT TAON
BILANG BUWAN NG WIKANG
PAMBANSA

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 1728, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEACHER
CORPS PROGRAM IN ORDER TO
STRENGTHEN THE TEACHING
PROFESSION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1729, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING GRANTS
TO PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS, IN ORDER TO
ALLOW SUCH INSTITUTIONS TO
PROMOTE CERTAIN EDUCATION
INITIATIVES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1730, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE
ANALYSIS OF THE INCIDENCE
AND EFFECTS OF PRISON
RAPE AND TO PROVIDE
INFORMATION, RESOURCES,
RECOMMENDATIONS, FUNDING
AND PUNISHMENT TO PROTECT
INDIVIDUALS FROM PRISON
RAPE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

Senate Bill No. 1731, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE RIGHTS
AND LIABILITIES OF PARTIES IN
ELECTRONIC FUND TRANSFERS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago,
Miriam

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

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Senate Bill No. 1732, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL
SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION
DATABASE AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Luisa "Loi" P. Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1733, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE
DEVELOPMENT, UTILIZATION
AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF
RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Flavio

**To the Committees on Energy; Ways and
Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1734, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
PRESERVATION, REFORESTATION,
AFFORESTATION, AND SUSTAIN-
ABLE DEVELOPMENT OF
MANGROVE FORESTS IN THE
PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

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

Senate Bill No. 1735, entitled

AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE ROLE
OF WOMEN IN NATION-
BUILDING AND OPTIMIZE
EQUALITY OF WOMEN BEFORE
THE LAW BY GIVING RETRO-
ACTIVE EFFECT TO SECTION 45 OF
THE PROPERTY REGISTRATION
DECREE, P. D. 1529

Introduced by Senator Serge Osmeña

**To the Committee on Youth, Women and
Family Relations**

Senate Bill No. 1736, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE CRIME
OF TERRORISM, AND THE
FINANCING, PREPARATION
AND FACILITATION OF ACTS
OF TERRORISM, PROVIDING
PENALTIES THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1737, entitled

AN ACT ALLOWING PRIVATE
PROSECUTORS TO ASSIST THE
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
IN THE INVESTIGATION
AND PROSECUTION OF CASES,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6770
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
OMBUDSMAN ACT OF 1989

Introduced by Senator Mar Roxas

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

Senate Bill No. 1738, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINA-
TION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL
ORIENTATION AND GENDER
IDENTITY AND PROVIDING
PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong"
Revilla Jr.

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

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Senate Bill No. 1739, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES
AS THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1740, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 6
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9280,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
CUSTOMS BROKERS ACT OF 2004

Introduced by Senator Gordon

**To the Committees on Civil Service and
Government Reorganization; and Ways and
Means**

Senate Bill No. 1741, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 1 AND
2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
"AN ACT PROVIDING FOR
SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY
AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN
ELECTIONS," AMENDING
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CODE OF 1994

Introduced by Senator Pangilinan

**To the Committees on Constitutional
Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and
Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 1742, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE SPIRITUAL,
PHYSICAL AND MORAL WELL
BEING FOR THE FILIPINO YOUTH,
AMENDING SECTIONS 389 AND 426
OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CODE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Flavier

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

Senate Bill No. 1743, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE
COMMERCIAL HANDLINE FISHING
INDUSTRY BY DEFINING
COMMERCIAL HANDLINE FISHING
AND PROVIDING PERTINENT
GOVERNMENT REGULATION,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE
PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE
OF 1998"

Introduced by Senator Mar Roxas

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 1744, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE
GENERAL SANTOS CITY
SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND
FREE PORT IN THE PROVINCE
OF SOUTH COTABATO, CREATING
FOR THIS PURPOSE THE
GENERAL SANTOS CITY SPECIAL
ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREE PORT
AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Mar Roxas

**To the Committees on Economic Affairs;
Local Government; Ways and Means; and
Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1745, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR
COMPENSATION TO THE VICTIMS
OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
DURING THE REGIME OF
FORMER PRESIDENT FERDINAND
MARCOS, DOCUMENTATION OF

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SAID VIOLATIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senators Arroyo, Serge Osmeña and Pimentel Jr.

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1746, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 1 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1829 PENALIZING OBSTRUCTION OF APPREHENSION AND PROSECUTION OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS

Introduced by Senator Gordon

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1747, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVIDENT PERSONAL SAVINGS PLAN KNOWN AS THE PERSONAL EQUITY AND RETIREMENT ACCOUNT OR PERA

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1748, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN LAND ADMINISTRATION

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1749, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND

COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1750, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE ACADEMY (PAFA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

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

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS
RESOLUTION**

Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, entitled

JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A CONGRESSIONAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THE DEBT POLICIES, STRATEGIES AND PROGRAMS OF THE PHILIPPINES, CONDUCT A PUBLIC AUDIT OF ALL LOANS ACQUIRED, INCLUDING ASSUMED AND CONTINGENT LIABILITIES, VALIDATE THE UTILIZATION OF LOAN PROCEEDS, AND THE PAYMENTS MADE THEREON, AND RECOMMEND POLICIES AND STRATEGIES TO REDUCE DEBT SERVICE AS WELL AS INSTITUTIONAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL MEASURES TO ENSURE SOUND FISCAL AND MONETARY STATUS OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT PRINCIPALLY THROUGH EFFECTIVE DEBT MANAGEMENT

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Introduced by Senator Biazon

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

REMARKS OF SENATOR LACSON

Senator Lacson said that Senate Bill No. 1725 should be referred primarily to the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization since it involves the reorganization and streamlining of the Department of Tourism.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 3:55 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:56 p.m., the session was resumed.

Upon resumption, Senator Pangilinan said that Senator Lacson had agreed to refer the matter to the Committee on Rules.

Since the measure involves a question of jurisdiction between two committees, the Chair referred the point raised by Senator Lacson to the Committee on Rules.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR LIM

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Lim delivered the following speech:

**AFTER THE NIGHTMARE
A NEW BEGINNING**

I would like to relate a dream, probably a nightmare, I had last week; and, I do not want to be unfaithful to this Chamber by not sharing it.

Although a sheer dream, I think it is worth telling this Chamber about. Dream interpreters say that what one dreams is the opposite of what happens or has happened; and others say the meaning depends on how the dreamer reacts.

Malcolm S. Forbes of the *Forbes Magazine* said, "Dreams come true to those who tackle the nitty-gritty," and he quotes Khalil Gibran who said, "Trust the dreams, for in them is hidden the gate to eternity."

Dreams are fiction and I wish mine remain unreal.

And, my dream was:

A man darted out of nowhere, with lightning speed, shot some of the personalities who graced the testimonial dinner that evening, along with some notorious figures who also attended the gathering in the company of their political patrons. I saw a prominent politician felled by bullets, bloodied and lifeless. It was tragic and revolting but in the wink of an eye, a magistrate dodged but failed to escape the fatal gunshots of his assassin. A cabinet member and a lawyer affiliated with a law firm were not spared from the massacre.

The burst of fatal shots claimed other targets that included a notorious smuggler, a callous drug lord, an infamous gambling lord and a wily, well-known tax evader.

There were splashes of blood, slugs and spent shells, and dead mortals all over the scene amidst a sea of silence, leaving me helpless and terrified.

I missed the ensuing scene and found myself awakened and had to ponder on the mind-boggling puzzle why I witnessed the horrible killings and strange nightmare, occurring at a time when our nation is enduring a crisis.

Perhaps, my dream was inevitably induced by the political, economic and moral crisis our nation is now facing.

I rise today in the midst of a great crisis
- a crisis that may devour and engulf

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our country in a vast ocean of economic damnation.

I rise today with my words drowned out by the wailing lamentations of the hungry and the destitute – the many poor millions who have not enough food for their stomach while the few who are rich have not enough stomach for their food. I cannot stomach both situations.

I rise today outweighed by the groans of the disinherited and the dispossessed – and the victims of injustice who must bear their torment in silence, while the powers-that-be connive and conspire, collude and confabulate, to keep themselves fat and glamorous, or dominant and supreme.

I rise today, stifled by the cries of the distraught and the downtrodden tolling in this Senate Hall – of pleas ignored, requests denied, remonstrances betrayed – and the poorest of our poor must now walk without faith, dream without hope, live without trust and speak without voices.

I rise today crying out with questions which you, my colleagues, all of whom I respect and hold in highest personal esteem, also nurture in your hearts and minds:

How many of our people, and how many of us here in this Senate believe that in the face of grave uncertainty and peril, the government's cost-cutting measures are only a public relations gimmick, and its money-saving techniques are only a political gambit?

How many of our people believe that donations, or the so-called *ambagan* or *bayanihan* by the rich and the famous, are only a kind of *pakitang-tao*?

How many of our people believe that these *ambagan* or *bayanihan* – which to many forced donors are actually *paiyakan* – are only a scheme to distract our minds from the administration's debauchery of public funds and bankruptcy of policy?

How many of our people dismiss these million-peso pledges as useless, futile and vain? For they are only a drop, or even just a molecule, in the sea of our colossal fiscal tribulations.

How many of our people condemn this government's cost-cutting measures as only a teaspoon of mercurochrome applied to a disease that needs a kidney transplant?

As *Philippine Star* publisher Max Soliven wrote, "it is wrong to treat a patient who needs a triple-heart bypass operation by applying on him the cure for athlete's foot."

How many of our countrymen detest, despise and abominate the deceptive postures of the administration – leaders who have failed to find effective solutions to our problems, administrators who have turned to the Lilliputian mental output of presidential advisers and insipid hallucinations crafted by speechwriters who are muddled in thought, infantile in suggestion and impertinent in advocacy?

Because of our gigantic burdens today, I do not only predict but I warn, and I do not only warn but I dread, that day when the people themselves will finally say, "ENOUGH!" Enough is enough!

I dread the day when people will finally discover that this government is treating the coming deluge not as a mortal peril to the Republic, but only as a passing public relations problem.

I dread the day when the people themselves will overturn our government as they despair of the forthcoming fury and flurry of unprecedented economic tempests.

I dread the day when most of our suffering countrymen will choose to place their survival in the hands of a dictator – no, that should not be done—than in the failed workings of our much-abused political system.

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Today is the time for leaders of courage and determination, not for the timid and the fainthearted. It is not the time for propagandists, apologists and spinmasters – and not especially for magicians.

But this government prefers to be a magician. It is a very bad magician because it cannot even conceal its own tricks, and therefore it deserves to be laughed out of the stage.

Allow me to illustrate. Right on the front pages of the newspapers, Malacañang said it will retrench employees, who are simple and small people, in order to save money.

But at the same time it is known to have already created new offices and positions for its big-time favorites.

Malacañang has limited the use of airconditioning units in its offices. It has abolished heavy meals in conferences and gives only meriendas. It has prohibited official travel to executive officers. Good.

Malacañang is trying to save on small but politically visible moves – or impact demonstrations – while concealing the big but invisible and economically disastrous situations, which are the real problems, and which it knows it cannot solve. Hence, the unbridled gimmickry.

We can expect more public relations tricks, more propaganda tactics, more impact exhibitions and political striptease from this administration's small minds as the days go by, and the nation's fortunes deteriorate.

Right in one of the central seats of government power — in the House of Representatives, the bastion of the administration — they grandly announced that they are giving up their pork barrel.

But in a cheap magician's trick, they triangulate and conjure to get it from other items in the budget under different labels.

We all know that pork means pigs. And we know that when pigs eat, they burrow their mouths, including their noses, into their food.

Because of this, pigs are the only creatures on earth which, when they eat, it is not the food that is placed into their mouth, but the mouth that is buried into their food.

And so even as the congressmen announced the supposed good deed of abrogating their pork barrel, we know that *ang kanilang pagsasalita ng mabuting hangarin ay nanggagaling sa nguso at hindi sa puso.*

Her Excellency President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and her presidential spokesman have called on the people to make sacrifices and tighten their belts.

But I rise today to say that the people have already been sacrificing; that they have already sacrificed enough; and that they will be sacrificing more than they can bear as the prices of commodities continue to skyrocket to levels unseen in our country's history.

This is an administration of gimmicks, of gambits and tricks, of broken promises and shallow premises, of false platitudes and wrong certitudes, of *Pulong-Bayans* designed to mesmerize the people into believing that this uncaring government cares.

But the "Strong Republic" is the "Wrong Republic" – wrong in its handling specially of Napocor, where electioneering was placed above common sense finance.

Courting the voters, the government insisted on low prices for electricity because of the then forthcoming elections, thus causing Napocor enormous losses.

Because of this, Napocor has been forced to borrow more and more money because of these losses, resulting in more and more backbreaking debts, which only the government can pay.

In its three years in power, all that the people experienced under this government is sacrifice and more sacrifice, indigence and more indigence, crucifixion and more crucifixion.

In my whole life, I have never seen a government that has slammed more disappointments, rammed more economic hardships, and damned more people than the present administration.

As we say in the famous novena in Baclaran, when our family and relatives are gathered crying and weeping around us, "when our eyes grow dim and our hearts cease to beat, when the terrible judgment is about to be passed," at least I wish we could hope that we are leaving a better Philippines. But from the signs of the times, I believe that this hope will become forlorn.

That the government has really no grand design to lift up our nation from the dregs can be seen by speeches which are out of touch with reality -- because inexperienced speechwriters cannot concoct speeches that can hide these realities.

I have risen today conscious that most of our people have no abiding trust in the leaders of our nation, when neither president nor senators nor congressmen are regarded with the same respect and honor as in the years gone by.

The distrust of the nation for the national government is escalating to unbelievable, but understandable, proportions.

And may the day not come, I say again, when the people themselves, desperate over the failure of leadership in

our constitutional democracy, and finding unbearable the debilitations and abominations inflicted by an ineffective administration, willingly choose to place their destiny in the hands of a dictator. Never again.

But let us not give up on our constitutional democracy so easily or so soon. Our Republic has a great heritage of freedom and heroism. We can still rise up from the depths if we only remember that we are the people's servants rather than their masters; that we are guided by the virtues and values of our fathers and by the splendor of their ideals; that we are a nation whose belief in God will never flicker; and that, finally, as General Douglas MacArthur said, the Philippines is a land where Filipinos are destined "to build courage when courage seems to fail, restore faith when there is so little cause for faith, create hope when hope becomes forlorn."

The future of our country is in our hands. In the spirit of reconciliation, cooperation and unity, we must take action now; otherwise, we are bound to fail.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

Initially, Senator Defensor Santiago noted that Senator Lim's speech, despite its scathing criticism of the present political system, ended with a positive conclusion that things are still worth fighting for and that the people should not give up.

Senator Defensor Santiago informed the Body of the many theories about dreams, namely, 1) dreams are a method of distracting the mind while the person is asleep to enable the spirit to fly to the spirit world where concepts such as goodness, happiness and joy thrive; 2) dreams are workings of the subconscious mind and express what one would have wanted to do or explain certain events of the day; and 3) dreams are a matter of forecasting events. She expressed the view that Senator Lim's dream might fall under the third category.

Asked if he could describe the profile of the politician who was murdered in his dream, Senator Lim replied that he saw a traditional politician who would not hesitate to do anything in order to perpetuate himself in power. But he said that the face was hazy although he was sure that the politician was a male.

Asked if the magistrate in his dream happened to be the Supreme Court Justice, who at present is charged by a whispering campaign of deciding cases on the basis of sexual advances received and acknowledged, Senator Lim replied that it was an Associate Justice.

Asked whether the Cabinet member in his dream handles big contracts and has the ear of the President, Senator Lim surmised that it was probable as the assassin would not shoot an official who had not abused his position. He affirmed that his dream was a nightmare and he dreaded its repetition as it is turning into a reality. But he explained that he was revealing his dream to the Body to serve as a warning to other government officials to refrain from committing acts of oppression against the people.

Senator Defensor Santiago explained that the term "pork barrel" originated from the practice of preserving pork by salting it heavily and putting it in barrels. She said that after the U.S. Civil War, after attending congresses in cities, representatives brought home bacon, hence, the expression "bring home the bacon." Believing that there was no intention to associate the financial appropriations of legislators with pigs, she however conceded that people who look down on politicians associate the latter with the porcine family.

Replying to Senator Defensor Santiago's query, Senator Lim opined that politicians are associated with pigs instead of animals like tigers, lions, elephants, eels, serpents or crocodiles because unlike pigs which are delicious, the other animals are not palatable.

Senator Defensor Santiago recalled that Sigmund Freud taught that dreams should never be ignored or swept aside because they always have some depth of meaning that might

be hidden to the dreamer. Asked whether in castigating the administration, he was thinking of changing the Macapagal Arroyo Administration before the end of its six-year term, Senator Lim replied in the negative. He explained that his speech was intended to motivate all public officials to change their ways and serve the highest interest of the country lest his dream become a reality. He underscored that there is a limit to the patience of the citizenry and it is the time for change.

Upon query, Senator Lim affirmed that the opposition would engage the administration in constructive criticism and would refrain from committing any prohibited act. He stressed that the opposition adhere to the rule of law.

REMARKS OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan stated that he shared some of Senator Lim's sentiments on the present quality of politics in the country.

INTERPELLATIONS ON SENATOR PIMENTEL'S SPEECH

(Continuation)

Thereafter, Senator Pangilinan announced the resumption of the interpellations on the privilege speech of Senator Pimentel.

REMARKS OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

Senator Pimentel presented to the Members a document, R.A. No. 5170, the national budget for fiscal year July 1, 1967-June 30, 1968. He expressed the view that if line-item budgeting were implemented today, the document would be five times thicker considering the voluminous items that would have to be inserted and the increase in the number of positions funded by the government.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR VILLAR

Senator Villar explained the pros and cons of line-item budgeting to help the Members get a clearer picture of the system. He said that line-item budgeting is ideal on the lower levels of management for easier operational planning,

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monitoring and control of the budget; and it allows for transparency and enables central authorities to control the cost of inputs before the expenditure is made or obligated. He said that control over agencies through the line-item budget is exact, comprehensive and uniform.

However, Senator Villar noted the following disadvantages of using this system:

1. It listed itemized expenditures for supplies, personnel and equipment without much regard for the purposes of programs for which such items were proposed;
2. It outlined the items on which money would be spent but provided little or no information on what exactly would be done. He noted that specific items of expenditures are provided without relating them to any objective policies, results or output of activity;
3. The line item is given the same weight or importance even though some items are more complex than others;
4. It is seen to be incremental, fragmented, non-problematic and sequential but there is a tendency to accept the preceding year's budget as the sole basis for next year's budget;
5. It lessens the agency's control over planning and programming and does not provide the flexibility to adapt to unforeseen changes;
6. The process will be tedious and will result in a very thick Appropriations Act. Line-item budgeting is applicable to small government agencies but not for the national government whose budget runs into billions and covers millions of employees;
7. It would entail considerable time for the agency's staff and would distract them from fulfilling their essential

functions, and renders monitoring of accomplishments difficult because of sheer details; and

8. It is not the answer to the graft-ridden pork barrel system since graft and corruption usually happens during the implementation phase of the project such as bidding which could be rigged, whether identified through the initiative of the legislator or the executive.

Nonetheless, Senator Vilar did not object to the adoption of line-item budgeting as he noted that the House of Representatives had adopted the system. But he expressed doubt whether the House could carry it out as the process is tedious and the output voluminous. He reiterated that line-item budgeting is transparent as lawmakers would be able to review projects prior to the approval of the budget as opposed to the present system. He noted, however, that if the objective is to tie down the hands of the President, it would not be effective as the President may still choose not to fund any project and realign the budget.

In reply, Senator Pimentel clarified that the adoption of line-item budgeting would not eradicate corruption in one single blow. However, he underscored that with the system, every project and program of a legislator, cabinet member or even the President would be open to public scrutiny, thus, the transparency demanded by the Constitution in the actuations of public officials would at least be satisfied. He believed that the system is not unmanageable if everyone would cooperate to work things out. He maintained that the system is a good start to eradicating corruption.

At this juncture, the Chair inquired whether the appropriation could be realigned in a line-item budget. Senator Pimentel replied that unless the appropriation would go into savings as allowed under the Constitution, the line-item budget cannot be realigned because the one holding the monies and doing the realignment would be guilty of technical malversation.

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Asked by the Chair if this meant, for example, that a congressman could realign the funds originally allocated for the construction of a bridge to the construction of a farm-to-market road, Senator Pimentel replied in the negative. Senator Villar added that the President may refuse to fund such a realignment but that this was another matter altogether.

Senator Pimentel noted that in his speech, he tried to tell the President that Congress aims to exercise its power of the purse and that line-item budgeting is a first step towards asserting this power which has been eroded through the years. He pointed out that the Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management has become the most powerful cabinet member because she has the power to release the budget.

Senator Villar agreed, stating that it would make Congress powerful particularly if it would include personnel because in line-item budgeting, the item for a specific individual can be removed.

Adverting to the budget document, Senator Pimentel cited the example of the Senate President's budget where everything was itemized, from the Senate Secretary's salary down to his assistant private secretary's salary.

Senator Villar disclosed that he personally preferred the existing system because line-item budgeting would increase the Senate's work by five-fold and Congress, probably a hundred-fold, as estimated by the committee secretary. Should the House adopt line-item budgeting, he believed it would be wise for the Senate to do the same; but if the House decides otherwise, the Senate should decide whether or not to deviate from the system adopted by the House. However, while line-system budgeting would entail a lot of work for the Committee, he expressed optimism that the Committee would be able to do it. But he warned against any abuse by Congress of such power as he noted that a legislator could remove the item for a director he dislikes.

At this juncture, the Chair informed the Body that the House intended to do line-item budgeting on capital expenditures only.

Senator Villar stated that the finance committee would be willing to follow whatever system the Body decides to adopt, be it a modified line budget system—where the increase in workload would not be as much—or a line-item budgeting system.

In reaction, Senator Pimentel reiterated the Minority's position on the adoption of line-item budgeting. He believed that it is better to have a budget approved, not reenacted, by Congress. The problem of who would lead or follow, he said, could be addressed when both Houses are housed in one area making it easier for the leadership to communicate and coordinate. Nevertheless, he assured the Body that the Minority would not force the issue at the expense of the greater interest of the nation; and that they only articulated the proposal as they believed that line-item budgeting would address the concerns of the people on the misuse of the pork barrel by the legislators.

Relative thereto, Senator Pimentel noted that in the budget document, the budget of the Senate consisted only of 13 pages, inclusive of the budget of the Commission on Appointments; and that of the House of Representatives, about 15 pages. He agreed with Senator Villar that the work is not insurmountable if the legislators would put their hearts into it. He stressed the importance of avoiding a stalemate in passing the budget.

But Senator Villar clarified that the Senate could not at this point go back to the full line-item budgeting without passing a new law; it can only adopt the House proposal to use modified budgeting—that is line-item budgeting only on capital expenditures — because of R.A. No. 6670 that amended P.D. No. 1177.

Senator Pimentel informed the Body that he would file a bill repealing R.A. No. 6670 and P.D. No. 1177.

Senator Villar suggested that the topic of line-item budgeting be included in the two-day Tagaytay workshop as he noted that the Body would have to decide whether or not to adopt it in the national budget. He gave assurance that the finance committee would be guided by the decision of the Body.

The Chair instructed the Secretariat to include the topic in the working papers for the workshop.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR EJERCITO ESTRADA (J)

Initially, Senator Ejercito Estrada (J) stated that the problem lies not only in the use and abuse of the pork barrel funds but also in the practice of the Executive Department of realigning funds from one department to another.

Expressing support for line-item budgeting, Senator Ejercito Estrada (J) asked how much time it would take Congress to prepare the budget using the old system. Senator Pimentel replied that with modern technology, specifically the use of computers, the work can be done much faster even though there are more items to fill up. Besides, he said, the finance committee is manned by experts.

Upon further query, Senator Pimentel recalled that the Congress did line-item budgeting up to the declaration of martial law in 1972 when a presidential decree mandated that the appropriation shall be performance-based. Subsequently, he said that P.D. No. 1177, which did away with line-item budgeting, was issued.

Asked if line-item budgeting was reinstated after martial law was lifted, Senator Pimentel clarified that successive administrations continued to use the "performance-based lump-sum appropriations" system which, precisely, he wanted to replace with line-item budgeting.

Under line-item budgeting, Senator Ejercito Estrada asked how a project would be implemented in case foreign exchange fluctuates and the implementing agency cannot realign additional funds. Senator Pimentel stated that such a contingency has been provided for in the Constitution which allows Congress to pass a supplemental budget. He explained that when a project is undertaken, the contractor and the concerned government agency must foresee the contingencies that are bound to arise so that if, eventually, there is a gap between the allocation and the amount needed to finish the project, a supplemental budget can be passed. He stressed that the mandate on the need to enact a supplemental budget should be strictly complied with.

Senator Ejercito Estrada asked what other measures, aside from line-item budgeting, would be needed to put the powerful Department of Budget and Management in its proper place. Senator Pimentel recalled that before martial law, the chairman of the budget commission was just a financial adviser of the President who was tasked to prepare the budget to be submitted to the Congress; during martial law, the budget commissioner was elevated to the rank of a cabinet minister who automatically chaired the Committee on Finance of the Batasang Pambansa; during the Aquino Administration, the budget minister was downgraded to a budget commissioner but elevated, once again, to a department head. He added that then President Aquino did it in recognition of the head of the budget agency, Alberto Romulo.

Thereafter, Senator Pangilinan informed the Body that Senators Arroyo, Recto and Roxas had withdrawn their reservations to interpellate Senator Pimentel.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Pimentel and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Finance.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 54

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 54, entitled

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL
PERMANENT COMMITTEES OF
THE SENATE TO HOLD
MEETINGS, HEARINGS OR
CONFERENCES DURING THE
RECESS OF THE CONGRESS FOR
THE PURPOSE OF STUDYING
AND PREPARING ANY
PROPOSED LEGISLATION OR TO
INVESTIGATE ANY MATTER
OR SUBJECT FALLING UNDER
THEIR JURISDICTION AND
AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT

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OF THE SENATE, IN HIS DISCRETION, TO ALLOW ANY SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO HOLD MEETINGS, HEARINGS OR CONFERENCES DURING THE RECESS FOR THE SAME PURPOSE.

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

Resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To authorize, as it hereby authorizes, all permanent committees of the Senate to hold meetings, hearings or conferences during the recess of the Congress for the purpose of studying and preparing any legislation or to investigate any matter or subject falling under their jurisdiction and to authorize the President of the Senate, in his discretion, to allow any special committee to hold meetings, hearings and conferences during the recess for the same purpose.

Resolved, further, To authorize the committee to issue subpoena or subpoena duces tecum to any person, corporation, entity or its officers, to testify and/or produce such documents which may be needed in the meetings, hearings or conferences of the Committee.

Resolved, finally, To require the Committee which has held any meeting, hearing or conference to file a report of its studies, hearings or investigations to the Senate in its regular session, with such recommendation which it may deem necessary and advisable.

DRILON AMENDMENT

On the second resolutory paragraph, between the words "*further*" and "to," as proposed by the Chair, and accepted by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the insertion of the phrase IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RULES OF THE SENATE.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 54

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 54 was adopted by the Body.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan informed the Body that 20 senators were present in the caucus the previous day. He said that based on Resolution No. 8, the senators would hold a workshop on October 22 and 23 to craft a proposed legislative agenda focusing on fiscal reforms, financial reforms, peace, security, law and order, health, education, jobs and income generation.

The Chair informed the Body that the special committee created to take care of the mechanics of the proposed workshop would meet after the session.

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 94, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO INQUIRE IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PRESENT STATE OF BANDWIDTH AVAILABILITY AND BROADBAND TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT IN THE COUNTRY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF COMING UP WITH POSSIBLE GOVERNMENT SUPPORT THAT WILL HASTEN ITS COMMERCIALIZATION IN BOTH THE TELECOMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BENEFITS IT CAN BRING TO THE ECONOMY

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Introduced by Senator Magsaysay Jr.

To the Committee on Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 95, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PHP 624 MILLION WORTH OF UNCLAIMED PRIZES AT THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE'S (PCSO) SWEEPSTAKES AND LOTTO GAMES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING WHETHER THERE IS A NEED TO AMEND THE EXISTING CHARTER OF THE PCSO AND FIND POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS THAT MAY BE ADVANCED TO PREVENT THE DIVERSION OF FUNDS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 96, entitled

RESOLUTION CREATING A SENATE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON REVENUE GENERATION

Introduced by Senator Gordon

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 97, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO RECONSTITUTE THE OFFICE OF THE ANTI-SMUGGLING TASK FORCE (NASTF), ANTI-SMUGGLING INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION CENTER (ASIIC),

AS WELL AS THE CABINET OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON ANTI-SMUGGLING (COCAS), IN LIGHT OF THE UNABATED ILLEGAL ENTRY OF VARIOUS COMMERCIAL GOODS INTO THE COUNTRY, WHICH HAS ADVERSELY AFFECTED BOTH THE BUSINESS AND PUBLIC SECTOR, IN EFFECT FURTHER DAMAGING THE NATIONAL ECONOMY

Introduced by Senators Mar Roxas, Magsaysay Jr., Gordon, Lim and Enrile

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 98, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND COMMERCE TO CONDUCT A SENATE INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASE IN PRICES OF CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS WITH THE END VIEW OF AVERTING SUDDEN AND UNREASONABLE INCREASES IN PRICES OF THE SAME

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 99, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC ORDER AND ILLEGAL DRUGS; AND TRADE AND COMMERCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PROLIFERATION OF CELLULAR PHONE THEFT, MOST OF WHICH ARE REPORTED TO FIND ITS WAY BACK IN SHOPPING CENTERS, WITH THE END VIEW OF RECOMMENDING MEASURES AS MAY BE

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NECESSARY TO PROTECT
THE CITIZENS FROM CELLULAR
PHONE THEFT AND PROTECT
THE CONSUMERS FROM
SUBSTANDARD PRODUCTS

Introduced by Senator Villar Jr.

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


ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being
no objection, the Chair declared the session

adjourned until three o' clock in the afternoon the
following day.

It was 5:07 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the
foregoing.


OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate
ks *N. Villar*

Approved on September 22, 2004