



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

S e n a t e

Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 6

Wednesday, August 1, 2007

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

SESSION NO. 6
Wednesday, August 1, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:57 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Manny Villar, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Compañera Pia S. Cayetano led the prayer, to wit:

The Word of God reminds us in James 5:16 that "...The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results." (The Living Bible)

Our Father and our God in heaven, we acknowledge Your rule over our lives as individuals and over our life as a nation. We acknowledge that our duties as senators are God-given and must be carried out with Godly guidance. We desire to obey Your will in the deliberations we carry out, in the laws that we pass, in the hearings that we conduct and in the other decisions that our God-given duty requires us to make.

Let Your word be our guide; let the welfare of the nation be our constant desire; let the integrity of this Body be our concern; and let principled friendship be the rule of our relationships with each other as senators of the Filipinos, for such is Your will for us. Grant us the power to carry this out and grant us the privilege of seeing wonderful results in accordance with Your word.

We ask these in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate, Emma Lirio-Reyes, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, E. J.	Lacson, P. M.
Aquino, III, B. S. C.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Arroyo, J. P.	Legarda, L.
Biazon, R. G.	Madrigal, M. A.
Cayetano, A. P. S.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Cayetano, C. P. S.	Pimentel, Jr., A. Q.
Defensor Santiago, M.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Roxas, M.
Enrile, J. P.	Villar, M.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Zubiri, J. M. F.
Honasan, G. B.	

With 21 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.


Senator Gordon, who had a previous commitment, arrived after the roll call.

Senator Trillanes was unable to attend the session.

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. 5 and considered it approved.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Pangilinan acknowledged the presence of former Governor Tarhata Alonto Lucman and former Vice Governor Normala Alonto Lucman of Lanao del Sur; and 86 high school students of Sisters of Mary, Silang, Cavite, headed by Mrs. Rowena Duazo and Sister Girlie Ebina. 



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. 201, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE BOOK III, ARTICLES 141, 142, 143, 148 AND 151 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES" BY PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PROTECTION TO THE DOMESTIC HOUSEHELPERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 202, entitled

AN ACT LIMITING THE AUTHORITY GIVEN TO THE COMMISSIONER OF THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE (BIR) AND ENCOURAGING THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF STAKEHOLDERS IN PRESCRIBING REAL PROPERTY VALUES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

To the Committees on Ways and Means; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 203, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ENABLING MECHANISMS FOR THE

PREVENTION OF SIGHT AND VISUAL IMPAIREDNESS IN THE COUNTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 204, entitled

AN ACT MAKING AVAILABLE ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORDS OF ALL PATIENTS OF HOSPITALS AND CLINICS ESTABLISHING FOR THIS PURPOSE ELECTRONIC MEDICAL RECORD CENTER UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 205, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE MONETARY AND NON-MONETARY INCENTIVES TO DIFFERENTLY ABLED FILIPINO ATHLETES, THEIR COACHES AND TRAINERS WHO WON GOLD, SILVER, AND BRONZE MEDALS IN THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTING EVENTS FOR THE DISABLED, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF R.A. NO. 9064 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SPORTS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 2001," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

To the Committees on Games, Amusement and Sports; and Finance *llc*

Senate Bill No. 206, entitled

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE NUTRI-
TION QUALITY OF FOOD SERVED
TO PRIMARY AND SECONDARY
SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SCHOOL
CANTEENS AND CAFETERIAS,
PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M.
Lapid

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; and Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 207, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING ARNIS AS
THE NATIONAL SPORT OF THE
PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M.
Lapid

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; and Games, Amusement and Sports**

Senate Bill No. 208, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 6847, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COM-
MISSION LAW, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M.
Lapid

**To the Committee on Games, Amusement
and Sports**

Senate Bill No. 209, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED
MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL ORGAN-
IZATION IN THE PHILIPPINES AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M.
Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 210, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A COMPREHEN-
SIVE AND HOLISTIC FRAMEWORK
AND PROGRAMS FOR LEFT-
HANDERS AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M.
Lapid

**To the Committees on Science and Techno-
logy; Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 211, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE
PHILIPPINE ENERGY PLAN FOR
THE EXPLORATION, DEVELOP-
MENT, AND UTILIZATION OF NEW
AND RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS
USING INDIGENOUS RESOURCES
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 212, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RETIRE-
MENT BENEFIT SYSTEM FOR
PROSECUTORS IN THE NATIONAL
PROSECUTION SERVICE OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 213, entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE COM-
PENSATION BENEFITS AND OTHER
PRIVILEGES AND INCENTIVES
FOR THE MEMBERS OF THE
NATIONAL PROSECUTION SERVICE
AND THE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ^{AS}

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STATE COUNSEL IN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 214, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 215, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE CENTER FOR LEADING-EDGE EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES, PROVIDING FOR ITS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 216, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE QUEZON CANAL ZONE AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Public Services; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 217, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE MINDANAO RAILWAYS CORPORATION, PRES-

CRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION

Introduced by Senator Angara

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Public Services; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 218, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING MECHANISMS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995," AS AMENDED BY R.A. NO. 9241, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 219, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING THE AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES MODERNIZATION ACT (AFMA) OTHERWISE KNOWN AS REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8435 BY PROVIDING FOR THE GRANT OF VAT EXEMPTION TO ALL ENUMERATED AGRICULTURAL INPUTS

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 220, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8545, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION ACT" PROVIDING FOR AN EXPANDED VOUCHER OR COUPON SYSTEM IN SECONDARY

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AND TERTIARY EDUCATION,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 221, entitled

AN ACT TO UPHOLD THE RIGHTS
AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE
OF DAY CARE WORKERS BY
CONSIDERING THEM PART OF
PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7305 OTHER-
WISE KNOWN AS MAGNA CARTA
OF PUBLIC HEALTH WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

**To the Committee on Health and Demo-
graphy**

Senate Bill No. 222, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE URBAN
AND COUNTRYSIDE GREENING IN
THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 223, entitled

AN ACT TO ABOLISH THE PENALTY
OF IMPRISONMENT IN LIBEL
CASES, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE ARTICLES 355, 357, AND
360 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
REVISED PENAL CODE AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 224, entitled

AN ACT TO SPUR THE PLANTING OF
A BILLION TREES THROUGH
COMPLEMENTARY TREE PLANT-
ING PROGRAMS OF THE DENR
AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT
AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT
UNITS AND COMMUNITIES,
SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES,
AND CIVIC AND NON-GOVERN-
MENTAL ORGANIZATIONS,
PROTECTING THE REMAINING
NATURAL FORESTS AND FOREST
PLANTATIONS, AND CREATING
A FUND THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 225, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY
DRUGSTORES, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS "BOTICA SA BARANGAY" AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; and Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 226, 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 Loren Legarda

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; Youth, Women and Family Relations;
Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 227, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE POLITICAL PARTY SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 228, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO MADRASAH EDUCATION SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 229, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE LAKE LANAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Economic Affairs; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 230, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CRISIS CENTER FOR STREET CHILDREN IN ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND IN EVERY HIGHLY URBANIZED CITY IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 231, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE OPENING OF NIGHT CLASSES USING EXISTING HIGH SCHOOL AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FACILITIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 232, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 233, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987 BY PROHIBITING A PERSON FROM BEING APPOINTED AS THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE WITHIN THREE (3) YEARS AFTER RETIREMENT FROM ACTIVE DUTY AS A COMMISSIONED OFFICER OF A REGULAR COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP)

Introduced by Senator Biazon

To the Committee on National Defense and Security

Senate Bill No. 234, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE SELLING OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION OR EXPLOSIVES OR ANY PARTS OR COMPONENTS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITION OR EXPLOSIVES TO

THE ENEMIES OF THE STATE,
IMPOSING PENALTIES THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Biazon

**To the Committees on Public Order and
Illegal Drugs; and National Defense and Security**

Senate Bill No. 235, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIP-
PINE AIR FORCE ACADEMY
(PAFA) AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lacson

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

Senate Bill No. 236, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE CONFER-
MENT OF A MASTERAL DEGREE
AS EQUIVALENT TO PROFES-
SIONAL ELIGIBILITY IN THE
CIVIL SERVICE

Introduced by Senator Lacson

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

Senate Bill No. 237, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SCHOOL
NUTRITION PROGRAM AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 238, entitled

AN ACT ADOPTING AN OMNIBUS JOB
CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSA-
TION STANDARDIZATION SYSTEM
IN THE CIVIL SERVICE, APPRO-

PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
PROVIDING PENAL SANCTIONS
FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 239, 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. 240, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION SEVENTY-
EIGHT OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
NUMBERED SEVEN HUNDRED
FIVE, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE REVISED FORESTRY
CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong"
Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 241, entitled

CHILD SAFETY FIREARMS ACT

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 242, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AVIATION
NOISE MANAGEMENT AND REDUC-
TION IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS *AB*

AB

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 243, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL
MARKET CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 244, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE USE OF
THE POLICE, FIRE OR RESCUE/
DISASTER LINE AND PROVIDING
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS
THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

**To the Committee on Public Order and
Illegal Drugs**

Senate Bill No. 245, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING PRISON
REFORMS, IMPOSING A PENALTY
FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, APPRO-
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 246, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE MANDATORY
COMPLIANCE BY MOTORISTS OF
PRIVATE AND PUBLIC VEHICLES
TO APPROPRIATELY RESTRAINT
ALL CHILD OCCUPANTS OF
MOTOR VEHICLES

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 247, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING RETIREMENT
BENEFITS FOR THE PUNONG
BARANGAY AND THE MEMBERS
OF THE SANGGUNIANG BARANGAY
WHO HAVE SERVED THREE
CONSECUTIVE TERMS AS SUCH
OFFICIALS

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

**To the Committees on Local Government;
Government Corporations and Public Enter-
prises; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 248, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE CRIME
AWARENESS AND SECURITY IN
CAMPUSES

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

**To the Committees on Public Order
and Illegal Drugs; and Education, Arts and
Culture**

Senate Bill No. 249, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT OF PARKS AND
MINI-PARKS IN BARANGAYS,
MUNICIPALITIES, CITIES AND
PROVINCES, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

**To the Committees on Public Works; Local
Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 250, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; Local Government; and Finance**

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PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

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

Today is the start of the International Celebration of Breastfeeding Week. I am sure that some of our colleagues here are already snickering considering the subject matter, but this is more serious than it is so otherwise thought of by some of our colleagues.

In all honesty, I find it surprising that the burden of proving that breastfeeding is good for infants is apparently being put on the shoulders of those who use it instead of being placed on the shoulders of those who advocate other means of child feeding.

In the past research that I made, I found out that the Canadian Pediatrics Society has recently come out with the conclusion that breastfeeding infants is the best way of feeding the child, at the very least, for the first six months of his or her life. The mother's milk is the best first defense against diarrhea, which is a major cause of deaths of infants, and allergen materials. It is also a good source of anti-bodies and immune nutrients that help babies grow up healthy.

It goes without saying that mother's milk is intended by nature to suit her baby's needs. I guess the materialistic philosophy of life, where money has become the gauge of success, has caused the shift from breastfeeding babies to bottle-feeding them.

Many mothers now feel obliged to work to raise family income. But, in general, the workplace is not designed to allow mothers to breastfeed their babies. In fact, mothers working outside the home are dissuaded by circumstances not to bear children. This is probably a non-intended effect of mothers working outside the home, but it is a problem that needs to be met squarely. If working mothers are persuaded not to bear children, it logically follows that our population growth will diminish.

And causing an indiscriminate population reduction may also bring about other problems for the nation as they are now finding out in Singapore, Germany, and other places. In Europe, for example, those countries are beginning to realize that if they peg their population growth rates at less than the replacement levels, they will have difficulty sustaining their social security systems. The reason is that there will be less people of working age working to support the needs of a fast growing number of retirees.

We are not saying that reducing the population growth is necessarily evil. What we are saying is that abortion and other means of reducing population growth through abortifacient drugs are not the legal and moral way of doing it. We are also saying that begetting children without responsible parenthood is not necessarily good for the country.

In any event, going to the problem of nursing mothers who are working, we bring to the attention of our colleagues that there is Senate Bill No. 1767 that passed the Senate and the House of Representatives in the Thirteenth Congress but did not pass through the Conference Committee before the last Congress adjourned. This bill, if I am not mistaken, was sponsored principally by former Sen. Loi Ejercito Estrada, supported by Sen. Ping Lacson, and found its way to the committee headed by Sen. Pia S. Cayetano. The bill would have established the so-called lactation stations in workplaces and even in public places that should be adequately equipped with the necessary tools and facilities by concerned government agencies and private firms. All that entails money. That is the reason why the problem becomes complicated and the bill was stalled at the conference committee level.

I hope, however, that in the not too distant future, we can see these amenities provided in the workplace so that mothers can breastfeed their babies even as they work. I am optimistic that we can overcome the lobby of those opposed to mothers breastfeeding their infant babies. After all, Congress had passed Republic Act No. 7600 on June 2, 1992. The law provides incentives to government and private health institutions that promote breastfeeding practices and provide breastfeeding facilities for their patients who delivered babies in their institutions.

It is a good beginning, and we should take over the issue of promoting breastfeeding practices by law where the Act and Senate Bill No. 2490 left off. I need not say that the WHO and the American Society of Pediatrics have endorsed the concept that breastfeeding babies is good for the mental and physical health of the infants especially in their first year.

Let me also say that even in paradise, I have it on good authority, Eve breastfed Cain and Abel.

Breastfeeding must indeed be good, otherwise, no man or woman descended from Adam and Eve would be here to dispute that conclusion. *AK* *PO*

I hope that despite the difficulties inherent in our advocacy in supporting breastfeeding, we will persevere and continue in that direction. It is good for mothers, it is good for babies, it is good for the nation.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Senator Cayetano (P) thanked Senator Pimentel for bringing the Breast Month Celebration to the awareness of the Members. She informed the Body that the bill she refiled, Senate Bill No. 761, is based on a similar bill that Senator Flavio filed in the 13th Congress, with inputs from Senator Loi Ejercito Estrada and the other Members. She said that the coverage of the bill has been expanded and it mandates employers not only to provide lactation stations within their companies but also to consider the time spent by the mother to express her milk as a paid time-off; it further provides that lactation stations be put up in public places frequented by lactating mothers such as malls and airports; and it includes an education campaign on breastfeeding at all levels of education.

Senator Cayetano (P) lamented that many pediatricians and even OB-Gynecologists do not actively promote breastfeeding; in fact, they leave it up to patients whether to breastfeed or not. She said that the bill seeks to bring back a culture where breastfeeding is the first option.

Agreeing with Senator Pimentel, Senator Cayetano (P) expressed dismay that the burden of successful breastfeeding is placed on the mother when, in fact, the whole community should be promoting it. She recalled that during the deliberations on the bill, she pointed out that successful breastfeeding is actually a solution to the malnutrition problem. Since formula milk is expensive, she cited the tendency of mothers to dilute the formula and as a consequence, babies are not adequately fed.

Relative thereto, Senator Cayetano (P) informed the Body that a few months ago, the Pharmaceutical and Healthcare Association of the Philippines (PHAP) filed a case before the Supreme Court questioning the implementing rules and regulations of RA No. 7600 issued by the Department of Health (DOH) because it felt that the DOH had gone beyond its authority with respect to certain provisions of the law. She said that in its petition, the PHAP had acknowledged that Congress is the proper forum for any amendment to Executive Order No. 51.

Upon query, Senator Pimentel admitted that he was not aware of the details of the controversy, saying that what bothered him more is the fact that because of the influence of Hollywood, the mother's breasts have been objectified in a sexual way. He recounted that during the discussions on the bill, he adverted to an incident aboard a U.S. airline when a lady and her husband were asked to de-board because the crew apparently thought it was indecent for the mother to breastfeed her baby. He expressed hope that the Body would immediately pass the bill filed by Senator Cayetano (P) to make people realize that breastfeeding is the natural way of feeding infants.

At this point, Senator Pimentel commended the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) for protecting the well-being of the people when it caused the disposal of several corrugated canned milk. Stressing the need to encourage the BFAD to be more assertive in this respect, he believed that the agency should expand its concern over the importation of contaminated food, mostly from China. He said that the U.S., which imported such products, took immediate action to which China objected, although it eventually condemned to death errant food and drugs officials.

Senator Cayetano (P) observed that inherent in formula feeding is the danger of a child becoming sick of gastrointestinal infections, and even of cough and colds. She said that as a mother, she never associated cough and colds with formula feeding but when she became chair of the Committee on Health and Demography, she learned that mother's milk is the purest form of food that can be given to a baby, and anything else can give a baby allergic reaction and cause a lot of ailments that could lead to death which the World Health Organization (WHO) estimates at 16,000 per year.

Moreover, Senator Cayetano (P) pointed out that according to surveys, a lot of mothers were brainwashed and misinformed that if their infants were fed with a particular brand of milk, they would have a high IQ.

Senator Pimentel said that it was obvious that the crass commercialization of infant formula milk has attracted many mothers toward the use of formula milk in spite of the findings of the Canadian Pediatric Society, the American Pediatric Society and the WHO that it is best to feed the baby with his or her mother's milk during the first six months of infancy. However, he admitted that formula milk manufacturing

is a very big and powerful business which is very difficult to fight against because huge amount of money is being derived from the sale of milk products. He lamented that government finds it difficult to stand up to those companies and ask them to emphasize the truth in their advertisements that breastfeeding is better than formula-milk feeding.

Senator Cayetano (P) recalled that over a year ago, Malacañang proudly announced the huge income and employment being generated by the milk industry. But she believed that it was not a prudent statement as Malacañang might have been ill-informed on the hazards and downside of the milk industry as a whole. She clarified that she has nothing against the milk industry but she would like to draw the line between the benefits derived from milk products for older children and adults, and the disadvantages of feeding infants with formula milk rather than mother's milk. In this connection, she cited a strong lobby in the European Chamber of Commerce favoring the dairy industry.

Senator Pimentel said that he would not be surprised if there was such a lobby because Scandinavian countries would like to have markets all over the world, recalling that when he was a growing boy, his family consumed canned milk from Holland because his parents thought there was nothing wrong with it.

Senator Cayetano (P) said that milk companies should be ethically responsible and that she would be supporting any move to lessen formula milk importation. Senator Pimentel said that government should instead promote the local milk industry and make use of certain areas in Bukidnon and Marawi which are suitable for dairy farming. He averred that the multinational milk companies could have influenced the local suppliers that it is better to import milk products than to develop the local milk industry. He stated that the Committees on Health and Demography, and Agriculture and Food should work towards the development of the indigenous milk industry.

Senator Cayetano (P) took note of the fact that the Rooming-In and Breastfeeding Act, which was authored by Senator Angara, has changed the culture of breastfeeding in the country because it emphasized the need for the baby to have immediate access to the mother's breast in the first 48 hours after birth. She stated that she had incorporated this law into the

Expanded Breastfeeding Act which she authored but, unfortunately, it was not enacted into law. She expressed hope that the Members would soon consider the importance of regulating the marketing and advertising of formula milk. Likewise, she expressed support for Senator Pimentel's recommendation to devise a plan to develop and promote the local milk industry.

Incidentally, Senator Cayetano (P) stated that her office has been conducting regular breastfeeding seminars throughout the country, which is a vehicle to emphasize that it is the right of the mother to feed her baby and to be informed that breastfeeding is the best choice that she could make. She commended the NGOs for their assistance, but she said that concerns on the mother's health must also be addressed.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ROXAS

Asked by Senator Roxas on the existing laws and regulations with respect to the use of formula milk and the promotion of breastfeeding in the country, Senator Pimentel replied that Republic Act No. 7600 has a very limited application as it mandates only government-owned hospitals and gives incentives to private hospitals to encourage mothers to breastfeed their newborn. He added that the WHO and the American Society of Pediatrics have been telling people that breastfeeding, especially during the first six months of the infant, is the best way to ensure their healthy growth and development; and the DOH has issued circulars encouraging the use of mother's milk over formula milk.

On the assertion that there are more advocacies than actual laws and regulations with respect to breastfeeding, Senator Pimentel agreed as he said that his proposal seeking the establishment of lactation centers even in public places was not implemented in spite of the enactment of Senate Bill No. 1767. He revealed that while the counterpart measure to Senate Bill No. 1767 had been approved by the House, it got caught in a bureaucratic mess and Congress had already adjourned before it could be taken up in the conference committee.

On whether the inclusion of the message "breast milk is still best for babies" in advertisements is pursuant to a particular regulation or whether it is a voluntary act on the part of the advertisers or the radio stations, Senator Pimentel admitted that he was

not aware if it is required by the law. At this point, Senator Cayetano (P) informed the Body that there is an administrative order mandating that the formula milk advertisements carry such message.

Senator Roxas noted the disparity in the government policy because in smoking, there is a law that requires cigarette packs to carry a warning while in breastfeeding, there is only a mere administrative order which lacks the full force of law. Senator Pimentel agreed, saying that there is room for legislation that would carry the full force and effect of an act of Congress.

On whether the validity of RA 7600 has been challenged before the Supreme Court, Senator Cayetano (P) clarified that the PHAP filed a case in the Supreme Court questioning the authority of the DOH to issue the implementing rules and regulations (IRRs) and that the decision is expected in about 60 days. For instance, she noted that the definition of infant in the law which is age zero to six months has been extended by the IRR to up to 24 months.

In closing, Senator Roxas decried that millions of pesos are being spent by mothers who bought the notion that formula milk is better for their babies. He indicated that he would join any effort to correct this misperception as children deserve to get the best nutrition at the earliest time possible.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR MADRIGAL

Preliminarily, Senator Madrigal expressed hope that when the time comes to strengthen Executive Order No. 51, the Members would support it unanimously. She informed the Body that researches done by medical teams and alternative groups showed that Southeast Asians are lactose-intolerant. She stated that the milk controversy is really a question of raw versus pasteurized milk, that is why the vegan movement is gaining strength in England and throughout Europe after it was found out that there is a link between cancer and over-ingestion of pasteurized milk. Being a vegan, she explained, means no ingestion of animal milk, honey or butter although nut milk like soya and coconut is allowed. She pointed out that only the human species drink the milk of other species. She noted that the ancient Indian principle of Ayurveda advocates the importance of breastfeeding the child strictly from the mother's breast as the milk loses its immunization qualities

once exposed to air. Senator Pimentel agreed that the Ayurvedic principle stands on solid ground.

On the matter of setting up lactation stations, Senator Madrigal maintained that it is better to directly breastfeed the infant rather than express the milk and store it in bottles that may not be properly sterilized.

Senator Madrigal revealed that lauric acid, the main component of coconut oil and coconut milk, is the closest thing to mother's milk. She urged the Senate to be supportive of studies on this matter as they have shown that two or three tablespoons of coconut milk a day will help produce superior milk for malnourished mothers and a minimal amount will help the children gain its high immunizing qualities. On his part, Senator Pimentel called on the Body to coordinate its effort and support agencies like the DOH to get involved in similar experiments and studies, adding that it could lay the basis for proper nutrition for infants, children, mothers and the population in general.

Senator Madrigal asked the Body to also support the bill strengthening E.O. No. 51 that she intended to file. Senator Pimentel gave assurance that he would support the bill.

Senator Madrigal recalled that what prompted President Aquino to issue E.O. No. 51 was her realization that the advertisements of multinationals promoting formula milk for babies between zero and two years old had to be controlled, otherwise, mothers would continue substituting formula milk for breast milk, thus negating the efforts of NGOs and concerned government agencies to combat widespread brainwashing. She believed that the controversy stemmed from the fact that the multinational companies are against the banning of advertising for two years of formula milk that would affect children from zero to two years old, which the medical and breastfeeding advocates are pushing for.

To the observation that claims of "fresh milk" in advertisements are a hoax since manufacturers themselves have admitted that these products are powdered milk reconstituted in the country which have absolutely no nutritional value, Senator Pimentel agreed, adding that something must be done about the matter.

Senator Madrigal stated that she would like to lobby for nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that are advocating a ban on formula milk advertising that offers infant formula milk to children who can

still be breastfed. She believed that it is important for Congress to pass a bill that would strengthen Executive Order No. 51 as well as ban advertising for formula milk for infants aged 0 to two years.

In closing, Senator Madrigal informed the Body that Children for Breastfeeding Inc. Director Elvira Henares and all NGOs advocating breastfeeding have invited her and Senator Escudero to take part in the largest synchronized breastfeeding event in the world to be held on August 8 at the TESDA, which would be a great boost to the promotion of breastfeeding. Senator Pimentel thanked Senator Madrigal for her ideas which, he believed, could be developed into bills to improve the milk industry in the country.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ANGARA

At the outset, Senator Angara stated that the Rooming-In and Breastfeeding Act of 1992, which he sponsored, had set the culture for breastfeeding in the country. Senator Pimentel agreed as he noted that the law was the first step in generating awareness of the superiority of breastfeeding over formula milk feeding.

Senator Angara also pointed out that former Senator Flavier's concept of child-friendly hospitals and clinics, which required hospitals to set aside rooms for mother and infant upon delivery, had launched an awareness of the importance of breastfeeding considering the medical and pragmatic reasons behind it. From a medical viewpoint, he stated that human milk contains essential minerals that build up anti-bodies and give children their initial immunization from diseases, and help them grow taller, stronger and more intelligent. He stated that all the other senators agreed to coauthor the Rooming-In and Breastfeeding Act after being informed that medical journals such as the New England Journal of Medicine had recognized the significance of breastfeeding. On the other hand, he stated that a pragmatic reason for promoting breastfeeding for infants is due to the incidents of diarrhea and intestinal infection brought on by inaccessibility to clean water. Senator Pimentel agreed, pointing out that because of the poverty situation, advocating breastfeeding would, to some extent, help alleviate the need for parents to buy expensive formula milk and prepare it in a sanitary manner when the water being used may, in fact, be contaminated.

Senator Angara recalled that in 1992, the level of breastfeeding decreased while the marketing campaigns by pharmaceutical companies for formula milk was successful such that only about 40% of

mothers in Metro Manila and about 60% elsewhere practiced breastfeeding. He said that this is something to worry about because bottle-fed infants would become malnourished and sickly.

On a related matter, Senator Pimentel stated that the Rooming-In and Breastfeeding Act of 1992 tried to address the problem brought on by industrialization by requiring the establishment of lactation stations in the workplace for working mothers even during office hours. He also agreed that granting a double deduction in terms of taxation for employers providing lactation stations was a very good incentive for promoting breastfeeding.

As regards the suggestion that the Senate must express its intent and support for breastfeeding through various measures despite the fact that there is a case against false and misleading advertising pending before the Supreme Court, Senator Pimentel stressed that the Senate, as a legislative body, and senators as duly elected representatives, should not be inhibited by such distractions and should stand up for what they believe is right.

To the observation that the infant formula milk industry is a huge business and has immense pressure and lobby considering that almost one-third of about US \$500 million of milk and other daily products imported by the country yearly consists of infant formula milk, Senator Pimentel pointed out that this was probably the reason why there has been no effort to curb the excess of the industry.

To the suggestion that the Senate assert the right of the mothers to breastfeed and protect them from artificial devices that would prevent them and their infants from getting good health, Senator Pimentel said that the Senate should ascertain both the right of the mothers to breastfeed and of the infants to receive mother's milk which is best for their health.

In closing, Senator Angara stated that the director-general of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) had thanked Congress for enacting the Rooming-In and Breastfeeding Act. For his part, Senator Pimentel said that Congress should not rest on its laurels and should expand on the right that has been started by that law.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Senator Legarda stated that breastfeeding is economical, healthier and even creates a special

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bond between mother and child. But she asked why there is a need for an expanded Act. Senator Pimentel explained that there is a prevailing view that breastfeeding is an indecent act as a woman's breast is associated more with the sex act than as a source of nutritional food for her child. He affirmed that the proposed measure would focus on changing this culture of malice.

Senator Legarda asked to be enlightened on the proposal to include a provision banning media advertising of formula milk products for two years.

At this juncture, Senate President Villar relinquished the Chair to Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada.

Senator Pimentel believed that what should be prohibited is false advertising.

Senator Legarda said that there should be a level playing field in terms of providing information on the importance and the nutritional value of breastfeeding because millions, if not hundreds of millions of pesos, are being poured into advertising formula milk. Senator Pimentel agreed that it is a lopsided battle against a multimillion-dollar industry considering the meager budgets of the DOH and the DOST.

Assuming Congress passed a measure leveling the playing field between the multinationals promoting formula milk and allowing more air time for the promotion of breastfeeding, Senator Legarda asked where the advocates of breastfeeding would source the necessary funds for the campaign. Senator Pimentel replied that while the funding would be difficult, the government has the support of the WHO and well-meaning pediatric societies throughout the world. The government, he said, ought to make a stand in favor of breastfeeding advocacies rather than leveling the playing field. He believed that there could be reasonable ground whereby government could put limitations on the proliferation of unbridled advertising of formula milk.

Senator Legarda opined that the DOH should already implement measures promoting a natural way of providing nutrition to infants such as putting up lactation stations. Senator Pimentel stated that in the absence of an enabling law, the DOH can do that only with the approval of the establishment since the *Rooming-In and Breastfeeding Act of 1992* covers only public and private hospitals.

Given the slow pace of legislation, Senator Legarda insisted that the DOH ought to be more aggressive in promoting breastfeeding and embark on a media-advertising campaign without the need for additional legislation, adding that an amount for lactation stations could be provided in the DOH budget eventually. Senator Pimentel believed that the most expedient way is to approve a law to that effect to obviate the need to negotiate with establishments.

Senator Legarda lamented that there are many important but unfunded laws as she maintained that the DOH should not wait for another law before taking executive action so that newborns would not suffer from malnutrition. Senator Pimentel agreed, saying that the Body could set aside funds in the next budget deliberations to encourage the DOH to carry out the program.

Senator Legarda further proposed that even before discussing the law, the Senate set the example by providing a lactation room for Senate employees, to which Senator Pimentel agreed.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF SENATOR ARROYO

Senator Arroyo stated that under Section 4, Rule IV of the Rules of the Senate, the President Pro Tempore shall discharge the powers and duties of the President in the following cases:

- a) When the President is absent for one or more days;
- b) When the President is temporarily incapacitated; and
- c) In the event of resignation, removal, death or absolute incapacity of the President.

Asked in what capacity the Senate President Pro Tempore was discharging the powers and duties of Senate President Villar who only left the session hall, the Chair replied that the word "pro tempore" means "for the time being," hence, it was sitting only for the time being.

The Chair invited the Body's attention to Rule IV, Section 6, which states that "In case of the temporary absence of the President or the President Pro Tempore, the Majority Leader or in his absence, the

Assistant Majority Leader, or any member designated by the President shall discharge the powers and duties of the President.”

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

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

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GORDON

Senator Gordon manifested that he would like to be coauthor of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 54.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR ARROYO

Pertinent to the resolution, asked by Senator Arroyo whether he is a Liberal, Senator Gordon replied that he is liberal only in philosophy, but not in party affiliation.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Edwin B. Bellen, read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 51, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE RELEVANT AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO LOOK INTO ALLEGATIONS THAT AT LEAST 51 FILIPINOS WERE SMUGGLED TO WORK IN IRAQ, UNDER THE GUISE OF EMPLOYMENT IN DUBAI, AS STATED IN TESTIMONIES BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM OF THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS

Introduced by Senator Mar Roxas

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 52, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9147 OR AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND THEIR HABITATS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, PARTICULARLY INTO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BOTANICAL GARDENS IN THE COUNTRY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INTRODUCING REMEDIAL MEASURES TO PROMOTE THEIR CREATION IN AN EFFORT TO CONSERVE THE COUNTRY'S WILDLIFE RESOURCES AND THEIR HABITATS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 53, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE OF THE SENATE TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE RECURRING PROBLEM OF FACTUAL AND CONCEPTUAL ERRORS IN TEXTBOOKS USED IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROPOSING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION FOR THE PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 54, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING SENATOR JOVITO SALONGA FOR EXEMPLIFYING THE TRUE SPIRIT OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, AND FOR BEING BESTOWED WITH THE 2007 RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Introduced by Senators Mar Roxas, Aquino III, Biazon, Pangilinan, Angara, Alan Peter S. Cayetano, Compañera Pia S. Cayetano, Miriam Defensor Santiago, Enrile, Escudero, Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, Honasan, Lacson, Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid, Loren Legarda, M.A. Madrigal, Pimentel Jr., Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr., Manny Villar and Zubiri

To the Committee on Rules

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 54

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

RESOLUTION COMMENDING SENATOR JOVITO SALONGA FOR EXEMPLIFYING THE TRUE SPIRIT OF GOOD GOVERNANCE, AND FOR BEING BESTOWED WITH THE 2007 RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD FOR GOVERNMENT SERVICE.

Secretary Lirio-Reyes read the text of the resolution, to wit:

WHEREAS, the Ramon Magsaysay Award is bestowed upon individuals and organizations working in Asia who manifest greatness of spirit in service to the peoples of Asia and who prove to be exemplars of selfless leadership, whose lives and work make Asia truly a better place;

WHEREAS, the Ramon Magsaysay Award has been considered as Asia's highest honor and is regarded as the Nobel Prize of Asia;

WHEREAS, two hundred forty (240) individuals and sixteen (16) organizations have been named Magsaysay awardees since 1958. Among them are some of Asia's great humanitarians, community leaders, intellectuals, and artists;

WHEREAS, Senator Jovito Salonga has recently been awarded the Magsaysay Award for Government Service for the exemplary integrity and substance of his long public career in service to democracy and good government in the Philippines;

WHEREAS, he was at the forefront of struggle for democracy during and after Ferdinand Marcos' dictatorship, tirelessly fighting for the rule of law, honesty and competence in government and showing compassion for the poor;

WHEREAS, he was elected Senator for three (3) terms, garnering the most number of votes for senator each time, and served as the first Senate President of the post-Marcos Senate, serving from 1987-1991;

WHEREAS, he was instrumental in having key good governance measures passed including the Disclosure of Interest Act, the Code of Conduct and Ethical Standards for Public Officials and Employees and the Act Defining and Penalizing the Crime of Plunder, among other laws to protect public interest;

WHEREAS, he also led the Senate in voting against the retention of the US military bases, the remaining vestiges of American imperialism in the country, and, consequently, freeing the said areas as key economic zones for national development;

WHEREAS, he served as the first chairman of the Presidential Commission on Good Governance and spearheaded efforts to retrieve the ill-gotten wealth of the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies;

WHEREAS, even after having retired from politics, he continues to sustain his principled interventions in the affairs of the nation through non-government organizations Kilosbayan and Bantay Katarungan;

WHEREAS, "Ka Jovy" indeed exemplifies the true spirit of good governance with a sincere concern for the people, which all leaders must inculcate in their being.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, to commend, as it hereby commends, Senator Jovito Salonga for being awarded the 2007 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Government Service due to his invaluable and dedicated service to the nation, and due to his demonstration of the true spirit of good governance and statesmanship. *AS*

ped

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Roxas, Sponsor of the measure, and Senator Gordon for his amendment.

GORDON-ROXAS AMENDMENT

As proposed by Senator Gordon, and modified by the Sponsor, there being no objection, the Body approved the rewording of the second "whereas" clause to read: WHEREAS, THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY AWARD IS CONSIDERED AS ASIA'S HIGHEST HONOR.

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.

COAUTHORS


Upon their requests, Senators Arroyo and Gordon were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 54.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Senate President Pro Tempore declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, August 6, 2007.

It was 6:03 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO-REYES
Secretary of the Senate
h *po* *to*

Approved on August 6, 2007