



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

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SESSION NO. 59

Tuesday, February 26, 2008

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

SESSION NO. 59
Tuesday, February 26, 2008

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:27 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Manny Villar, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Panfilo M. Lacson led the Body in prayer, starting with a quotation from a column by Fr. Jerry Orbos:

"Leaders are not sinless but they should sin less. We do not expect leaders to be perfect but, leaders, precisely because of their great power and influence, should sin less because they affect the lives of many people."

Lord, Heavenly Father, we pray that You enlighten the leaders of our nation so they may face the light and not allow anymore sins to be committed against the Filipino people.

We pray that our people continue to reject the sins committed upon them by their leaders so this nation will be saved from evil.

All these we pray through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 3:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:29 p.m., the session was resumed.

ROLL CALL

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

Arroyo, J. P.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Biazon, R. G.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Cayetano, C. P. S.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Roxas, M.
Gordon, R. J.	Villar, M.
Honasan, G. B.	Zubiri, J. M. F.
Lacson, P. M.	

With 15 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Aquino, Enrile, Madrigal and Pimentel arrived after the roll call.

Senators Angara and Defensor Santiago were on official mission, the latter abroad.

Senator Escudero was absent.

Senator Trillanes was unable to attend the session.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR ROXAS

Asked by Senator Roxas how his attendance was recorded, Senator Pangilinan said that he was marked present, including Senators Zubiri and Cayetano (P).

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 3:30 p.m. AF

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RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:30 p.m., the session was resumed.

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. 58 and considered it approved.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letters from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on February 19, 2008, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 430, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 53, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO EXEMPT THE PUBLISHER, EDITOR OR REPORTER OF ANY PUBLICATION FROM REVEALING THE SOURCE OF PUBLISHED NEWS OR INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE" BY INCLUDING WITHIN ITS COVERAGE JOURNALISTS FROM BROADCAST, NEWS AGENCIES AND INTERNET PUBLICATIONS

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

House Bill No. 1059, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIANGA, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE LIANGA NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 1528, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY POBLACION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAKEWOOD, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE POBLACION COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 1592, entitled

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF THE PAGLAUM NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PAGLAUM, MUNICIPALITY OF BINALBAGAN, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL TO THE BINALBAGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

House Bill No. 1890, entitled

AN ACT ENLARGING THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE COURT OF TAX APPEALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE LAW CREATING THE COURT OF TAX APPEALS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committee on Rules

House Bill No. 3327, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY JUPI, MUNICIPALITY OF GUBAT, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE JUPI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3328, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY GATE, MUNICIPALITY OF BULAN, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE GATE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3329, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAN JUAN BAG-O, MUNICIPALITY OF BULAN, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAN JUAN BAG-O NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3330, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY COGON, MUNICIPALITY OF JUBAN, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE JUBAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3331, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY RECODO, CITY OF ZAMBOANGA TO BE KNOWN AS THE RECODO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3332, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CAPIAN, CITY OF ZAMBOANGA TO BE KNOWN AS THE CAPIAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3336, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MESAJOY, MUNICIPALITY OF NEW CORELLA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE MESAJOY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3337, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAGAYEN, MUNICIPALITY OF ASUNCION, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE SAGAYEN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3338, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SUA, MUNICIPALITY OF MATNOG, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE SUA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

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House Bill No. 3339, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MACABARI, MUNICIPALITY OF BARCELONA, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE MACABARI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3340, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY OTAVI, MUNICIPALITY OF BULAN, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE FAUSTINO G. GLUA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3341, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SEMONG, MUNICIPALITY OF KAPALONG, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE SEMONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3346, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MARAYAG, MUNICIPALITY OF LUPON, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE MARAYAG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3347, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MAILHI, CITY OF BAYBAY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE MAILHI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3348, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BOGAYO, MUNICIPALITY OF KUMALARANG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE BOGAYO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3349, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PADADA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS THE PADADA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3352, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CADANDANAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BULAN, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE CADANDANAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

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House Bill No. 3353, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY DANGAY, MUNICIPALITY OF ROXAS, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO TO BE KNOWN AS THE DANGAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3354, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TINAGACAN, GENERAL SANTOS CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE TINAGACAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3356, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LAJONG, MUNICIPALITY OF JUBAN, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE LAJONG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3357, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION ONE (1) OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED EIGHT THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE, ENTITLED AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CATAGBACAN, LOON, PROVINCE OF BOHOL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE GOV. JACINTO C. BORJA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

House Bill No. 3359, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BOLIWONG, MUNICIPALITY OF LAGAVE, PROVINCE OF IFUGAO TO BE KNOWN AS THE LAGAVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3360, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BUTAG, MUNICIPALITY OF BULAN, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE BUTAG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3361, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY DANCALAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BULUSAN, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS THE BULUSAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

and House Bill No. 3389, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE BACOLOR REHABILITATION COUNCIL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

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RESOLUTION

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 308, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VIABILITY OF IMPLEMENTING A NOTIONAL DEFINED CONTRIBUTION (NDC) CONCEPT OF INSURANCE RETIREMENT SYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee Report No. 40, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Local Government; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 2092, with Senators Loren Legarda, Benigno S. Aquino III and Enrile as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING LIVELIHOOD AND SKILLS TRAINING CENTERS IN FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH CLASS MUNICIPALITIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 1087.

Sponsor: Senator Loren Legarda

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 3:39 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:40 p.m., the session was resumed.

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 29
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1714**

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1714 (Committee Report No. 29), entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LA MESA WATERSHED IN THE CITIES OF QUEZON AND CALOOCAN AND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RODRIGUEZ, PROVINCE OF RIZAL AS A WATERSHED RESERVATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Legarda for her cosponsorship speech.

**COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH
OF SENATOR LEGARDA**

In cosponsoring Senate Bill No. 1714, Senator Legarda stated that the La Mesa Watershed is an important water reservoir as it not only serves the 12 million residents of Metro Manila but its forest also houses indigenous species of plants, trees, and animals. She expressed the need for such a vital asset to be protected because it is thriving in the midst of an urban environment, making it vulnerable to *encroachment and the changing of land use to give way to the demands of urbanization.*

Senator Legarda said that the proposed Act could serve as an instrument to shield the La Mesa Watershed against the dangers posed on the ecosystem and the communities benefiting from it, which arise from pollution that usually results from lack of protection and proper management. She added that the proposed Act would, in effect, put a strain to possible dangers and install the mandate of certain key agencies to manage and protect the area.

Further, she said that the measure would give the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) enough power to manage the watershed area towards a balanced approach to the protection, conservation and rehabilitation of the area without impairing its usefulness as source of water for domestic use and other related purposes. She said that the establishment of a Multi-Sectoral

Watershed Management Council would translate into a collaborative effort from stakeholders, thereby providing more accountability, cooperation, and outputs in terms of management and development.

In closing, Senator Legarda urged the Body to approve the measure, in consideration of public safety and a healthy ecology to maintain and preserve the country's resources.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1714

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Pangilinan acknowledged the presence in the gallery of political science students from the Araullo University of Cabanatuan City.

Senate President Villar welcomed the guests to the Senate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 3:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:46 p.m., the session was resumed.

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 40 on Senate Bill No. 2092 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 40 ON SENATE BILL NO. 2092

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 2092 (Committee Report No. 40), entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING LIVELIHOOD AND SKILLS TRAINING CENTERS IN FOURTH, FIFTH AND SIXTH CLASS MUNICIPALITIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, only the title of the bill was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

The Chair recognized Senator Legarda for the sponsorship.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA

In sponsoring Senate Bill No. 2092, Senator Legarda delivered the following speech:

For a long time, skills and livelihood training had languished on the margins of public policy. This has come to pass.

The Knowledge Society had made it an imperative global agenda.

Skills and livelihood training is no longer a hollow development buzzword, an empty phrase, a supposed cure-all to the nagging problem of massive unemployment.

To our collective relief, it is now regarded with the seriousness, importance and vitality it deserves. Skills and livelihood training is now truly a very important plank of public policy.

The following are all too clear by now:

1. The economic-generation and wealth-creation of a country is only as good – or as mediocre – as the skills and competencies of its work force.

2. A country that cannot train its workers well and train them up to a competitive level automatically creates a pool of laggards and losers.

3. Skills and livelihood training and retraining smoothen the entry of workers from technologies that are rendered obsolete into frontier technologies that require new and upgraded types of skills and competencies, and the shift from withering business undertakings to new and viable ones.

4. The global job market is dramatically shifting from a market with an insatiable demand

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for domestic and manual workers to one with a great need for globally competitive workers in information technology, engineering and the like. A global cadre of knowledge workers.

In our present Knowledge Society, those with skills survive and thrive. Those with obsolete skills are written off the employment mainstream. Simply put, it is either we train our work force and train them well, and enhance their skills as entrepreneurs, or we perish.

We should not also forget this historical fact: it was our skilled workers, sent to overseas jobs under an institutionalized overseas employment program, that have been our economic life support system for more than three decades now.

Masons, carpenters, craftsmen, mechanics, heavy equipment operators and other skilled workers made up the first wave of what was to become a global Filipino diaspora. Their remittances kept us afloat from the '70s to the present. Where would we be without our skilled workers? We can only draw up nightmarish scenarios.

It is in this context that I am now enjoining my colleagues to pass Senate Bill No. 2092 that seeks to establish livelihood and skills training centers in poor municipalities across the country with a sense of urgency.

This capability-building measure has a trinity of objectives: enhance the skills of workers, enhance their knowledge, and enhance their attitudes, to make them ready for either gainful employment or successful entrepreneurship.

The bill seeks to establish these centers in 4th, 5th and 6th class towns across the country. The National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), based on its poverty and unemployment data, can recommend more beneficiaries aside from these municipalities.

Towns shall run their own centers because they know what they need most. To this end, the centers shall:

1. Conduct periodic training needs, determination and skills mapping of barangays within their jurisdiction in coordination with the local development councils, local planning offices and other national and local government offices;

2. Gather information and maintain an inventory of all existing livelihood and skills training under the various programs of government;

3. Coordinate the provision of livelihood and skills training to ensure that said trainings are responsive to the needs of the barangays concerned;

4. Coordinate and orchestrate the conduct of livelihood and skills training independently or in partnership with national government agencies, private sector or civil society organizations;

5. Develop its own capacity as a resource center for livelihood and skills training by developing in-house trainers that will provide training services; and

6. Develop a system for monitoring and evaluating the progress of individuals or groups undergoing training as well as the implementation of training programs and services.

The center shall provide training to enhance individual skills for employment and entrepreneurship. The training areas shall include:

1. Practical skills for home-based, viable *income-generating projects* such as aquaculture, livestock-raising, and other such endeavors that make use of the available resources within the community;

2. Business development services in terms of technical and entrepreneurial skills development and enhancement, product design and development, and marketing services;

3. Basic entrepreneurial management, financial literacy, organizational development and other such trainings;

4. Community participation skills development to promote and advance the barangay residents' awareness and application of community mobilization approaches, cooperative systems and techniques to create livelihood opportunities, and participatory implementation of livelihood programs and projects;

5. Occupational hazard and safety, labor rights, and values that promote the general welfare, develop people empowerment, self-reliance, and self-help; and

6. Sustainable development and environment-friendly livelihood technologies.

The center shall have a Municipal Advisory Board to be convened by the town mayor. Members include representatives from business organizations, chamber of commerce, cooperatives, micro-, small- and medium-scale entrepreneurs, rural bankers, NGOs and people's organiz-

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ations. The Board shall provide guidelines by which the center should develop its plans and programs.

The municipal government shall ensure that the centers are supported by appropriate network of support systems and mechanisms. The municipal mayor shall have overall supervision over the programs and services offered by the centers. The municipal mayor shall appoint a municipal training coordinator (MTC) who shall serve in a full-time capacity to oversee the day-to-day operations of the center. The municipal mayor shall determine the number of staff complement and appoint the same who shall assist the MTC in discharging its duties.

Five percent (5%) of the annual Internal Revenue Allotment of the municipality shall be allotted for the operation and maintenance of the centers.

While the bill upholds the primary role of municipal governments in developing and instituting livelihood and skills development programs, it mandates national government to support such local initiatives.

This bill requires all national government agencies that render community-based livelihood and skills training to develop an annual training program specifically for the barangays within the municipalities covered under this bill. These agencies' plans are to be implemented through the centers.

The NAPC shall be responsible for determining the municipalities to be covered under this bill. It shall also be responsible for collating the accomplishment reports of the concerned national agencies on the implementation of programs in the target municipalities to be submitted to Congress annually.

The DILG and the TESDA are mandated to develop and completely implement, within two years from the adoption of this bill, a program to assist the target municipalities to establish the centers and provide training for municipal training coordinators and their staff on how to run the center.

Only a nation with pools upon pools of skilled and highly trained workers and with a vibrant entrepreneur class will hurdle past the complex challenges of a global economy and the Knowledge Society.

The key, in general, is investment in human capital. Skills and livelihood training are part of this investment whole.

The investment should move from ground up, from the poor towns where this bill envisions the centers to plant roots and flourish.

As I mentioned earlier, the choices before us are either we train our work force, or we perish.

Train we must and for that training, the centers proposed in this bill shall be our anchors.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 2092

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Pangilinan acknowledged the presence of the following local chief executives from Eastern Samar: Mayor Candida Gabornes of Lawaan; Mayor Viscuso De Lira of Balangiga; Mayor Jojie Montallana of Jipapad; and Mayor Javier Zacate of Sulat.

Senate President Villar welcomed the guests to the Senate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 3:56 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION


At 3:57 p.m., the session was resumed.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

It was 3:57 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO-REYES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on February 27, 2008