



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 8
Tuesday, August 10, 2010

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

At 4:17 p.m., Senate President Pro Tempore, Hon. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile led the prayer, to wit:

Heavenly Father,

We thank You
For the beauty we see in nature.

Help us to appreciate
The gift of clean air,
To respect the mystery of water,
To ensure the fertility of the land.

Everyday, we renew our mission
To be stewards
Of this treasure called Earth.

You bequeathed us with fruit and flower,
Scent and taste, rain and rock,
summer and stars,
The wonder of life for all generations
to come.

We pray for productive hands
That will protect the diversity of life.

Make us tolerant of differences,
Steadfast in our compassion,
Easy to encourage,
slow to destroy.

We gather strength as a nation
As we learn from nature's wrath
Even us we pray You keep us safe
and protected
From floods, earthquakes,
oil spills and forest fires.

Teach us to be rich
Especially in times of difficulty and want,
With artists who will feed our souls,
Scientists who will protect us from harm
Leaders who humbly make sacrifices
So that in the darkness,
There will always be someone
Who will lead us in prayer,
And we will not be afraid
to join others in song.

Today, we ask You our Father
To witness our promise.
We join hands to protect the Earth
Like children taking care of their parents.

This way, we bring You honor and praise
As we come closer to being
The people deserving of Your love.

Amen.

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SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:20 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:20 p.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Enrile presiding.

ROLL CALL

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

Angara, E. J.	Honasan, G. B.
Arroyo, J. P.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, C. P. S.	Marcos Jr., F. R.
Drilon, F. M.	Osmeña III, S. R.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Enrile, J. P.	Recto, R. G.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Sotto III, V. C.
Guingona III, T. D.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

With 16 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Cayetano (A), Revilla and Villar arrived after the roll call.

Senator Lapid was on official mission abroad.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

Senator Lacson was absent.

Senator Trillianes was unable to attend the session as he was under detention.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 7 (August 9, 2010) and considered it approved.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests:

- Officers and staff of the Manila Observatory;
- Social Science Stream students and Social Science Society Club members from the Diliman Preparatory School;
- Political Science students from Western Mindanao State University headed by Prof. Mamor Edding; and
- Students from the Central Luzon State University, Science City of Muñoz, Nueva Ecija, headed by Prof. Jay Villafria.

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. 601, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE
TO THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY
OF A SOLDIER KILLED WHILE
PERFORMING DUTIES AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on National Defense
and Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 602, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING BUSINESS
ONE-STOP SHOP (BOSS) CENTERS
FOR SMALL AND MEDIUM
ENTERPRISES IN ALL REGIONAL
AND PROVINCIAL CENTERS IN
THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

At 10

Senate Bill No. 603, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE INSPECTION FUNCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6727, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE WAGE RATIONALIZATION ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 604, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 285 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, PROVIDING FOR GOVERNMENT UNITS RE-ALLOCATION OF THE INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 605, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 606, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 116 AND 164 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 607, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 608, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF INSTRUCTION IN THE HUMANITIES IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 609, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL DENTISTS TO GIVE FREE DENTAL SERVICES IN RURAL AREAS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4419, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE DENTAL ACT OF 1965," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 610, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS, MEDICAL CENTERS, CLINICS, INFIRMARIES, AND PUERICULTURE CENTERS TO GIVE FREE MEDICAL AND DENTAL ASSISTANCE TO INDIGENT CHILDREN

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Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 611, entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE FINANCIAL REGULATION OF WATER UTILITIES, CREATING THE WATER REGULATORY COMMISSION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 612, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 613, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING MOVIE, TELEVISION, AND RADIO PRODUCERS, INCLUDING PROMOTION AND ADVERTISING AGENCIES, AND OTHER LIKE ENTITIES, EMPLOYING UNEMANCIPATED MINORS TO DEPOSIT THEIR TALENT FEES OR INCOME IN A TRUST FUND, IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 614, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER ENSURING THE USE OF THE GENERIC NAMES IN THE MANUFACTURE, PRESCRIPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6675, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GENERIC ACT OF 1988" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 615, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 616, entitled


AN ACT AUTHORIZING BARANGAYS TO ENTER INTO OFFICIAL CONTRACTS WITH NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO UNDERTAKE THE DELIVERY OF BASIC SERVICES FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT TO BARANGAY RESIDENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 617, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL POLLING PLACE FOR THE DISABLED AND THE ELDERLY



Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 618, entitled

AN ACT FIXING THE MINIMUM STANDARD FOR DEATH BENEFITS TO FILIPINO SEAFARERS EMPLOYED OVERSEAS AND ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM AT THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION FOR ITS REGULAR REVIEW AND REALIGNMENT TO PREVAILING INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 619, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FREE AND SUITABLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 620, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATORY REPORTING OF MARINE CASUALTIES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 621, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 144 OF

BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 68, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CORPORATION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES BY INCREASING THE RANGE OF PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION OF ITS PROVISIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 622, entitled

AN ACT TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND TRAUMA CARE

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 623, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING SECTION 90 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, PROHIBITING AND LIMITING THE PRACTICE OF PROFESSION BY ELECTED LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 624, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING SECTION 1 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 53, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT TO EXEMPT THE PUBLISHER, EDITOR, COLUMNIST OR REPORTER OF ANY PUBLICATION FROM REVEALING THE SOURCE OF PUBLISHED NEWS OR INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 625, entitled

AN ACT LIMITING EXPOSURE OF
CHILDREN TO VIOLENT PROGRAM-
MING ON TELEVISION AND
CABLE SYSTEMS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 626, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL PUBLIC
HEALTH CENTERS TO BE OPEN AT
ALL TIMES TO PROVIDE CONTI-
NUOUS HEALTH AND MEDICAL
SERVICES TO THE PUBLIC

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 627, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE
OF MOBILE UNITS SERVING
MEDICAL, DIAGNOSTIC, AND
TREATMENT SERVICES, IN ORDER
TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY
OF QUALITY HEALTH CARE
SERVICES FOR PATIENTS WHO
RECEIVE CARE IN REMOTE OR
RURAL AREAS AND FOR PATIENTS
WHO NEED SPECIALIZED TYPE OF
MEDICAL CARE PROVIDED IN A
COST-EFFECTIVE WAY

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 628, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR REASON-
ABLE COMPENSATION AND
BENEFITS FOR THE LOSS OF

LIVES, INJURIES AND DAMAGES
TO PROPERTY SUFFERED BY
NON-COMBATANT INDIVIDUALS
IN THE COURSE OF OPERATIONS
BY THE MILITARY, POLICE AND/
OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT
AGENCIES AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 629, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL,
REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL
GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO
ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND
MAINTAIN A DIALYSIS WARD OR
UNIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE
HOSPITAL AND PROVIDING FREE
DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO
INDIGENT PATIENTS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural
Development; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 630, entitled

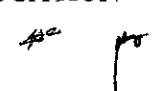
AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL
PLAN FOR TUBERCULOSIS
PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND
CONTROL AND PROVIDING
RELIABLE DRUGS SUPPLY AND
FREE LABORATORY MONITORING
SERVICE TO TB PATIENTS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 631, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE NATIONAL
EDUCATION TESTING AND
RESEARCH CENTER (NERTC)
INTO A NATIONAL EDUCATION



ASSESSMENT AND EVALUATION AUTHORITY (NEAEA), DEFINING ITS STRUCTURE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 632, entitled

AN ACT LIMITING THE POWER OF ASSUMPTION OR CERTIFICATION OF LABOR DISPUTES BY THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO ACTIVITIES OR UNDERTAKINGS WHICH INVOLVE ESSENTIAL SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE 263 (G) OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 422, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 633, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MEDIA RELATIONS OFFICE (PIMRO) IN ALL BRANCHES, SUBDIVISIONS, INSTRUMENTALITIES AND AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 634, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL

ACCREDITING AGENCY FOR TEACHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (NAATEI)

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 635, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING THE NEW CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES (REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386 AS AMENDED) ARTICLES 804, 805, 810 AND 811, PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF VIDEO TAPES OR OTHER SIMILAR VISUAL RECORDING DEVICE FOR TESTAMENTARY DISPOSITION OF THE ESTATE OF THE DECEDENT

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 636, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR AN INTERIM CENSUS OF FILIPINOS RESIDING ABROAD AND TO REQUIRE THAT SUCH INDIVIDUALS BE INCLUDED IN REGULAR CENSUSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 637, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A TASK FORCE ON COMMUNICATIONS TO REVIEW AND ASSESS THE STATE OF THE PHILIPPINE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM AND RECOMMEND POLICY, INSTITUTIONAL AND INFRASTRUCTURAL MEASURES TO ENSURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THIS SECTOR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 638, entitled

AN ACT TO PROFESSIONALIZE
HOSPITAL EMERGENCY SERVICES
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 639, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 325 (A)
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF
1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 640, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL
BAMBOO AND RATTAN DEVELOP-
MENT PROGRAM HARMONIZING
ECOLOGICAL BALANCE, WITH
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 641, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BENEFITS
OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 393 OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE
OF 1991, CREATING A NATIONAL
BARANGAY BENEFITS AUGMENT-

ATION FUND, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 642, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A COMMISSION
ON MISSING PERSONS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 643, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN
LAND ADMINISTRATION

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 644, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING AS AGAINST
PUBLIC POLICY THE RELEASE OR
INTRODUCTION OF GENETIC-
ALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS
INTO THE ENVIRONMENT AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 645, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH
CENTER IN THE FIFTEEN (15)
REGIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 646, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BUREAU ON HAZARDOUS WASTES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SPILLS AND DISEASE REGISTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 647, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND USE POLICY, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 648, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS WORKERS BANK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 649, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING A MAGNA CARTA FOR DAY CARE WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 650, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF FOOD PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 651, entitled

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT PYRAMID PROMOTIONAL SCHEMES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 652, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 653, entitled

AN ACT TO REGULATE PESTICIDE CHEMICAL RESIDUES IN FOOD

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Health and Demography

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Senate Bill No. 654, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 655, entitled

AN ACT TO DECLARE THE UNIVERSITY BELT AREA IN MANILA AND ALL OTHER SCHOOL SITES OR CAMPUSES IN THE COUNTRY WHETHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE AS DRUG-FREE AND CHILD PROTECTION ZONES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 656, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 63 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990" BY PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTEGRATED JAIL FACILITY IN METROPOLITAN MANILA AND IN OTHER HIGHLY URBANIZED CENTERS IN THE COUNTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 657, entitled

AN ACT ADOPTING THE DOCTRINE OF "SUPERIOR RESPONSIBILITY" TO ALL ACTIONS INVOLVING MILITARY PERSONNEL, MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND OTHER CIVILIANS INVOLVED IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 658, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 155 AND 157 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209 AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, SO AS TO STRENGTHEN THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW GOVERNING THE FAMILY HOME

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Ways and Means

SUSPENSION OF THE ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the reading of the Additional Reference of Business was suspended to allow Senator Legarda to deliver a privilege speech on the state of the climate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 4:36 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:38 p.m., the session was resumed.



PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Legarda delivered the following speech:

STATE OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE

I rise today to speak about the state of our climate, hoping that during the State of the Nation, it would have been addressed. I do not think the issues of environment and climate change were sufficiently addressed.

Never before in history have humans proactively worked together to avert a global catastrophe, as what we now attempt to achieve with the threatening challenge of climate change.

It is 2010, a particular time to look into the progress of countries towards halving poverty and achieving the Millennium Development Goals or MDGs. Eradicating extreme poverty and hunger is impossible to achieve without taking extensive measures to minimize the impacts of recurring floods, droughts, and other hazards that push Filipinos back into poverty. It is time to recognize that disasters, turbocharged by a changing climate, have undone years of development gains, and that unsound and short-sighted development practices themselves are playing a significant role in worsening disaster risk.

We are at present in a darker place than we could have ever imagined – we are polluting at a rate more rapid than what the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had declared as the worst-case scenario.

The climate crisis knows no territorial boundaries. But it is the Asia Pacific region which bears much of the burden of the global disaster risk problem, expressed in the historical frequency, severity and impact of disaster events. The imperative today is to understand new risks and their impact on vulnerable populations.

Philippine scenario

At home, disaster risks abound. The Philippines, being an archipelagic State located in the western edge of the Pacific Ocean and directly within the Ring of Fire, faces the constant risk of typhoons, drought, as well as earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. With climate change, we are to expect weather in extremes.

Sea level rise

As one of the countries most affected by sea level rise, the Philippines is inundated 9-12mm per year which is much higher than the

global annual average of 3mm. A one-meter rise in sea level would inundate an estimated 129,000 hectares of land, affecting 2 million people. Manila invariably registers the highest rise in sea level and this impact will be grave for the country's administrative and financial capital.

Weather and other Natural Disaster Risks

There is a need to improve our scientific and technical capacity to forecast the shifting hazards and their links to disasters. Downscaling, which requires time, skill and the human and computational resources, is now possible to help our municipalities prepare from the possible impacts of their alternative climate futures.

Current modeling runs show Mindanao and Southern Visayas as warmer and dryer in 2020 and 2050 compared to Luzon, but Western Mindanao, particularly the Central and Southern Peninsula, are projected to have the highest increase in temperature.

It is also projected that, except for Western Luzon, there will be less rains over Luzon and Mindanao and more rains in the Visayas.

Aside from the change in the pathway of the storms, research at the PAGASA and Manila Observatory reveal that there have been fewer but more intense rainy days. As the number of rainy days decrease, water-dependent sectors will need to anticipate and innovate approaches to achieving and maintaining sustainable supplies of fresh water while preparing for floods and landslides. Rainfall variability analysis has also shown us that there has been a geographic redistribution of rain all over our country. This highlights the two extremes that the country is currently experiencing: drought and deluge.

Drought

Experts agree that the looming water crisis is the result of the combination of rapid population growth, pollution, the destruction and mismanagement of freshwater resources, and the failure to study and anticipate climate variability. All these factors create a growing water security challenge. Even as we speak, one out of five Filipinos has no direct access to clean water based on World Bank estimates. This uneven distribution of water is echoed throughout the farms in the countryside. The lack of storage infrastructure also leaves the Philippines highly sensitive to droughts and floods.

Water is also vital to energy development, directly to fuel hydropower generation and indirectly to cool generation facilities of both fossil-fuel and renewable energy – producing

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plants, Without water to cool systems, facilities tend to break down from overheating. One need only recall the blackouts we had over the summer to realize the value of this resource.

The agriculture sector, which accounted for 81% of total water consumption in 2007, is most affected in the event of a water shortage during prolonged dry spells. To address this, I have filed a resolution pushing for better adaptation in the water sector, which entails comprehensive watershed management, irrigation efficiency, introduction of low water use crops, recycling of water, creation of water impoundment and rainwater harvesting systems, and improvement of monitoring and forecasting systems for floods and droughts.

The capital is not spared from the dangers of a prolonged drought. Just last month, the water level in the Angat dam has plunged, long queues for water have become a common sight in many affected barangays.

A disturbing study from PAGASA reveals that water entry in the Angat Dam has decreased by 500 million cubic meters for the last 50 years. This strongly supports our resolve to think of long-term development interventions.

At the root of this water shortage is the deterioration of the country's forest areas. Under nature's order of things, watershed areas store water for release into the water receptacles during the dry months, ensuring a continuity of water supply. Yet most of the proclaimed watershed areas have been classified as deteriorating or dying. We lose 1.4% of our forest cover per year.

I have also filed a resolution urging the Department of Public Works and Highways to implement a 21-year-old law, Republic Act No. 6716, or the Rainwater and Spring Development Act of 1989. Why has the DPWH not fully implemented this law? Why has the DPWH not constructed wells and rainwater collectors, developed springs and rehabilitated existing water wells in all barangays during the last 21 years?

Deluge

Our experiences with *Ondoy*, *Pepeng* and *Basyang* exposed the country's lack of an effective weather forecasting and early warning communications systems. They are either underutilized, outdated and inadequate to effectively predict typhoons, determine their intensity, and communicate warnings to everyone exposed to these hazards. The critical gaps in operational, scientific and institutional

capacity can only lead to increasing the vulnerability of the poorest sectors – those living in high-risk areas and whose livelihoods are at the mercy of extreme weather events.

The Senate Committee on Climate Change conducted a series of public hearings last year after the onslaught of *Ondoy* and *Pepeng*. A matter of discussion in these hearings was dam operations as waters were released based on outdated protocols, flooding several provinces in Luzon.

We now call upon the DOE and NAPOCOR to review their planning and operations in light of the science available and to ensure that extreme weather events are taken into consideration in the process. Our hydropower systems must be climate-resilient, which entails measures for improved management of our dams linked to reliable weather forecasts and effective early warning systems for communities at risk of floods due to dam water releases.

I have already filed Senate Bill No. 1406 or the PAGASA Modernization Act of 2010, which will give the agency P5 billion for the acquisition of modern equipment and communication systems, providing for the necessary information requirements.

With regard to our problem on flooding, I have also filed a resolution urging the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) to implement a river rehabilitation program in order to recover the length of our rivers, and promote better water flow along our major tributaries to prevent flooding.

The Vulnerability of Schoolchildren to Floods, Landslides and Earthquakes

As in the case of the Sichuan Earthquakes in China, and the Guinsaugon debris avalanche in 2006, extreme rainfall, floods, landslides and earthquakes may generate associated disaster risk. Schoolchildren in the Philippines are uniquely vulnerable to this potentially deadly disaster. A study published by Columbia University reveals that compared to the rest of the world, the Philippines has the largest number of schoolchildren at risk from earthquakes – with 15.6 million school-age children in earthquake zones.

To ensure the safety of our schoolchildren, we urge: (1) the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS) to identify earthquake – hazard areas within the country; (2) the DPWH – to immediately conduct a nationwide structural evaluation of all schools,

48 1

enhance the structural integrity of public schools and help private-run schools improve on the same; and (3) the Department of Education (DepEd) – to ensure that schools are structurally and organizationally resilient to earthquakes.

Public Health

Higher temperatures also trigger the surge of diseases such as dengue, malaria, cholera and typhoid. Communities displaced by disasters will most likely be exposed to health threats in evacuation centers.

In 1998, when the Philippines experienced the El Niño phenomenon, almost 40,000 dengue cases, 1,200 cholera cases and nearly 1,000 typhoid fever cases, were recorded nationwide. These sicknesses make our population more vulnerable, especially those who cannot afford health care, much less health insurance.

We must strengthen our people's health as to make them resilient against diseases that the change in climate may bring. It is for this reason that I advocate the passage of the Mandatory Universal Healthcare Coverage of Every Filipino Act and the Universally Accessible Cheaper and Quality Medicines Act, as well as a bill providing for nutrition workers in every barangay. These laws shall ensure that proper healthcare and accessible, cheaper, and quality medicines and knowledgeable nutrition workers will be on hand to help our citizens, especially the poor, avoid diseases heightened by warmer temperatures.

Agriculture

From 1970 to 1990, typhoons, floods and droughts resulted in an 82.4% loss to total Philippine rice production. With continued climate change, crop yield potential is estimated to decline by 19% in Asia and rice yield in the Philippines by as much as 75% toward the end of the century.

Forests and Biodiversity

Philippine forests, host to a large variety of plant and animal species, have been declared as one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. The IPCC predicts that with a 1.5 to 2.5-degree Celsius rise in temperature in a span of 50-100 years, 30% of our species would be at risk of extinction.

For this, I urge the passage of the *Barangay Greening and Forest Land Rehabilitation Act*, which empowers local officials as frontliners to advance greening, rehabilitation and protection of the different forest lands in our country. This shall be a priority adaptation strategy that will be implemented from the provincial down to the barangay level.

Energy

The country is a leader in the use of renewable sources of energy: hydropower, geothermal and wind power. However, even with pro-alternative energy policies, hydropower currently accounts for less than 10% of total national capacity. Moreover, since hydropower is dependent on rainfall, the historical trend of fewer rainy days threatens the sustainability of this energy source.

On our most recent experience, Typhoon *Basyang* paralyzed the energy sector causing a massive blackout throughout Luzon. This only shows how vulnerable energy-related infrastructures are; thus, a call for the need to climate-proof our energy sector.

Measures for improved management and development of our energy generation, transmission and distribution linkages must be instituted by giving serious consideration to the findings of climate analysis and impact scenarios.

Moreover, a diversification of our energy systems must be designed and implemented. Exploring and developing geothermal and wind power, apart from hydropower, as renewable sources of energy would be a great leap in the country's goal for energy sustainability. The renewable energy map of our country must be produced and linked to the realities across all sectors.

Economic Growth

A 2004 World Bank study revealed that the annual economic impact of disasters totals US\$500 million or about 4% of GDP. Rural areas where poverty is most prevalent bear the brunt of these economic losses.

Based on a study by the Asian Development Bank on the economics of climate change, the country stands to lose 6% of its GDP annually by 2100 if it disregards climate change risks.

However, this same study found that if the Philippines invests 0.5% of its GDP by 2020 in climate change adaptation, it can avert losses of up to 4% of its GDP by 2100—clearly a short-term investment with a long-term eightfold gain.

While uncertainty may still be a part of climate change science, the vulnerability and exposure of the Philippines to impacts of climate variability and extremes is clear and irrefutable.

Thus, it is high time to rethink development – the kind of development that transcends traditional economic yardsticks such as GDP; and the kind founded on socio-economic

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progress, ecosystems protection, cultural resilience and good governance.

Evidently, the Philippines is a climate hotspot, ranking 12th of the most number of deaths because of disasters. The capital even landed second place in World Wildlife Fund's list of climate-vulnerable coastal cities in Asia.

With the clock ticking, I call on:

- The government to make our laws work, which entails the review and understanding of socio-economic implications of complex climate risks we face and ensuring that these insights are incorporated into the efforts for the coordinated implementation of the laws already enacted – Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, the Climate Change Act of 2009, and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010;
- The government to institute transparency and accountability mechanisms that will ensure the prudent utilization of dedicated budget lines, financing facilities and international aid for climate change financing;
- The Philippine negotiating team to the United Nations Climate Change Conference to bravely assert "climate justice," and persuade high-emitting countries to commit drastic cuts in their greenhouse gas emissions;
- The newly created Commission on Climate Change to support scientific research collaboration and innovation in order to promote and design evidence-based decision support systems. This critical task lies at the core of its capacity to fulfill the mandate to decrease our vulnerability by ensuring the integration of climate change and disaster risk reduction, into national, sectoral and local development plans and programs;
- My colleagues in Congress to fully exercise their legislative and oversight functions to advance adaptation;
- Local leaders to drive and push for environmental protection and clean energy initiatives in their respective jurisdictions;
- The private sector to invest in clean new technologies, adopt energy efficiency measures and re-engineer corporate social responsibility to reflect the joint values of achieving business sustainability through building disaster resilient local communities;
- The national government and LGUs to support the scientific and research community

in their goal of collaboration on risk science and innovation and help us prepare for a range of impacts;

- The academe to incorporate and share indigenous and practical knowledge with their communities and teach our youth the urgency and importance of climate change action: and
- Nongovernment organizations to be a channel between the academic and scientific institutions and communities by helping to bring science and technology of resilience to the most vulnerable populations.

Critical mass is needed to influence political will and effect change on a global and local scale. We must confront these challenges with courage, compassion, commitment and capacity. For only together, can we truly help chart humanity's path to a safer tomorrow.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATE PRESIDENT ENRILE

Preliminarily, Senate President Enrile said that there is no question that the country is facing a very critical time owing to the global climate change, and he agreed with Senator Legarda that it is time measures were adopted to protect the people from its effects.

However, the Senate President said that while everyone realizes the danger that climate change brings, they must answer the basic question of what measures they have to undertake. He pointed out that Congress has enacted the Climate Change Act which established a commission to look into the problems and provide policy directions, but he asserted that the law is inadequate and must be reviewed and revised if necessary.

Asked whether the law should be revised to address the subject of her privilege speech, Senator Legarda replied that even before amending the law, the Committee on Climate Change must first conduct consultative meetings with the Commission on Climate Change to find out its plans and whether it was able to assist the local government units which are supposed to know their own vulnerabilities to climate change.

In this regard, Senator Legarda pointed out that the original version of Climate Change Act included a national adaptation fund which was removed in the final version. She recalled that Senate President Enrile



himself proposed the creation of the National Survival Fund in the Commission that would serve as the receptacle of grants or donations for climate change adaption measures. She gave assurance that she would support such a proposal.

Senate President Enrile stated that he would leave the responsibility of amending the law to the Committee chair, clarifying that he merely wanted to know if there is an ongoing study on the amount of money needed to fund the adaptation programs. In reply, Senator Legarda pointed out that the budget for agriculture, for instance, would never be enough but it would be wise to spend a portion of it on R&D on climate-resilient crops and rice varieties suitable to dry and wet seasons.

Asked if the Committee has a ballpark figure to start a meaningful program, Senator Legarda replied that if the country invested 0.5% of the GDP in more rainwater collectors or in the production of climate-resilient crops, it can avert 4% of losses in the agricultural sector owing to widespread droughts for several years.

On whether there was initial funding for proposals to avert the destruction caused by floods, torrential rain and strong typhoons, Senator Legarda stated that she did not have the figures as she rued that not even one government agency, be it the Department of Budget and Management or the Department of Finance or the Department of Agriculture, has the correct figure to make the whole country climate-change resilient.

Senate President Enrile explained that he asked the question because it would eventually be a matter of concern to the Committee.

Asked if she was aware of the United Nations Adaptation Fund which the Philippines can access provided it complied with the requirements, Senator Legarda replied that she was not familiar with said fund but she recalled that a similar funding was proposed through the carbon-credit scheme.

Asked how the carbon-credit scheme operates, Senator Legarda explained that a businessman or a group can avail of the fund by measuring first its carbon emission and once the value of its emission has been determined, it can apply for carbon credits convertible into funds which, in turn, can be utilized for tree planting or waste recycling projects.

On whether the developed countries are the ones paying to maintain the fund, Senator Legarda stated that the scheme is already being adopted in Europe and America. In the case of the Philippines, she noted, an entity that availed of the fund implemented the windmill project in Ilocos Norte.


Asked if it also covers coal-fired plants in the Philippines, Senator Legarda surmised that carbon emitting plants may also apply for carbon credits under the scheme.

As to who are qualified to sell carbon credits, Senator Legarda replied that a nonpolluter like the Philippines can sell its carbon credit to a polluter like China, which, in turn, can finance an endeavor like the windmill project in Ilocos Norte.

Senate President Enrile noted that the country is not yet familiar with the system of how a carbon credit arrangement could be generated, but he relayed the information he recently obtained that the developed countries have agreed to contribute a certain percentage of their carbon credit obligation to a fund which is known as the United Nations Adaptation Fund, which is unlike many funds handled by the World Bank and other funding institutions. He stated that the fund is free from any conditionality, i.e. interest, provided that an implementing entity is organized for the purpose and comply with the fiduciary standards provided by the United Nations. He asked whether the Senate Committee on Climate Change knew this fact or the requirements of the United Nations so that the Body can craft the appropriate law.

In response, Senator Legarda recalled that the issue was brought up in Copenhagen in December 2009 but since it has not been finalized yet, it would be the subject of discussions in Cancun in December because the developing nations would like the developed countries to come up with this fund.

Senator Legarda pointed out that big polluters like China and the U.S. which pollute half of the world with a share of 20% each of the world's pollution have not really put up funds or money for this. She recalled that the developing countries were disappointed when President Obama, after a closed-door meeting in Copenhagen, came on stage and did not confirm the U.S. accession to the climate adaptation fund. She said that Senate President Enrile was correct in saying that developing countries



like the Philippines should access the funds, and pressure the developed countries in providing the adaptation fund.

Senate President Enrile stated that the cost of electricity produced by windmills like those in Ilocos Norte is P10 per kilowatt hour, while electricity generated by imported coal costs P0.22. He pointed out that this is definitely a challenge for the country because it is really more expensive to shift everything to renewable energy, and while the country can look for alternative sources of power, the people could be saddled with high costs.

Senator Legarda said that it is a difficult situation especially for a developing nation like the Philippines which has very limited and scarce resources and whose priorities are the basic needs of the people.

To protect people from flooding, Senate President Enrile suggested that the channel of Laguna Lake be dredged to receive the tremendous amount of water that flows from the Sierra Madre Mountains downwards to the sea. He said that this would be a proper area of concern for the Committee on Climate Change and he proposed that it conduct a study on how government can fund the dredging of the principal water arteries of the country.

Citing that billions of pesos would be needed to dredge, for instance, the Cagayan River which is the biggest river in the country, Senate President Enrile said that the Philippine government cannot afford to provide the money out of the budget because in the final analysis, it will be the people who would bear the burden even if they were not the ones who caused the damage brought about by climate change on these rivers or lakes. He asked how the Philippines can be compensated by the guilty parties which are the developed countries for the damage caused by the changed climate induced by the inordinate emissions of carbon elements to the atmosphere.

Senator Legarda stated that this is not the cry of the Philippines alone and this is the reason why there are continuing talks about the issue of climate justice. She acknowledged that small countries like the Philippines, Maldives and Bhutan are helpless in the face of climate change if not assisted by wealthy developed nations that have wreaked havoc on the environment because of over-industrialization. As a vulnerable nation, she believed that everyone should do his/her part by living a greener lifestyle.

She stated that Filipinos can build houses on stilts like those in Bangladesh to protect themselves from incessant flooding and this could be an option for the country to undertake in 50 years because a one-meter sea level rise will put large parts of Metro Manila under water.

Senate President Enrile asked what can be done with the water arteries of the country that are now heavily silted because of the very heavy water coming from the mountains which brings with them heavy mud. Senator Legarda replied that while dredging is temporary and expensive, it is advisable to encourage the participation of the community in the cleanup of beaches and rivers.

Senate President Enrile stated that relocating the population to higher grounds would be a way of adaptation that will, however, require money. He asked how a national survivor fund can be created to provide the wherewithal for the country to adopt adaptation measures to protect the vulnerable sectors of the society.

In response, Senator Legarda said that the Philippines, along with other vulnerable nations, must set a deadline for the developed countries to come up with the adaptation fund. Meanwhile, she stated that the Philippine government must take certain adaptation measures such as the implementation of necessary flood control projects.

Senate President Enrile pointed out that the solution to climate change lies with the concurrence of China, U.S., Canada, Australia and other developed countries.

Senator Legarda said that although measures to avert any climate crisis may not be immediately available, something can still be done. She stated that if China did not invest \$3.5 billion from 1960 to 2000 on flood control projects, it would have incurred losses of \$12 billion.

Asked what can be done in the case of the Marikina Valley and its environs all the way to the inner portion of Laguna Lake to protect the residents during heavy rains, Senator Legarda stated that the dredging of rivers can be done immediately by the Department of Public Works and Highways, possibly with assistance from USAID or JICA; in the long term, massive planting of trees in the areas surrounding Laguna de Bay will address this particular concern.

Senate President Enrile pointed out that agencies like Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) would rather handle such activities themselves and as such, the Philippines does not receive financial compensation which could have been used to serve the purpose. He believed that the government should not avail of funds offered by developed nations by way of loans and that instead, it should always take the position that it is the victim and not the contributor to the creation of a change-aberrant climate in the planet. He stressed that developed nations which profited from such activities ought to compensate countries like the Philippines, that are adversely affected by their actions.

Senator Legarda believed that being a victim of the adverse effects of climate change, the Philippines ought to seek climate justice not only for itself but also for other developing nations. This, she said, is the reason why the Philippines has banded with other countries such as the Republic of Maldives, which is expected to suffer greater losses in the coming years due to climate change.

In a related matter, Senator Legarda pointed out that the Philippines could also avail of untapped but available grants for climate change adaptation which had been discussed in a recent conference in Copenhagen. She added that United States Agency for International Development (USAID) also offers similar funding but the process for accessing such resources is quite difficult.

Senate President Enrile pointed out that the United Nations has set aside a fund for climate change adaptation which is made available to countries that have an implementing agency such as a government institution or an NGO so as to abide by the fiduciary standards set by the international organization. Senator Legarda said that she would check whether the Philippines could avail of the UN funding for least developed countries (LDC). She noted that even climate change resource personalities present in the gallery, including Dr. Rosa Perez, was not familiar with such an operational fund. She noted that the Executive department ought to be advised of the availability of such a resource so that it could assist the LGUs in implementing adaptation strategies.

Asked how it would be possible for the vice chairperson of the Climate Change Commission (CCC) to commit the Philippines to reducing its carbon emission to 1990 levels, Senator Legarda recalled that the CCC vice chairperson has with-

drawn this commitment as he could not unilaterally implement such a drastic cut without consultation with various sectors and departments. She pointed out that the country needs to embark on adaptation rather than mitigation.

Upon further queries, Senator Legarda explained that the Philippines is not qualified to avail of the UN Fund for Climate Change (UNFCC) Adaptation Fund for Least Developed Countries (LDC) as it does not fall under such a category, but she gave assurance that she would look into the matter to determine whether it could tap into this resource to assist the local government units.

As regards reports that CCC vice chairperson Alvarez was of the opinion that the Philippines should undertake mitigation measures to address the issue, Senator Legarda noted that Mr. Alvarez is aware that adaptation is the proper response to the problem since the country is not a major polluter. She hoped that the action plan of the CCC would be presented in the upcoming hearings of the Committee on Climate Change.

To the observation that the Philippines could avail of the UNFCC even though it is not considered a least developed country, Senator Legarda said that she would contact the proper authorities to verify the information, and check when the funds became available and the amount that could be utilized by each country.

Senate President Enrile said that he has received complaints from two commissioners of the CCC who claimed that the vice chairman has been making decisions without consulting other members of the body. Senator Legarda gave assurance that she would look into the matter immediately.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR SOTTO

Asked by Senator Sotto whether she was willing to have the Body defer action on her privilege speech until the following day upon the request of Senator Cayetano (P), Senator Legarda expressed willingness to accommodate further interpellation, suggestion or expression of support from other Members.

Senator Sotto clarified that Senator Cayetano (P) was also open to the option of making a statement of support concerning the privilege speech the following day.

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Asked by the Chair whether Senator Cayetano (P) could interpellate Senator Legarda on the same matter the following day, Senator Sotto replied in the affirmative.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Legarda and the interpellation thereon to the Committee on Climate Change, without prejudice to allowing Senator Cayetano (P) to interpellate or make a statement of support.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS (Continuation)

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

Senate Bill No. 659, entitled

AN ACT DIRECTING ALL GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS TO PREPARE THEIR RESPECTIVE ASSET AND LIABILITY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES THAT WILL DEFINE THE PARAMETERS AND/OR LIMITS OF THEIR FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES FOR CENTRAL CONTROL AND MONITORING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 660, entitled

AN ACT TO EXPAND AND REVITALIZE THE SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR GIFTED AND HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 661, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING THE GRANTING OF REWARDS AND PROTECTION TO THOSE WHO WILL REPORT MALFEASANCE IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 662, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADVANCED STUDIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYEES FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 663, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SLOPING OF AGRICULTURAL LAND TECHNOLOGY FARMING PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 664, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A FIVE-YEAR PUBLIC MARKETS PROGRAM INVOLVING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT, MICROFINANCING SUPPORT, INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 665, entitled

AN ACT TO PREVENT FRAUDULENT
ACQUISITION OF A PHILIPPINE
DOMAIN OR .PH DOMAIN NAME
OVER THE INTERNET AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Science and Tech-
nology; and Justice and Human Rights**

Senate Bill No. 666, entitled

AN ACT UPHOLDING THE RIGHT OF
ACQUISITION BY QUALIFIED
BENEFICIARIES OF GOVERNMENT-
OWNED LANDS THEY ACTUALLY
OCCUPY, AMENDING CERTAIN
PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7279, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND
HOUSING ACT OF 1992, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committee on Urban Planning,
Housing and Resettlement**

Senate Bill No. 667, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE SOCIAL
SECURITY SYSTEM THEREBY
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE,
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY LAW

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Government Corpora-
tions and Public Enterprises; and Labor, Employ-
ment and Human Resources Development**

Senate Bill No. 668, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 19
AND 39 OF REPUBLIC ACT

NUMBERED SEVEN THOUSAND
THREE HUNDRED AND FIVE (R.A.
7305) OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
MAGNA CARTA OF PUBLIC
HEALTH WORKERS AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 669, entitled

AN ACT TREATING LOCALLY
MANUFACTURED INSTANT
NOODLES AS BASIC NECESSITY,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 3 SUBPARAGRAPH (1)
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
PRICE ACT

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 670, entitled

AN ACT ENHANCING ECONOMIC
COORDINATION, ADOPTING THE
APPROPRIATE MECHANISM
THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 671, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF
TOTALLY WRECKED VEHICLE
INCLUDING ITS REGISTRATION
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

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Senate Bill No. 672, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN SECURITY OF TENURE AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 673, entitled

AN ACT LIMITING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES BY-PASSED BY THE COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS (CA)

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 674, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 9165 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs

Senate Bill No. 675, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; Foreign Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 676, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL

SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION DATABASE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 677, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, BY REPEALING SECTIONS 139, 140, 141 AND 142 THEREIN

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 678, entitled

AN ACT RE-INSTITUTING ROTC AS A MANDATORY COURSE FOR ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS, REVIVING THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077 AND COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 1 AND AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9163 FOR THE PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 679, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH MINIMUM STANDARDS REGARDING THE QUALITY OF WIRELESS TELEPHONE SERVICE AND TO MONITOR COMPLAINTS REGARDING SUCH SERVICE

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Services; and Trade and Commerce

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Senate Bill No. 680, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND PROPAGATE FOSTER CARE FOR ABANDONED AND NEGLECTED CHILDREN AND OTHER CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 681, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A NATIONAL FOLIC ACID EDUCATION PROGRAM TO PREVENT BIRTH DEFECTS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 682, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING RESEARCH ON DYSTONIA

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 683, entitled

AN ACT TO ABOLISH THE PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT IN LIBEL CASES AND PROVIDING FOR THE VENUE OF THE CIVIL ACTION IN LIBEL CASES AGAINST COMMUNITY JOURNALISTS, PUBLICATIONS OR BROADCAST STATIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AS

AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 684, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREAST CARE CENTERS IN EVERY REGION NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 685, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING NATIONAL TEACHER ACADEMIES IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE ENTRY INTO THE TEACHING PROFESSION

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 686, entitled

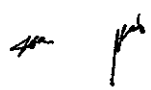
AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE COMPULSORY REGISTRATION OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Works; and Public Services

Senate Bill No. 687, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LLDA), REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC



ACT NO. 4850, AS AMENDED,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY ACT OF 1966, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 688, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT THE
SCHEDULE OF FAIR MARKET
VALUES OF REAL PROPERTY SHALL
BE PREPARED BY THE LOCAL
ASSESSMENT COUNCIL AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE THE LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Local Government; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 689, entitled

AN ACT TO FURTHER PROTECT THE
ENVIRONMENT FROM TOXIC
SUBSTANCES AND HAZARDOUS
AND NUCLEAR WASTES BY
IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES
FOR VIOLATIONS OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 6969, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTIONS 14 AND 15
THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 690, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN
EXPANDED VOUCHER SYSTEM IN
THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY
EDUCATION, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 6728, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 691, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A LOCAL
HOUSING BOARD IN ALL CITIES
AND FIRST TO THIRD CLASS
MUNICIPALITIES, PROVIDING FOR
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 692, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING THE PUBLIC
WITH ADEQUATE NOTICE AND
EDUCATION ON THE EFFECTS OF
EXPOSURE TO MERCURY
THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF
HEALTH ADVISORIES AND BY
REQUIRING THAT SUCH
APPROPRIATE ADVISORIES BE
POSTED, OR MADE READILY
AVAILABLE, AT ALL BUSINESSES
THAT SELL FRESH, FROZEN, AND
CANNED FISH AND SEAFOOD
WHERE THE POTENTIAL FOR
MERCURY EXPOSURE EXISTS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 693, entitled

AN ACT ALLOCATING TO THE AFP
MODERNIZATION ACT TRUST
FUND THE COLLECTION FROM
CAPITAL GAINS TAX AND VALUE-
ADDED TAX ON THE SALE OF
REAL PROPERTY AND THE SHARE
OF THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT
ON ALL TAXES, ROYALTIES AND
CHARGES COLLECTED FROM THE
MALAMPAYA NATURAL GAS
PROJECT

Handwritten signature/initials

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Ways and Means;
National Defense and Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 694, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN AUTOMATIC PAY INCREASE TO ANY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO IS DEPLOYED AWAY FROM THE MEMBER'S PERMANENT STATION OR, IN THE CASE OF A MEMBER OF A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE MEMBER'S HOME OF RECORD, ONCE THE DEPLOYMENT PERIOD EXCEEDS 180 DAYS OF CONTINUOUS DUTY

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on National Defense
and Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 695, entitled

AN ACT DETERRING AND PUNISHING ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF CRIMINAL STREET GANGS, RECRUITMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO PARTICIPATE THEREIN, COMMISSION OF VIOLENT GANG CRIMES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 696, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE TEACHING OF INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OWNERSHIP PARTICULARLY COPYRIGHT LAW AS PART OF THE CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY, SECONDARY AND TERTIARY SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 697, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS, GENERATION COMPANIES OR ENERGY RESOURCE DEVELOPERS TO REMIT THE AMOUNT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO SET ASIDE AS FINANCIAL BENEFIT DIRECTLY TO THE HOST COMMUNITIES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Energy; and Local
Government**

Senate Bill No. 698, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL DISABILITY PENSION TO SENIOR VETERANS OF WARS AND MILITARY CAMPAIGNS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on National Defense
and Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 699, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC TRUST AND ACCOUNTABILITY BY ENSURING IMPARTIALITY IN THE INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF CERTAIN CASES INVOLVING IMPEACHABLE PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND THEIR RELATIVES WITHIN THE 6th CIVIL DEGREE OF CONSANGUINITY OR AFFINITY, MANDATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE APPOINTMENT OF THE SPECIAL AND INDEPENDENT PROSECUTOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 700, entitled

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A HOUSING
PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS**

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Urban Planning,
Housing and Resettlement; Education, Arts
and Culture; Ways and Means; and Finance**

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

As regards his manifestation in the previous day's session, Senator Zubiri stated that he would write Senator Defensor Santiago, chair of the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws, if she would agree to refer Senate Bill No. 60 (postponement of barangay and SK elections) to the Committee on Local Government as the primary committee. He informed the Body that Senator Marcos, chair of the Committee on Local Government, has already scheduled hearings next week on the bill.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR MARCOS

For his part, Senator Marcos stated that he has no objection to refer Senate Bill No. 60 primarily to the Committee on Local Government as long as Senator Defensor Santiago agrees to it.

Senator Sotto stated that the bill can be referred secondarily to the Committee on Local Government and after Senator Zubiri shall have secured the agreement from Senator Defensor Santiago, the Body could then decide whether to make it the primary committee.

**ADDITIONAL REFERRAL
OF SENATE BILL NO. 60**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred Senate Bill No. 60 to the Committee on Local Government as the secondary committee.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 84

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 84, entitled

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING ANEW THE
SENSE OF THE SENATE FOR SEN.
ANTONIO "SONNY" TRILLANES IV**

**BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND AND
PARTICIPATE IN THE SESSIONS
AND OTHER OFFICIAL FUNCTIONS
OF THE SENATE AND REQUEST-
ING THE JUDICIARY, THROUGH
THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT
OF MAKATI -- BRANCH 148,
TO RECTIFY THE APPARENT
INJUSTICE BY ALLOWING THE
TEMPORARY TRANSFER OF THE
CUSTODY OF SENATOR TRILLANES
TO THE SENATE AND FOR OTHER
RELATED PURPOSES.**

With the permission of the Body, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

**ADOPTION OF PROPOSED
SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 84**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 84 was adopted by the Body.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Nominated by Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

Vice Chair : Angara

Members :


Defensor Santiago	Recto
Escudero	Revilla
Guingona	Trillanes
Honasan	Villar
Marcos	Zubiri

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Senate President Pro Tempore declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of the following day.

It was 6:00 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO REYES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on August 11, 2010