



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 93
Tuesday, June 7, 2011

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 93
Tuesday, June 7, 2011

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:35 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Gregorio B. Honasan II led the prayer, to wit:

Father Almighty,

You, who gave us life and redeemed us with Your death on the cross and resurrection;

You whose living example of suffering, compassion and forgiveness, has spawned renewed faith and infinite hope for us, Your people.

During the coming break and in the days of trial ahead, help us reflect on the heavy burden we assume as public servants.

Bless us with iron determination, inner strength and deeper understanding that we may continue to discharge our duties by Your will as we quench our spiritual thirst from the eternal fountain of Your love.

Amen.

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.	Guingona III, T. L.
Arroyo, J. P.	Honasan, G. B.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Lacson, P. M.
Cayetano, P. S.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Drilon, F. M.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Sotto III, V. C.
Enrile, J. P.	Zubiri, J. M. F.
Escudero, F. J. G.	

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

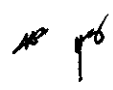
Senators Marcos, Osmeña, Pangilinan, Recto and Trillanes arrived after the roll call.

Senators Legarda and Villar were on official mission, the former abroad.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

**DEFERMENT OF APPROVAL
OF THE JOURNAL**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body deferred the consideration and approval of the Journal of Session No. 92 to a later day.



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

DEFERMENT OF THE READING OF THE REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body deferred the reading of the Reference of Business to a later hour.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the OFWs and their families who were connected with the Blas Ople Policy Center, and the visitors of Senator Cayetano (P) from the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development.

Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada welcomed the guests to the Senate.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17 ON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Joint Resolution No. 6 (Committee Report No. 17), entitled

**SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING
A CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO
REVIEW AND ASSESS PHILIPPINE
EDUCATION, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

Senator Sotto stated that the parliamentary status was still the period of interpellations.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Angara, Sponsor of the measure, and Senator Osmeña for his interpellation.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 3:38 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:48 p.m., the session was resumed.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the resolution.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 45 ON SENATE BILL NO. 2846 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 2846 (Committee Report No. 45), entitled

**AN ACT EXTENDING THE IMPLEMENT-
ATION OF THE LIFELINE RATE,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 73 OF THE REPUBLIC ACT
NUMBERED NINETY-ONE THIRTY
SIX, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY
REFORM ACT OF 2001."**

Senator Sotto stated that the parliamentary status was the period of interpellations.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Guingona, Sponsor of the measure.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

There being no further interpellation, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations and proceeded to the period of committee amendments.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

On page 1, line 11, as proposed by Senator Guingona, there being no objection, the Body approved to delete the last sentence of Section 73 starting with the word "AS" on line 11 up to the word "TELEVISION" on line 15.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

There being no other committee amendment,

upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of committee amendments and proceeded to the period of individual amendments.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

There being no individual amendment, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of individual amendments.

COAUTHOR

At his request, Senate President Enrile was made coauthor of Senate Bill No. 2846.

APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 2846 ON SECOND READING

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, Senate Bill No. 2846 was approved on Second Reading.

PRESIDENTIAL CERTIFICATION

Upon direction of the Chair, Secretary Reyes read the President's certification as to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Senate Bill No. 2846, to wit:

Malacanang Palace
Manila

3 June 2011

HON. JUAN PONCE ENRILE
Senate President
Philippine Senate
Pasay City

Dear Senate President Enrile:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 26(2) of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Senate Bill No. 2846, entitled:

"AN ACT EXTENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIFELINE RATE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 73 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED NINETY ONE THIRTY SIX, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001,"

to address the urgent need to protect marginalized end-users of electricity from the impact of

the expiration of the lifeline rate—a subsidized electricity rate given to low-income households that are not able to pay the full cost of electricity – on June 26, 2011, and to ensure that the poor and underprivileged sector will still be able to afford electricity services.

Best Wishes.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) BENIGNO S. AQUINO III

cc: Hon. Feliciano R. Belmonte Jr.
Speaker, House of Representatives
Quezon City

APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 2846 ON THIRD READING

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, Senate Bill No. 2846, printed copies of which were distributed to the senators on June 7, 2011.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Secretary Reyes read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT EXTENDING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LIFELINE RATE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 73 OF THE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED NINETY ONE THIRTY SIX, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT OF 2001."

Secretary Reyes called the roll for nominal voting.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

In favor

Angara	Lapid
Cayetano (P)	Marcos
Drilon	Osmeña
Ejercito Estrada	Recto
Enrile	Revilla
Escudero	Sotto
Guingona	Trillanes
Honasan	Zubiri
Lacson	

[Handwritten signature]

Against

None

Abstention

None

With 17 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared Senate Bill No. 2846 approved on Third Reading.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 23 May 2011, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 1879, entitled

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

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

House Bill No. 1994, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SMALL-SCALE FISH PORT IN BARANGAY YUMBING, MUNICIPALITY OF MAMBAJAO, PROVINCE OF CAMIGUIN AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF

To the Committees on Public Works; and Finance

House Bill No. 2054, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING FISHERY

HATCHERY AND/OR BREEDING FARMS/CENTERS FOR THE PRODUCTION/MULTIPLICATION OF BANGUS FINGERLINGS, LAPU-LAPU, ALIMANGO AND TILAPIA IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MAGSAYSAY AND STA. CRUZ IN THE PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

House Bill No. 2225, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE PINUKPUK VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – TAPPO ANNEX IN BARANGAY APATAN, MUNICIPALITY OF PINUKPUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA FROM THE PINUKPUK VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS TAPPO VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 2228, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY ISIC-ISIC, MUNICIPALITY OF VINTAR, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS ISIC-ISIC NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 2392, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING FISH PROCESSING PLANTS IN ALL SUITABLE AREAS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LUTAYAN, PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

House Bill No. 3072, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BULI, MUNICIPALITY OF BATO, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS BULI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 3080, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FISH PORT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN VICENTE, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Public Works; and Finance

House Bill No. 3165, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MODIFIED MARICULTURE DEVELOPMENT PARK IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LANGUYAN, TANDUBAS, SOUTH UBIAN AND SAPA-SAPA, PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

House Bill No. 3207, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RESEARCH CENTER FOR FISH BREEDING AND/OR HATCHERY FOR GROUPER, PRAWN, LOBSTER, CRAB AND OTHER HIGH-VALUE MARINE SPECIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BANTAYAN, PROVINCE OF CEBU AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

House Bill No. 3208, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A FISH PORT IN BARANGAY HAGNAYA, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN REMIGIO, PROVINCE OF CEBU AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Public Works; and Finance

House Bill No. 3469, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL REGISTERED VOTERS WHOSE BIOMETRICS HAVE NOT BEEN CAPTURED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE ELECTION OFFICER OF THEIR PLACE OF REGISTRATION FOR PURPOSES OF HAVING THEIR PHOTOGRAPHS, FINGERPRINTS AND SIGNATURES CAPTURED THROUGH THE METHOD OF BIOMETRICS, FOR PURPOSES OF ENSURING THAT THE AUTOMATED FINGERPRINT IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM (AFIS) CAN BE UTILIZED TO CLEANSE THE RECORDS OF DOUBLE OR MULTIPLE REGISTRANTS

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

House Bill No. 3551, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FISH PORT AND COLD STORAGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAVEZARES, PROVINCE OF NORTHERN SAMAR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Public Works; and Finance

House Bill No. 3841, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8293, ENTITLED "AN ACT

PRESCRIBING THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CODE AND ESTABLISHING THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY OFFICE, PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 4357, entitled

AN ACT CONFERRING UPON A MEMBER OF THE SANGGUNIANG BAYAN, SANGGUNIANG PANLUNSOD AND SANGGUNIANG PANLA-LAWIGAN THE APPROPRIATE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY

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

House Bill No. 4466, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO REPORT PARTICIPATION AND PROGRAM SUPPORT EXPENDITURES IN ALL COLLEGE ATHLETIC PROGRAMS

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

House Bill No. 4469, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF LUBUAGAN, PROVINCE OF KALINGA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (B) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,” AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4471, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF NAVOTAS, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (D) AND SECTION 27 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,” AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4472, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAJIDIOCAN, ISLAND OF SIBUYAN, PROVINCE OF ROMBLON, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980” AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4473, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF TACLOBAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (I) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980,” AS AMENDED,

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AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4474, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROTAC VIEJO, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4475, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (L) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7154, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4476, entitled

AN ACT CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF CALAMBA AND MUNICIPALITIES OF LOS BAÑOS AND CABUYAO, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, AMENDING FOR THE

PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4479, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF SAGAY, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4480, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN IN SITUATIONS OF ARMED CONFLICT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; National Defense and Security; and Finance

and House Bill No. 4481, entitled

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

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

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Letter from the Secretary General of the House Representatives, informing the Senate that on 31 May 2011, the House of Representatives approved the Conference Committee Report on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 4067 and Senate Bill No. 2640, both entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE FINANCIAL VIABILITY AND FISCAL DISCIPLINE IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND TO STRENGTHEN THE ROLE OF THE STATE IN ITS GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT TO MAKE THEM MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE NEEDS OF PUBLIC INTEREST AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

To the Archives

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2858, entitled

AN ACT TO INCLUDE ETHNIC ORIGIN IN THE NATIONAL SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE NATIONAL STATISTICS OFFICE

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Cultural Communities; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2859, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE PAMPANGA AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAGALANG, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL AGRICULTURE AND SCIENCE STATE UNIVERSITY (DMASSU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 500, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND THE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC EXPENDITURES TO INQUIRE ON THE STATUS OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, FY 2011 RELATIVE TO THE *PANTAWID PAMILYANG PILIPINO PROGRAM*.

Introduced by Senator Drilon

To the Committees on Finance; and the Oversight Committee on Public Expenditures

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 501, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED WORSENING CASE OF AIR TRAFFIC CONGESTION IN THE NINOY AQUINO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING SHORT AND LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO END THIS DANGER TO PASSENGERS AND AIR CARRIERS

Introduced by Senator Villar

To the Committee on Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 502, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD; AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATUS OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY IN THE COUNTRY AND THE EVALUATION OF THE MILK FEEDING PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IMPROVING THE LOCAL DAIRY PRODUCTION TO MEET

THE LOCAL DEMAND AND AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INCOME TO FILIPINO DAIRY FARMERS AND ADDRESSING THE WIDESPREAD MALNOURISHMENT OF CHILDREN IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Villar

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 503, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CONSIDER THE EARNEST, FULL AND MEANINGFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF THE VARIOUS ANTI-LITTERING LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Villar

To the Committee on Local Government

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee Report No. 47, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 2860, with Senators Villar, Defensor Santiago, Escudero, Lacson, Trillanes IV, Pangilinan and Drilon as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION, SECURITY AND BENEFITS OF WHISTLEBLOWERS,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 1063, 1883, 2112 and 2836, taking into consideration Senate Bill Nos. 187, 2173 and 2368.

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 23 May 2011, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 4488, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN THE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA TO BE STATIONED AT STA. ROSA CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4489, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN TO BE STATIONED AT PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4490, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL WITH SEATS AT CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY,

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AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4491, entitled

AN ACT CREATING FOUR (4) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NINTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT ZAMBOANGA CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (J) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4492, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND A BRANCH OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN CITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITIES OF NAGA AND CARCAR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (H) AND SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4493, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO TO

BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUIMBAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4494, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCH IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARMONA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4495, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN THE PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITIES OF LA CARLOTA AND BAGO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (G) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4496, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL

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BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF CABAGAN, PROVINCE OF ISABELA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (B) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4497, entitled

AN ACT CREATING FIVE (5) ADDITIONAL METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN MUNTINLUPA CITY, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 27 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4511, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF BOGO, PROVINCE OF CEBU, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (H) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4512, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THREE (3)

ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF DAVAO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (L) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4513, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND SIX (6) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF VALENZUELA, METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 (d) AND SECTION 27 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4520, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITY OF PILI, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (F) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

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House Bill No. 4521, entitled

AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE MUNICIPALITIES OF COMPOSTELA AND MABINI, COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (L) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4522, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF BATANGAS TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF TANAUAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980," AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

House Bill No. 4539, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CREDIT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS WORKERS

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

House Bill No. 4546, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE WESTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER IN ILOILO CITY INTO A GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED

HOSPITAL CORPORATION WITH THE SAN JOAQUIN MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOAQUIN, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, AS ITS SUBSIDIARY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

House Bill No. 4548, entitled

AN ACT SUBDIVIDING BARANGAY MANGAGOY IN THE CITY OF BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR INTO EIGHT (8) SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAYS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 AND 8

To the Committee on Local Government

House Bill No. 4549, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY BULANAO NORTE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA

To the Committee on Local Government

House Bill No. 4550, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY IPIL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA

To the Committee on Local Government

House Bill No. 4551, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY NAVY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAPAS, PROVINCE OF TARLAC

To the Committee on Local Government

House Bill No. 4564, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL

TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF LILOAN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS LILOAN NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

and House Bill No. 4565, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A LOCAL HOUSING BOARD IN EVERY CITY AND FIRST TO THIRD CLASS MUNICIPALITY, PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS AND DEFINING ITS DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 31 May 2011, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 57, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN ALL COASTAL MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

House Bill No. 3697, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, OTHERWISE KNOWN

AS "AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS", AS AMENDED

To the Committee on National Defense and Security

House Bill No. 4359, entitled

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

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance

House Bill No. 4373, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING DISCOUNTS ON BASIC AND EDUCATION SERVICES TO UNDERPRIVILEGED STUDENTS IN THE POST-SECONDARY AND TERTIARY LEVELS

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

House Bill No. 4530, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AUTHORIZING THE CITY OR MUNICIPAL CIVIL REGISTRAR OR THE CONSUL GENERAL TO CORRECT CLERICAL OR TYPOGRAPHICAL ERROR IN THE DATE OF BIRTH OR SEX OF A PERSON APPEARING IN THE CIVIL REGISTRAR WITHOUT A NEED OF A JUDICIAL ORDER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9048

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

House Bill No. 4540, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 91 AND 97 OF REPUBLIC ACT

NO. 8550, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES
CODE OF 1998

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

House Bill No. 4541, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE
MERCURY EXPOSURE INFORM-
ATION PROGRAM AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; and Environment and Natural Resources**

House Bill No. 4571, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF
HAND-HELD MOBILE COMMUNICA-
TION DEVICES WHILE DRIVING
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To the Committee on Public Services

House Bill No. 4575, entitled

AN ACT ENCOURAGING CORPORATE
SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY, PROVID-
ING INCENTIVES THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

House Bill No. 4578, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE MECHAN-
ISMS TO FACILITATE THE DIS-
POSITION OF GOVERNMENT-
OWNED LANDS FOR SOCIALIZED
HOUSING

**To the Committees on Urban Planning,
Housing and Resettlement; and Local Govern-
ment**

House Bill No. 4655, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE
TRANSPARENCY AND DISCLOSURE
REQUIREMENTS IN THE USE

OF CREDIT CARD FACILITIES,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8484,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
ACCESS DEVICES REGULATION
ACT OF 1998

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

House Bill No. 4668, entitled

ANA CT GRANTING THE CULTURAL
FOUNDATION OF DAVAO DEL
SUR INCORPORATED (CFDI)
A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT,
INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE
AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND
TELEVISION BROADCASTING
STATIONS IN DAVAO DEL SUR

To the Committee on Public Services

and House Bill No. 4691, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE BALATONG
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARA-
NGAY BALATONG, CITY OF
LAOAG, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS
NORTE INTO AN INTEGRATED
SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS
BALATONG INTEGRATED SCHOOL
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

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

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of
Representatives, informing the Senate that on 1
June 2011, the House of Representatives
adopted Senate Bill No. 2748 as an amendment
to House Bill No. 3862, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GOVERN-
MENT OFFICES TO ENSURE THE
RELEASE OF THE RETIREMENT
BENEFITS OF ITS EMPLOYEES
WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM
RETIREMENT

To the Archives

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BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2862, entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE INFORMATION
ON WEATHER MODIFICATION
ACTIVITIES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Science and Tech-
nology**

Senate Bill No. 2863, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A PETROLEUM
PIPELINE CODE TO PRESCRIBE
STANDARDS FOR THE DESIGN,
CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND
MAINTENANCE AND ABANDON-
MENT OF LIQUID PETROLEUM
PIPELINES AND STRENGTHENING
FOR THIS PURPOSE THE JURIS-
DICTION AND POWER OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY OVER
PIPELINE OPERATIONS, APPRO-
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Guingona III

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

Senate Bill No. 2864, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING NUMBER
PORTABILITY FOR MOBILE
TELEPHONE SERVICE

Introduced by Senator Villar

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

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 504, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD TO CONDUCT A
STUDY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE EFFECTS OF THE

REPORTED FISHKILLS TO FISHER-
FOLK WITH THE END IN VIEW
OF HAVING AN ASSESSMENT
OF THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES
CODE AND FORMULATE POLICY
MEASURES FOCUSED ON IMPROV-
ING THE LIVES OF THE RURAL
POPULATION DEPENDENT ON
THE FISHING INDUSTRY

Introduced by Senator Villar

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 505, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER
SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGIS-
LATION, ON THE LATEST REPORT
FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
AGENCY FOR RESEARCH OF THE
WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION
(WHO), WHICH CONCLUDED THAT
CELLPHONES ARE POSSIBLE
CARCINOGENIC

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 506, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER
SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGIS-
LATION, ON THE NEED TO CURB
THE INCREASING PREVALENCE
OF ILLEGAL IMPORTATION OF
PLYWOOD FROM CHINA RESULT-
ING IN HUGE LOSSES TO THE
LOCAL PLYWOOD INDUSTRY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 507, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER

SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO CREATE STRICTER MEASURES AND PENALTIES TO CURB THE SMUGGLING OF VEHICLES AND ILLEGAL FIREARMS INTO THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 508, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE PREVIOUSLY DECLARED WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 509, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PRESENT STATE OF PHILIPPINE NATURAL RESOURCES IN ORDER TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT THE COUNTRY'S RICH BIODIVERSITY

Introduced by Senator Villar

To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

COMMUNICATION

Letter from the Department of Labor and Employment, dated 20 May 2011, submitting the department's Year-End Report To Congress (July to December 2010) based on the submission of 38 Philippine Overseas Labor Offices, pursuant

to Sections 2 and 3, Rule XVII of Republic Act No. 10022.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 48, prepared and submitted by the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, on Senate Bill No. 2861, with Senators Escudero and Defensor Santiago as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT LIMITING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF THE REGULAR MEMBERS OF THE JBC,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 2366 and 2521.

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 49, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Health and Demography; Finance; and Youth, Women and Family Relations, on Senate Bill No. 2865, with Senators Defensor Santiago, Lacson and Cayetano (P.) as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 2378 and 2768, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution No. 238.

Dissenting: Senator Sotto III

Dissenting and Concurring: Senator Cayetano (A. P.)

Sponsors: Senators Cayetano (P.) and Defensor Santiago

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

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THIRD ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2866, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE WESTERN VISAYAS MEDICAL CENTER INTO A GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND -CONTROLLED HOSPITAL CORPORATION WITH THE SAN JOAQUIN MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL AS ITS SUBSIDIARY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Escudero

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

Senate Bill No. 2867, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE PROTECTION, RIGHTS, AND WELL-BEING OF CHILDREN INVOLVED IN, AFFECTED BY OR DISPLACED BY ARMED CONFLICT, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR ITS VIOLATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Guingona III

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; National Defense and Security; and Finance

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 49 on Senate Bill No. 2865 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 49 ON SENATE BILL NO. 2865

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 2865 (Committee Report No. 49), entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY ON REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND POPULATION DEVELOPMENT.

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

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Cayetano (P), Sponsor of the measure for the sponsorship.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (P), the session was suspended.

It was 4:23 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:24 p.m., the session was resumed.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Preliminarily, Senator Cayetano (P) presented a short video produced by members of the Mu Sigma Phi Fraternity who are students from the UP College of Medicine depicting not only the current situation of Filipino mothers but also the urgent need to deal with the problem of high maternal mortality rate.

Thereafter, she delivered the following speech:

THE REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ACT

Introduction

Wednesday last week, I sponsored Senate Bill No. 2849, which seeks to amend the PhilHealth Law, with the end in view of making quality and essential health care services affordable and accessible to all Filipinos especially the underprivileged.

As I said in my sponsorship then, this bill is a part of a whole package of reforms from your Committee on Health and Demography. It is again my honor to stand before you today to present on the floor an important addition to such package of health reforms.

As a woman and as a legislator, I am pleased to sponsor Senate Bill No. 2865, entitled "An Act Providing For a National Policy on Reproductive Health and Population and Development."

What the bill is NOT

Because of all the misinformation regarding the contents and objectives of the bill, let me start by what this bill is NOT.

1. This is NOT a bill that promotes or legalizes abortion. On the contrary, it is for the protection of the unborn along with its mother.
2. This is NOT a bill that imposes one mode of family planning method on all. Every person will be allowed to choose the method suitable to his needs and his religious beliefs.
3. This is NOT a bill that imposes a certain family size on any family.
4. This bill will NOT solve all the problems of our country. Like most of the bills filed in the Senate, it is just one measure that will address a particular problem. In this case, it is the reproductive health of all Filipinos, particularly the women and her child.
5. This is NOT a bill that will teach nine-year olds how to use a condom. Neither does it promote sexual activity among the youth.

What this bill is about

This bill aims to:

1. Save the lives of the mother and the unborn.
2. Provide Filipinos with information on their reproductive health so they can make informed and intelligent decisions.
3. Provide Filipinos with access to health care facilities and skilled health professionals.

This bill seeks to acknowledge that women have reproductive health care needs that are distinct to women and to provide measures to address such needs.

In the same way that the PhilHealth bill seeks to provide affordable and accessible quality and essential health care services to all, this bill seeks to provide affordable and accessible quality and essential reproductive health care services to Filipinos, particularly the underprivileged women.

Features of the bill

1. *Access to skilled health professionals before, during, and after delivery*

The bill aspires to address the number of

mothers who die while giving birth and the high incident of infant mortality which are also connected with maternal health.

At present, the data we have tells us that we have 162 mothers dying for every 100,000 births. What does this mean? This tells us that in Southeast Asia, we have one of the highest maternal mortality rates. Compare our rate of 162 to 110 in Thailand, 62 in Malaysia and 14 in Singapore. We are not on track on achieving our Millennium Development Goal No. 5. Our goal, in fact, is to enable all pregnant women to have access to pre-natal care, to be attended to by a skilled health professional while giving birth, and to be given post-natal care for her and her newborn.

No mother should die while bringing forth new life into this world. However, the depressing reality is, as I said, 162 mothers die for every 100,000 live births. These are the number of newborns robbed of a mother's love and care just when they need it the most. And because of that special bond between mother and child which begins from pregnancy, a child who loses a mother at childbirth is ten times more likely to perish.

We all know that the mother is considered the light of every home. Who of us would wish upon a child that he would grow up without a mother? Aside from the death of the mother, the death of a child is no less devastating. However, another sad reality is that for every minute, three babies are born, and for every 1000 babies born, 33 die before reaching age five.

2. Establishment and upgrading of facilities and training of skilled health professionals

Because the common causes of maternal mortality are highly preventable, Section 6 calls for the establishment and upgrading of facilities with adequate and qualified personnel, equipment and supplies in every province or city to be able to provide emergency obstetric and newborn care. Section 12 further necessitates each congressional district to acquire a mobile health care service in the form of a van or other means of transportation to ensure the provision of health care goods and services even to people living in remote areas.

To further address the dearth in medical personnel in certain localities, Sections 5 and 14 direct the hiring of an adequate number of skilled health professionals such as doctors, nurses and midwives and the training of barangay health workers (BHWs) in each respective local government unit (LGU).

3. *Addressing HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases*

There is the ever looming threat of an HIV epidemic in the country demonstrated by the sharp increase in reported HIV cases. While other countries have shown a declining number of new HIV infections, our country seems to be going the opposite direction. Among the 63 countries with HIV infections, the Philippines is one of only seven countries with increasing prevalence, together with countries such as Bangladesh and Kazakhstan. This year, the number of cases from January to March alone is already at 483. By doing nothing, the Department of Health predicts that the number of HIV cases in the country will have more than quadrupled from 11,000 in 2008 to 45,000 in 2015.

I beg the Body's indulgence, but allow me to repeat. Imagine that of 63 countries, the Philippines is one of seven countries where HIV is increasing. This is so embarrassing, because we are aligned with such countries that years ago were so much backwards compared to us. The countries that we were developing with a decade ago have advanced much further than us, not just in health care but in economic development.

To address this problem, Section 11 provides that all serious and life-threatening reproductive health conditions such as HIV and AIDS shall be given maximum benefit under PhilHealth such as the provision of Anti-Retroviral Medicines (ARVs).

4. *Access to different family planning methods*

The poor Filipino couples are the real beneficiaries of this bill. The privileged can either afford to have large families or afford reproductive health services by specialized doctors. It is a sad fact that this is not the same for the poor.

Studies show that many of them would prefer to have smaller families than they have. In fact, every year, there are over half a million clandestine abortions happening in our country primarily brought about by unplanned or unwanted pregnancies. Most of these women are the poorest of the poor who have no access to reproductive health care services including family planning.

Stories range from women jumping off coconut trees to dislodge babies from their bellies; to teenagers inserting hook shaped wires into their vaginas to scrape off fetuses; and even to married women bleeding on makeshift beds of abortionists — all forced to undergo the pain and perils of abortion because they do not want and

cannot afford to have a baby. But surveys and my personal visits to the grassroots all over the country have shown that more women want the information and services available for them to plan their pregnancies. Indeed, this is the better way than enduring the immense pain and possible bleeding to death from an abortion and the loss of a child.

I just want to make this clear. Senate Bill No. 2865 does not in any way compel any individual to choose one form of family planning method over the other, or even to use the family planning method at all. The guiding principles under Section 3 merely seek to equip all Filipinos with accurate and sufficient information on family planning methods necessary for them to make an informed choice as to how many children they want, when they want it, and what family planning method to use, if any. The end goal is to provide all Filipinos with information and access without bias to quality reproductive health care services and supplies essential to the promotion of every person's right to health.

5. *Age- and development-appropriate reproductive health education*

All that I have discussed merely scratch the surface of the problem to eradicate maternal and infant deaths, lessen unwanted pregnancies and prevent the infection and transmission of HIV and AIDS. We should address the root cause of the problem — lack of education and awareness.

Knowledge is the best tool in our deadly battle against these evils. It is for this reason that Section 13 provides for reproductive health education to be taught by adequately trained teachers in formal and non-formal educational systems and integrated in age- and development-appropriate subjects. It is also important to note that the bill mandates that minors are taught the values of healthy relationships, including how abstinence is still the best form of protection from pregnancy and disease.

It is not true that nine-year-old children will be taught how to use contraceptives. That is not age-appropriate and that will not be allowed.

Allow me to give an example. Even a three-year-old has adequate intelligence to understand a certain amount of reproductive health education. When a three-year-old has a mother who is pregnant, the three year-old will ask, "Why is your stomach big?" Do we tell the child that the mother swallowed a basketball? No. But then, many families do say that to a three-year-old child.

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But the truth is, we are supposed to tell *the child that mommy is about to have a baby*, that he will have a baby brother or sister. And if the child progresses to ask the next question: "How did the baby get there?", then there are age-appropriate answers in teaching age-appropriate sex education unless we prefer our youth to grow up thinking that they came out of bamboo trees. They will learn this in *Kasaysayan*, in one of their Filipino classes where they are taught about Filipino mythology.

Do we want our children to think that they came out of bamboo trees until they are 21 years old? That is a choice that we face if we refuse to acknowledge that there are many ways of teaching age-appropriate reproductive health education.

Some of the topics that should be included are values formation, knowledge and skill, and self-protection against discrimination and sexual abuse and violence. I need to point out that many children, especially those in single homes and in the squatter areas where we have multiple families living in one home, are victims of child abuse.

As to teen pregnancy, abstinence will be taught as the primary mode of protecting oneself from pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.

The list goes on, including physical, social and emotional changes in adolescence. There are stories where adolescents commit suicide because they do not understand the changes happening in their bodies. Other topics include *women's rights and children's rights* and responsible teenage behavior.

Again, we have seen a news report about a 14-year-old teenager raping a six-year-old child. This is why it is important that these children are taught responsible behavior.

Constitutional Basis

This bill is grounded on the following constitutional provisions:

1. Article II, Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.
2. Article II, Section 12. The State shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception.
3. Article II, Section 6. The separation of Church and State shall be inviolable.
4. Article III, Section 5. No law shall be made

respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be allowed.

5. Articles VI, VII and VIII all establish the three independent branches of government with their specific mandates.

On the right to health

I believe the constitutional right to health needs no further explanation.

On the protection of the life of the mother and her child

The health of the mother is intrinsically related to that of her child. Her health before and during pregnancy directly affects her child's health. Numerous studies have shown that malnourished mothers and those who do not undergo pre-natal care give birth to malnourished and underweight children, many of whom die before reaching five.

On the separation of Church and State and the freedom of religion

We, as senators, have our own personal views and relationship with God. This is a part of who we are. Thus, I do not ask that we separate our moral values from our scrutiny of the bill. I simply ask that we remember that our religious views may be different from our neighbors and we cannot use our legislative seat to deprive a fellow Filipino of his legal and constitutional rights to exercise his religion, to make choices within the legal boundaries but based on his own religion and not ours.

Time and again, the position of the Church has been discussed as a basis for not supporting this bill, but as senators, we are tasked to separate our religious beliefs when they interfere with matters that belong to the State. I simply ask that we recognize the right of every citizen to make choices regarding ones reproductive health based on one's own conscience, moral and religious views.

Just because we are a predominantly Catholic country does not mean we can impose Catholic dogma on every Filipino. That is the job of the clergy and they can do as they please in the Church and its activities with their flock. But, in the halls of Congress, the Constitution is clear – there must be a separation of Church and State. If, for the sake of argument, 99.9% of Filipinos are Catholic and every single one expressed a certain view, I would still be

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standing here today to fight for the rights of that one Filipino who is entitled to choices based on his religion and not the religion of the majority because that is the mandate of our Constitution – that we make laws respecting the freedom of religion of all without the Church interfering with matters that should be left with the State.

Following the same argument, if 99.9 % of the population belonged to a different religion, I would still stand up for that one Catholic to ensure that his rights were protected and that services and facilities were available to allow him to make choices based on his beliefs. Those are the principles of separation of Church and State and the freedom of religion.

Does this now mean that we have no boundaries? That because we all have different views, the free flow of drugs and devices that may in fact be harmful to both mother and her unborn, are now to be allowed?

Of course not. We are still guided by the Constitution. And clearly we are to protect the life of the mother and the unborn from conception. Thus, knowingly taking a drug or performing an act after conception with the intention of aborting the fetus would be a violation of the Constitution and existing laws. And that brings me to my next point.

On the role of the Executive, specifically the Department of Health through the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

Some groups would have the Senate arrogate upon itself the power to define, classify, allow or ban contraceptives. But this is clearly the jurisdiction of the FDA, a government agency that falls under the DOH which is part of the Executive branch. It is the FDA that has been tasked by law, among others, to determine the efficacy of all drugs and medical devices, define what are abortifacients and how their use is to be regulated. It is the entity with the scientific and technical ability to do that job.

So why not simply put a statement in the bill banning all abortifacients? Would that not simplify this debate? It sounds tempting. But I humbly submit it will not simplify this debate. Why? Because medicine is a technical field. And without the appropriate scientific background, we, as legislators who are not medical experts, could easily make mistakes and kill mothers and their babies instead of saving their lives.

Allow me to explain. A careless phrase like “no drug known to be an abortifacient will be made available in the Philippines” sounds like a

statement we could all support. But what most of us do not understand is the fact that many life-saving drugs are made available to an ailing mother to address her medical condition although there is a possibility that they may be harmful to a pregnant mother and her fetus. Thus, we have, for instance, drugs for diseases of the heart, hypertension, seizures, ulcers and even acne, all of which are to be taken only under doctors’ prescription and supervision precisely because of their harmful effects.

Making a blanket statement banning all medicines classified as abortifacients would put these mothers’ and their children’s lives in great danger. For decades, these mothers have relied on these medicines to keep them alive. I would like to give another example. A known abortifacient, *misoprostol*, commonly known as *cytotec*, is one of the drugs that can save a mother’s life. I am talking about a mother who just gave birth but has internal hemorrhage and is in danger of bleeding to death. Her child has been born. He will live. But she will die without this drug to stop her bleeding. Are we now to ban the use of this drug? Are we now to say that because it could possibly be used as an abortifacient, it could possibly be abused? This mother must now die despite giving birth to a healthy baby. Clearly, we need to make distinctions. These life-saving drugs should not be used for the purpose of carrying out an abortion, but under strict guidelines by the FDA can be used by a health practitioner to save a mother’s life.

Conclusion

I appeal to our male colleagues for patience and understanding and, above all, an open mind because although reproductive health affects both men and women, it is primarily a women’s issue.

1. Men do not die from childbirth, but women and their newborn do.
2. Men are not affected by the deadly HPV virus. (I am not talking about HIV.) I am talking about HPV which leads to cervical cancer. Women do. Men merely pass along this virus to women through unsafe and unprotected sex.
3. Men infected with HIV likewise pass it on to women (although this virus can be passed both ways), but when a man transmits it to a woman, it can then be passed on to the unborn child as well.
4. And finally, no man can claim that he has experienced the pain of choosing to end the

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life of the unborn baby in his womb. But half a million mothers in this country do that every year.

I believe the options are simple. Do we provide the facilities and the professional services women need? Do we want to equip our women with the means to plan their families using natural or modern family planning methods, as they so choose within the boundaries provided by our Constitution and laws, all of which – and I repeat – are subject to the scrutiny by our FDA? Or do we want our women to live in the dark ages, unable to make informed and intelligent choices about planning their family, and worse, resorting to abortion, when they find themselves carrying an unplanned child.

If one woman is given the ability to make informed choices and access to services and facilities, that changes her life and that of her family forever. Why is this privilege limited to the rich? Why is it limited to those who can afford? Every woman deserves this as a matter of right.

The statistics I mentioned earlier are not just mere numbers; these are real people with families orphaned by the loss of a loved one. The ball is now in our hands, and we cannot stand idly by as these deaths continue in our country. We have the power to end this. We have the power to provide poor Filipinos sufficient information for the exercise of their reproductive rights. We have the power to put an end to these problems. Let us show the Filipino people that we have not only the compassion but also the moral commitment and the political will to do something to prevent these tragedies from befalling upon families.

The bill is a work in progress. It is not carved in stone. And I welcome the inputs of my colleagues and look forward to the debates where issues and concerns can be threshed out.

With this, I only ask once more for your indulgence and compassion as each of you study this bill.

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

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto stated that Senator Defensor Santiago had expressed her intention to deliver her cosponsorship speech in July while Senate President Enrile had made a reservation to interpellate on the bill.

Senator Sotto also informed the Body that he would deliver his speech *en contra* after the interpellations of all the senators.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 2865

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

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 17 ON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Joint Resolution No. 6 (Committee Report No. 7), entitled

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION CREATING A CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION TO REVIEW AND ASSESS PHILIPPINE EDUCATION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senator Sotto stated that the parliamentary status was the period of interpellations.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Angara, Sponsor of the measure, and Senator Osmeña for the continuation of his interpellation.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:54 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:54 p.m., the session was resumed.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR OSMEÑA (Continuation)

Senator Osmeña reiterated his request for a copy of the COMSTE report on the survey conducted

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on the state of science, mathematics and education in the country. Senator Angara said that he would provide Senator Osmeña with the report.

Senator Osmeña also reiterated his request for the following: 1) a report on COMSTE's expenditures; 2) the breakdown of how its annual P36-million budget was expended; and 3) the validation of the Committee on Accounts of the P138 million expended by COMSTE. Assuring compliance with the request, Senator Angara denied having such validation of the Committee on Accounts. Senator Osmeña said that he would confer with the chair of the Committee on Accounts on the matter.

Senator Osmeña recalled that according to Senator Angara's narration, the Congressional Committee on Education (EdCom), which was formally established on April 14, 1990, during the administration of President Corazon Aquino, was mandated to submit a report that would lay down the education reforms in the country. He further recalled that a law was passed to trifocalize the educational system into the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and DepEd. He asked whether there was anything wrong with the trifocalization almost 20 years hence. Senator Angara replied that there was nothing wrong with the trifocalization, in fact, because of putting the agencies into their proper domain—basic education under DepEd, tertiary education under CHED, and post-secondary/vocational/technical under TESDA—government was able to attract more resources into the three areas, focusing particularly on the training of teachers in the respective domains.

Aside from creating a trifocal agency responding to the current education system, Senator Angara said that EdCom has also achieved the following:

- Creation of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, currently the governing body that, for the first time, provided subsidy and grants to the artists in the country;
- Introduction of the dual training system in 1994;
- Enactment of the Higher Education Modernization Act in 1994 which provided for the framework for the organization, governance and selection of presidents and board of trustees of all SUCs;
- Strengthening of the teacher education in the country by the establishment of Centers of

Excellence in Teaching which are providing direction and inspiration to many teachers;

- Extension of the class calendar from 200 days to more than 220, in view of the findings that more teacher-pupil contact is helpful to both teaching and learning;
- Enactment of the Philippine Teachers Professionalization Act in 1994 which began the process of professionalizing teaching in the Philippines; and
- Establishment of the largest Science and Technology scholarship.

He said that since these reforms were introduced, almost all education indices declined, but he lamented that there has never been a follow-through review of the effectiveness of these reforms when the rule of thumb required that the educational system be reviewed every three years, the shelf life of every educational reform, and more importantly, given the advances in information and communication.

But Senator Osmeña believed that the review should be initiated by the DepEd, CHED and TESDA themselves, and adopt modern and best practices and new technologies. Senator Angara maintained that it is incumbent upon Congress to take the initiative because it has the power over the purse.

Senator Osmeña acknowledged that the Department of Education needed someone with an eye for business and finance. To illustrate his point, he said that if P12 billion could be set aside annually to fund the construction of school buildings, then it would be wise to borrow P100 billion so that all the buildings needed could be constructed immediately and fund the other requirements of the education system, using the P12 billion allocation to pay for the interest and principal of the loan or a bond float which is payable within 20 or 25 years at the rate of six (6%) interest.

Senator Angara said that Filipinos are moved by legislation and not by mere exhortation. He noted that if a law would be enacted as suggested by Senator Osmeña, then the annual budget for infrastructure could be leveraged by directing the special education fund to fund the early education center in localities. He opined that the bureaucracy as well as the political leaders could be moved by force of law.

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Senator Osmeña believed that the officials in the bureaucracy ought to be pressured into action particularly as most of them are more interested in keeping their jobs; hence, they could not be expected to think innovatively for fear of getting into trouble. He also lamented the failure of DepEd to properly utilize its "jewels of the attic," assets with a lot of value. He cited the possible sale of government land in Cebu City that could be used to build facilities for the Department of Agriculture or the Department of Education. He expressed frustration over government's failure to make the most out of its assets and funds.

In this regard, he asked what EdCom could do under such circumstances as well as the tasks and responsibilities that Congress would assign to it to make things work. He also asked how long it would take the EdCom to accomplish its goal.

Senator Angara replied that the circumstances under which EdCom operated in 1991 were entirely different from the present environment amid the many changes that had taken place not only in the pedagogue but also in the educational and technological arenas. He said that the century has brought entirely new challenges to the education system as there are new ways of teaching and learning and of assessing and certifying skills and knowledge. He said that international benchmarks such as the Washington Accord, the Bologna Process, the Dublin Accord and the Sydney Accord are needed to place the country's educational standards at par with the rest of the world.

Senator Osmeña suggested that the government prioritize the training of its teachers because the introduction of the latest technology would be wasted if teachers are not qualified to teach the subjects assigned to them.

Senator Angara believed that since teachers are at the heart of education, they must be taught new technologies of teaching as well as new developments in learning particularly as there have been much development in the area of neuroscience. In fact, he said that students in one high school in Singapore have been provided with iPads in lieu of textbooks.

Asked on the cost of an iPad, Senator Angara said that the price ranges between P40,000.00 to P50,000.00. Senator Osmeña countered that a 16-gigabyte unit would be worth US\$400 or approximately P16,000.00.

To the suggestion that it would be better to educate the teachers than use such funds for iPads, Senator Angara agreed, stating that he has proceeded from the basic premise that teachers must be good, competent and knowledgeable, otherwise, all these new technologies and innovative teaching and learning methods would be useless.

Relative thereto, Senator Osmeña proposed that the government make an assessment of its teachers.

Moreover, he asked how much it costs to retrain or reeducate a Physics teacher on Physics or how long it will take to move out the non-Physics majors and replaced by Physics majors. He underscored the importance of determining where the education system is headed so that the government could come up with a plan for its future. He noted that the people in the Department of Education had no specific plan on how to go about this.

Senator Angara replied that he would ask the DepEd to provide this information.

Senator Osmeña also stressed the importance of determining the extent of the mismatch between teachers and the subjects being taught as well as the yearly target that needed to be met to assure that teachers are properly trained on the subjects of their expertise. He lamented that science and mathematics are only two of the most important subjects that a student has to study nowadays, and yet, the Philippines is certainly well behind in these areas compared to other countries.

Senator Osmeña further noted that Japanese students have become even more proficient in math and science than their American counterparts.

Senator Osmeña said that while he does not see the Filipino students dream of nearing Japan's level of academic advancement for another two or three decades, he was hoping that the country could be ranked close to the United States, Australia or other moderately-educated first-world country students.

Senator Angara said that going by the international trends in mathematics and science, the Philippines ranked 43 in math out of 44 countries. For this reason, he opined that there must be an extra effort at stepping up the training for the teachers by setting up special schools or special sections in public schools,

if necessary. He disclosed that as a result of the COMSTE, the same has already been done.

In line with his earlier recommendation for the DepEd to have one class dedicated to science and mathematics, Senator Angara said that these special science classes, albeit limited, were performing well.

In reaction thereto, Senator Osmeña noted that in a group of 100, there would always be ten (10) bright children who are motivated and are being cared for while another ten (10) would be unmotivated and do not want to study. However, he expressed concern over the remaining 80% who need to be moved to higher levels. He pointed out that the system does not help the bulk of the society since it does not bring them to a higher level. He asked whether the people from the DepEd have a timetable for improving foremost the teachers and then the students.

Senator Osmeña lamented that for the last fifteen (15) years, he and Senator Angara had heard the same complaints and promises during committee hearings; and yet, the country still has the same problems such as failure to provide adequate funding, unwise use of assets and lack of focus on the re-training of teachers.

Senator Angara said that with EdCom II, suggestions could be made to help the DepEd come up with a work plan that would expand the science and math programs not only in terms of teachers' training but also in terms of enrolment. He disclosed that the COMSTE had initiated a program in tertiary education wherein P3.5 billion was invested in the top eight (8) engineer-ing universities in the country with the aim of producing a certain number of science and engineering graduates, on the undergraduate, masteral and Ph.D. levels. At present, he disclosed that the program, which achieved the quantitative goals set in terms of skills is probably one of the best performing and targeted projects in science and engineering in the country.

Asked whether COMSTE and EdCom ought to be under one body since education essentially covers science and technology, Senator Angara clarified that math and science are considered special branches involving special disciplines necessitating special attention. He pointed out that even developed countries like the United States have realized the importance of improving their math and science programs. As a matter of fact, he noted that U.S. President Obama

even set aside U.S.\$12 billion for math and science programs aimed at upgrading the qualifications of teachers and for providing assistance. Senator Osmeña asserted that in the U.S., these fall under its Department of Education, but Senator Angara insisted that these are covered under special programs.

Senator Osmeña asked whether the government could pursue other education-related programs aside from those that involve funding. He noted that while the iPad program is beyond the country's means, the use of a Kindle would be more affordable because it could store material contained in a hundred books

Asked how much the DepEd was spending for school books, Senator Angara said that DepEd spends about P120.00 per child for every textbook in a given subject.

Senator Osmeña stated that the P200 annual allocation for textbooks for every public elementary school student could be used instead to buy Kindles E-book (electronic book) that store about 60 books, at half the price of P2,200, thus, there would be no need to spend for textbooks every school year.

Senator Angara agreed as he pointed out that the technology could be useful for virtual classrooms where a teacher lectures on subjects like science and mathematics similar to a teleconferencing system that reaches a large number of students.

Senator Osmeña recalled that 15 years ago, when he was elected to the Senate, he proposed to then DECS Sec. Ricardo Gloria that the "one lecture, two labs" system of a university in Boston be adopted. He stated that under the system, lectures were conducted in a large auditorium by authors like Henry Kissinger and Paul Samuelson without a question-and-answer portion but afterwards, those who attended the lecture were broken into two smaller classes where an assistant professor explained the lecture and answered questions. He said that the same could be done in Philippine universities and colleges but using only video tapes of lectures followed by the explanation of a teacher and a question-and-answer portion. However, he lamented that students in Visayas and Mindanao cannot take advantage of the really bright professors of U.P., Ateneo de Manila University and De La Salle University, AIM and the like because no one has thought of sending the video tapes of the lectures to their universities and colleges.

For his part, Senator Angara recalled that three years ago, while visiting Vancouver, a Nobel laureate in biology successfully demonstrated that he can teach biology to 300 to 400 students in the University of British Columbia auditorium. But he noted that in the lecture, each student had a laptop, and were allowed to interrupt the lecturer to ask questions. He said that through the magic of modern technology, good teachers and professors can reach as many students as possible.

Further, Senator Angara recalled that 15 years ago, he commissioned professors from U.P., Philippine Normal University and experts from Channel 4 to produce videos on mathematics and sciences which were aired every Saturday and that he convinced the DECS to give credit to teachers who listened to the lectures. Later on, he said that the videos were shown on Knowledge Channel of ABS-CBN through the initiative of Ms. Gina Lopez.

Senator Osmeña said with donations, the DepEd can set up one television screen per class and provide it with a CD player.

REQUEST OF SENATOR SOTTO

At this juncture, Senator Sotto requested Senator Osmeña to suspend his interpellation to accommodate Senator Guingona who had a reservation to avail of the privilege hour.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 6

Thereafter, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the resolution.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR GUINGONA

Availing himself of the privilege hour on the occasion of Migrant Workers' Day, Senator Guingona called upon the Senate to inquire into the anomalous practices in the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA).

The full text of his speech follows:

JOB PADDING AT THE POEA

Today is Migrant Workers' Day.

And as I rise on a matter of personal privi-

lege, more than a thousand OFW dependents are gathered at the SMX to celebrate this day. The Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration, the Land Bank of the Philippines and Development Bank of the Philippines jointly launched a P2-billion reintegration fund to help returning OFWs put up a business of their own.

I expect the usual rhetoric about the extraordinary contributions of our OFWs as modern-day heroes to abound today. I expect the usual promises from every nook and corner of the bureaucracy, to see to their needs, to protect them from harm, to nurture and nourish their families with hope.

Yet, have we really done enough for them? Are they truly protected? Or is our own government – their government – also a party to the abuse and exploitation of their rights and welfare?

I raise these questions because the sole agency entrusted with ensuring the safe, legal, and, yes, *protected departure of our OFWs*, is now under investigation by the National Bureau of Investigation at the behest of no less than its administrator.

I refer to the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration.

The POEA was created by a presidential decree in 1982 as the main overseer and developer of the overseas employment program.

To date, it has a daily clientele of 3,000 to as many as 5,000 a day. It is the only agency tasked to regulate more than 2,000 licensed recruitment agencies and manning agencies that deploy our land-based and sea-based workers.

During the time when the much-revered Ka Blas Ople headed the labor department, overseas job applicants were always told to have their contracts approved by the POEA.

"Kapag hindi lisensyado ang ahensya ng POEA, tiyak na illegal recruitment 'yan.' Kapag may tatak ng POEA, legal ang proseso.

That was then.

Today, the POEA is under a heavy cloud of doubt after its own administrator, Atty. Carlos Cao Jr., admitted with a heavy heart that indeed corruption reigns in his backyard. A POEA employee confessed to being involved in the padding of job orders in favor of certain recruitment agencies.

Sa sampung job order para sa domestic helper, sa isang pindot sa keyboard, nagiging

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isangdaan. Yung sobra, binebenta o pina-pagamit sa ibang mga ahensya kapalit ay komisyon.

The same employee admitted that she earned P1,000 per job order padded. Administrator Cao, in a TV interview, recounted that this employee was able to accumulate P2-million in eleven months simply by increasing the job orders assigned to "client-agencies." *Hindi po dagdag-bawas ito, puro dagdag lang ang nangyayari. At sa bawat dinadagdag, automatic ang isang libong pisong pabuya sa kanyang bulsa.*

How long has this been going on? No one can say for sure though it seems like no one within the POEA was really surprised by this employee's confession.

That job padding has been going on at the POEA is an open secret among licensed recruitment agencies. This is also the reason why so many of our workers hold on to POEA-approved contracts only to be just as vulnerable as the next undocumented migrant worker once they leave.

May mga pagkakataon na ang isang aplikante ay nag-apply, nagbayad, at bumisita paulit-ulit sa opisina ng isang lisenyadong ahensya pagkatapos ang kanilang Overseas Employment Certificate na mula sa POEA ay ibang ahensya na ang nakalagay.

May mga pagkakataon na ang OFW ay kasambahay pero na-process bilang waitress o utility worker o sales lady gamit ang mga pekeng job orders na ito.

Reprocessing po ang tawag dito. Iba ang employment agency na inaplayan sa agency na nagpaalis. Kasi hindi magkatugma ang job orders dahil sa job padding na naganap.

Ang kapalit po ng isang libong pisong binulsa sa bawat numero na dinadagdag ay ilang gabing paghagulgol ng isang OFW na baon sa utang, pinagsasamantalahan, at humihiling ng saklolo para makauwi na lamang.

Ang masaklap, ayon na mismo sa mga nag-iimbestiga sa mga anomalyang ito ay nasa tip of the iceberg pa lang daw sila.

We need urgent and permanent reforms at the POEA.

We need an in-depth investigation not only on the padding of job orders but also on other acts of corruption and connivance between some POEA officials and employees with unscrupulous licensed recruitment agencies.

Before anything else, we need to clean up the POEA registry of unscrupulous agencies that have repeatedly violated the rules and regulations imposed upon them by our government. I urge the NBI and the POEA to come up with a list of licensed agencies that paid for their job orders to be padded so that their licenses can be cancelled and criminal charges can be filed against them as illegal recruiters.

I propose a more stringent screening and approval process for new licenses that would include extensive public hearings and publication of the names and faces of those wanting to go into overseas recruitment.

I seek the overhaul of the POEA website so that an overseas job applicant can verify at lightning speed whether a licensed agency had a previous string of complaints leveled against it. For A-list agencies with clean records over the years, incentives for sustainability and growth must be made available.

I am for legislation that would improve and strengthen the POEA as a regulatory body, removing from its mandate the marketing of our overseas workers, which contradicts its own oversight functions over the recruitment industry; for how can you regulate an industry that you also rely on for marketing services?

There is a pending resolution filed by Sen. Antonio Trillanes calling for an inquiry by the Blue Ribbon committee on the alleged anomalies within the POEA.

This humble Representation as committee chair is now engaged in talks with the NBI and the leadership of the POEA as to the appropriate timing of our own inquiry.

We have no intention of impeding the ongoing investigation by the NBI. But certainly, we will not give up our mandate of legislative oversight especially when allegations of human trafficking and illegal recruitment have placed the POEA under the darkest clouds of doubt.

Today is Migrant Workers' Day.

Our OFWs hold up more than half of our economic sky. They send more children to school than all government scholarships combined. They feed more people than the CCT program of DSWD can hope to accomplish. They build houses more than that envisioned by the creators of the Pag-IBIG Fund.

The least we could do is to ensure their protection and guarantee the integrity of their documents before they leave.

The least we can promise them is for good governance to reign, for the corruption to stop, and for their interests to prevail in all of the agencies created to serve our OFWs.

If the POEA as the sole regulatory agency for licensed recruitment agencies is weighed down by corruption and stands accused of being a party to the illegal recruitment of our workers, then what kind of protection can we afford those who leave the country through legitimate means?

If we even need to regulate the regulator, then what becomes of our moral ascendancy to require, if not demand, labor-receiving countries to take better care of our workers?

And if the padding of job orders is but the tip of the iceberg as far as anomalies in the POEA is concerned, then how many OFWs should be compensated by this agency for being an instrument to their degradation and exploitation?

Ilan na bang OFWs ang napaluha at pinapaluha dahil hindi ginampanan ng mga taga-POEA ang kanilang trabaho?

We believe that a great majority of officials and employees of the POEA sincerely care for our OFWs; are decent and law-abiding; and are thus able to sleep well at night.

Our overseas workers deserve to know the truth about alleged anomalies within the POEA. No less than their lives are at stake.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Primarily, Senator Cayetano (P) expressed her support for the initiative made by Senator Guingona, especially as it concerns the rights of female migrant workers.

Senator Guingona asked how many of those exploited are women. Senator Cayetano (P) replied that based on statistics submitted to her committee, majority of the victims of human trafficking are women, most of whom are not workers but children.

Senator Cayetano (P) expressed concern over the fact that the Philippines continues to send migrant workers to countries that are not even signatories to the Convention that mandates participants to give migrant workers the same benefits as their own citizens. She said that if the government continues to send workers to regions where abuse of migrant

workers is prevalent, then the government is putting them in danger because their rights are not protected in those countries. She also raised the issue of unscrupulous recruiters or overseas recruitment agencies who are only too willing to lower the standards of protection that the country committed to offer to the workers just to send people abroad. Relative thereto, she recalled that the representatives of most of the countries that attended the recent Parliamentary Assembly of European Countries were shocked to learn that they were not even signatories to the Convention, as Turkey was the lone country in Europe that signed the agreement. She believed that while government ought to have policies against sending Filipino workers to countries that are not signatories to the Convention or even to officially banned countries, the illegal deployment of overseas workers continues. She also supported Senator Guingona's proposal to implement stricter rules for new applicants for overseas employment that would cover the acceptance and renewal of licenses. She also stressed the importance of ensuring the transparency and the easy access of OFWs to information regarding recruitment agencies particularly as it is difficult to find a website that provides information on cases that have been filed against such agencies as well as published findings from quasi-judicial bodies.

In closing, Senator Cayetano (P) commended Senator Guingona for honoring the migrant workers and for giving them importance.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 6:07 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:08 p.m., the session was resumed with Senator Osmeña presiding.

SENATE CONFEREES

Upon nomination by Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair designated the following as the members of the Senate panel in the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provision of Senate Bill No. 138 (Hepatitis-B Immunization for Infants) and House Bill No. 4393: Senators Cayetano (P), Zubiri and Trillanes.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR EJERCITO ESTRADA

At the outset, Senator Ejercito Estrada congratulated Senator Guingona for his initiative in exposing the scam happening in the POEA.

Asked how the POEA addressed the problem, Senator Guingona replied that the agency has sought the assistance of the National Bureau of Investigation in looking into the matter.

On whether the culprits have been identified, Senator Guingona revealed that the POEA has named nine officials which he planned to summon to the Senate investigation. Moreover, he said that the POEA recommended that administrative charges for dishonesty, grave misconduct and conduct prejudicial to the best interest of the service be filed against those officials.

Senator Ejercito Estrada noted in the speech of Senator Guingona his intention to strengthen the POEA. Relative thereto, he informed the Body that in the 13th Congress he authored RA 9422 or the MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1998 which strengthened the regulatory functions of the POEA. He gave assurance that he would fully support the investigation of Senator Guingona.

On another matter, Senator Ejercito Estrada asked whether the electronic system of the POEA, which had been hacked, was operational. Senator Guingona said that there was a need to look at the POEA software and hardware as the job padding was done through the electronic system.

Asked whether any of the nine officials admitted to hacking the system, Senator Guingona replied that only one official confessed to the crime. He added that the POEA was still investigating how it happened.

Senator Guingona explained that there was yet no determination on how such anomalies could be avoided as the matter is still being investigated.

Asked what particular job orders of domestic helpers have been padded, Senator Guingona replied that the helpers/cleaners were the only items listed therein.

Asked what falls under the helper/cleaner category, Senator Guingona said that a huge number pertained to helpers and other low/semi-skilled positions which were all used up.

Senator Ejercito Estrada suggested that the Committee invite former administrators of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and other labor officials to its hearing since they might have inside information regarding the matter. Senator Guingona agreed.

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

REFERRAL OF PRIVILEGE SPEECH

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Guingona primarily to the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations, and secondarily to the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATERS

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, on behalf of Senator Angara, there being no objection, Senators Cayetano (A), Guingona, Recto and Zubiri were elected members of the Subcommittee on Waters.

CREATION OF SUBCOMMITTEE

On behalf of Senator Cayetano (P), Chairperson of the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations, Senator Sotto manifested that the committee has created a Subcommittee on Children In Armed Conflict to be chaired by Senator Guingona.

COAUTHOR


Upon his request, Senator Lapid was made coauthor of Senate Bill Nos. 2860, 2620, 2811, 281 and 930.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

It was 6:20 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO REYES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on June 8, 2011