



**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

# Journal

**SESSION NO. 4**  
Monday, July 29, 2013

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:00 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

Sen. Alan Peter “Companero” S. Cayetano led the prayer, to wit:

“You are the salt of the earth, but if the salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet.”

— Matthew 5:13

Lord, Father God, as You have called us all to be the salt and the light of the earth, we ask You to continue to restore the leadership of our country from the President down to our barangay captains.

We ask, Lord, that we be the salt and the light of the earth and of our country.

We ask, Lord God, that transparency, accountability, efficiency, some of the things that people use to describe the Senate, our institution, as we ask You, Lord God, to bless each and every senator, we ask You that we will be able to fulfill Your will and do good for our people.

We lift this up to You, in Jesus’ Mighty Name, and thank You, Lord, for this day.

Amen.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

The Coro Cantabile lead the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song, entitled *Rosas Pandan*.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Oscar G. Yabes, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, J. E. S.	Honasan, G. B.
Aquino, P. B, IV B.	Legarda, L.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Marcos Jr., F. R.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Cayetano, P. S.	Poe, G.
Drilon, F. M.	Recto, R. G.
Ejercito J. V. G.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Enrile, J. P.	Sotto III, V. C.
Estrada, J.	Villar, C. A.
Guingona III, T. L.	

With 19 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Escudero, Osmeña and Trillanes arrived after the roll call.

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Senator Lapid was on official mission.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 3 (July 24, 2013) and considered it approved.

### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

#### BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 151, entitled

AN ACT PROCLAIMING THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF PATIENTS, PROVIDING A GRIEVANCE MECHANISM THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P.)

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

Senate Bill No. 152, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE ISSUANCE OF EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION IN FAVOR OF RESIGNED, DISMISSED OR SEPARATED EMPLOYEES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P.)

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

Senate Bill No. 153, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION TO HIGH

SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P.)

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

Senate Bill No. 154, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CYBERCRIME PREVENTION ACT OF 2012

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P.)

**To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 155, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE PROPER LABELING OF PLANTS, FOOD AND PRODUCTS CONTAINING GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISMS AND/OR RESULT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P.)

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

Senate Bill No. 156, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE OPERATION OF COMPUTER RENTAL SHOPS AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P.)

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

Senate Bill No. 157, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LA MESA

WATERSHED IN THE CITIES OF QUEZON AND CALOOCAN AND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF RODRIGUEZ, PROVINCE OF RIZAL AS A WATERSHED RESERVATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P.)

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

Senate Bill No. 158, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

**To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 159, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARCHIPELAGIC SEA LANES IN THE PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGIC WATERS, PRESCRIBING THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF FOREIGN SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT EXERCISING THE RIGHT OF ARCHIPELAGIC SEA LANES PASSAGE THROUGH THE ESTABLISHED ARCHIPELAGIC SEA LANES AND PROVIDING FOR THE ASSOCIATED PROTECTIVE MEASURES THEREIN

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

**To the Committee on Foreign Relations**

Senate Bill No. 160, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS ON ACCOUNT OF ETHNIC ORIGIN AND/OR RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

**To the Committees on Cultural Communities; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development**

Senate Bill No. 161, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SECURITY OF TENURE FOR ALL CASUAL AND CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE RENDERED THE PRESCRIBED YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

**To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 162, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE QUARTERS ALLOWANCE OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

**To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 163, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL RELIEF TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENTS SUPPORTING AGING PARENTS AND DISABLED PERSONS

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 164, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR THE MANUFACTURE, ASSEMBLY,

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CONVERSION AND IMPORTATION  
OF ELECTRIC, HYBRID AND  
OTHER ALTERNATIVE FUEL  
VEHICLES, FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 165, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTEC-  
TION, SECURITY AND OTHER  
BENEFITS FOR WHISTLEBLOWERS

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 166, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
PAYMENT OF ARREARS IN THE  
VETERANS' PENSIONS AND  
BENEFITS MANDATED PURSUANT  
TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7696, AS  
AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND  
UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR  
MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR  
DEPENDENTS AND APPROPRIAT-  
ING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 167, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING ENERGY  
EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION,  
ENHANCING THE EFFICIENT USE  
OF ENERGY, GRANTING INCEN-  
TIVES TO ENERGY EFFICIENCY  
AND CONSERVATION PROJECTS,  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

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

Senate Bill No. 168, entitled

AN ACT TO PRESCRIBE THE "CUSTOMS  
AND TARIFF MODERNIZATION  
ACT OF 2013" AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 169, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISH-  
MENT OF A PHILIPPINE BUSINESS  
REGISTRY DATABANK

Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

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

Senate Bill No. 170, entitle

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
MODERNIZATION OF THE HEALTH  
CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM, APPRO-  
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

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

Senate Bill No. 171, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
PRESERVATION, REFORESTATION,  
AFFORESTATION, AND SUSTAIN-  
ABLE DEVELOPMENT OF MAN-  
GROVE FORESTS IN THE PHILIP-  
PINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

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

Senate Bill No. 172, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING SHIPOWNERS,  
SHIP CREW, AND CONCERNED

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GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO PROVIDE FOR AND ENSURE THE SAFETY OF PASSENGERS AT SEA, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

**To the Committee on Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 173, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

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

Senate Bill No. 174, entitled

AN ACT TO DEFINE THE MARITIME ZONES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Osmeña III

**To the Committee on Foreign Relations**

Senate Bill No. 175, entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING AND REGULATING TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES IN ALL HIGHER AND BASIC EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, CREATING A TUITION FEE RATIONALIZING COUNCIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 176, entitled

AN ACT QUALIFYING THE KILLING OF MEMBERS OF BROADCAST

AND PRINT MEDIA ON THE OCCASION OF THE EXERCISE OF THEIR FUNCTIONS AS SUCH, AS A CRIME OF MURDER PUNISHABLE UNDER ARTICLE 248 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 177, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 44 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committee on Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 178, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE POSITION OF BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKER IN EVERY BARANGAY, PROVIDING INCENTIVES THERETO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1569

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; Local Government; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 179, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION THROUGH SPECIAL EDUCATION IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS NATION-WIDE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND ESTABLISHMENT OF THE BUREAU OF SPECIAL EDUCATION, CREATING THE IMPLEMENTING

MACHINERY THEREOF, PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER INCENTIVES AND SUPPORT FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 180, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE PROHIBITED ACTS OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WOMEN ON ACCOUNT OF SEX, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 135 AND 137 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Youth, Women and Family Relations**

Senate Bill No. 181, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING SUFFICIENT INFORMATION OF DRIVERS OF PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES AS A REQUIREMENT FOR THE ISSUANCE AND EXTENSION OF FRANCHISES OF COMMON CARRIERS

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committee on Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 182, entitled

AN ACT DIRECTING THE CONVERSION OF SANGLEY POINT IN CAVITE CITY INTO AN INTERNATIONAL LOGISTICS HUB

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 183, entitled

AN ACT REORGANIZING THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 184, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN PERMISSION OR WAIVER IN FAVOR OF THE OMBUDSMAN TO LOOK INTO ALL DEPOSITS OF WHATEVER NATURE WITH BANKS OR BANKING INSTITUTIONS BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINES INCLUDING INVESTMENT BONDS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

Senate Bill No. 185, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ANY PERSON INTERESTED IN RUNNING FOR PUBLIC OFFICE TO FILE A CERTIFICATE OF INTENTION TO RUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICE SIX MONTHS BEFORE THE DEADLINE FOR THE FILING OF A CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation**

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Senate Bill No. 186, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON HIV AND AIDS PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT, AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HIV AND AIDS PLAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8504, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 187, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF HUMAN ORGANS, TISSUES, OR PARTS OF LIVING PERSONS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR ITS VIOLATIONS, AND ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE BOARD OF ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION AND A NATIONAL TRANSPLANT AND ETHICS COMMITTEE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 188, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PLACEMENT OF BILLBOARDS INCLUDING THEIR SUPPORT STRUCTURES ALONGSIDE NATIONAL ROADS AND ROWS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 189, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF WHISTLEBLOWERS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 190, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF SIDEWALKS FOR COMMERCIAL AND OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 191, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AT LEAST ONE (1) SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTER FOR EACH SCHOOL DIVISION AND AT LEAST THREE (3) SPECIAL EDUCATION CENTERS IN BIG SCHOOL DIVISIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 192, entitled

AN ACT MAKING A SEPARATE COURSE ON ETHICS COMPULSORY AT ALL LEVELS OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND IN EVERY DEGREE COURSE IN ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 193, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF TOYS AND OTHER ARTICLES CONTAINING PHTHALATES TO CHILDREN THREE YEARS OF AGE AND BELOW

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 194, entitled

**AN ACT REGULATING CHILD CARE CENTERS**

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 195, entitled

**AN ACT TO INTEGRATE COMPUTER EDUCATION PROGRAM INTO THE EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 196, entitled

**AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE HIGH SCHOOL FOR SPORTS**

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 197, entitled

**AN ACT MANDATING ALL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO CREATE A CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE THAT SHALL ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THEIR STUDENTS**

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 198, entitled

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A SCHOOL MODERNIZATION AND INNOVATION PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 199, entitled

**AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6728, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EXPANDED GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN PRIVATE EDUCATION ACT" TO PROVIDE FOR AN EXPANDED VOUCHER IN SECONDARY AND TERTIARY EDUCATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 200, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS TO DEPENDENTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AMENDING FOR THESE PURPOSES REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED FORTY-SIX HUNDRED SEVENTY (R. A. NO. 4670) OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

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

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## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Pimentel denounced the bombing incident in Cagayan de Oro on July 26, 2013 that killed eight people and wounding many others.

*The full text of his speech follows:*

Last July 26, 2013, shortly before midnight, a bomb exploded on a row of restaurants that was full of people enjoying the festive and peaceful atmosphere as well as the good food and company that are characteristic of my hometown, Cagayan de Oro City.

Eight people lost their lives and several others were injured. Immediately, the city authorities responded to give assistance to the victims who lay in the wreckage, but the culprits had gotten away.

I denounce the senseless killing of the innocent and productive citizens of our Republic. I denounce this violent attack on our way of life in Cagayan de Oro City which is, by the way, also known as the "the City of Golden Friendship." We want justice for all the victims. The hooligans who perpetrated the crime must not be allowed to get away with the horrible deed that they have perpetrated on their innocent victims. Not only that, the masterminds must likewise be identified, prosecuted and penalized, not years after the fact, but now, immediately, if not sooner.

The two so-called "Boston bombers" who killed and maimed many marathon participants and onlookers last April 15, 2013, were identified in a matter of days. They engaged the police in a shootout. Days later, one of the two was fatally shot, the other was wounded and arrested by the police soon after the incident.

The killer of innocent students on a holiday in an island resort in Norway on July 22, 2011, was tried, convicted and sentenced to 22 years in prison in only a couple of months after the crime was committed. The immediate reaction of the people of Norway to the verdict sentencing the perpetrator was one of relief. The Prime Minister himself lauded the fast delivery of justice and, in effect, said that "it was what the people of Norway expected."

I do not have Norwegian blood but still, I and our people expect authorities in Cagayan de Oro City to do their thing with dispatch and

to prove that they deserve the support, the respect and the trust of the people. Otherwise, the mayhem that was committed in Cagayan de Oro would go down in history as one of the most dastardly offenses ever committed in the country without anyone being held responsible for it.

I also urge the Philippine National Police to get the mastermind. I would not want it said that the offense was solved but only the small fry was sanctioned because the mastermind got away with it. Not only would the administration of justice suffer from such a travesty, but the mastermind would be tempted to do it all over again because, then, he would have enjoyed some kind of impunity that violators of the law are not entitled to.

The people expect and deserve no less than a fast and expeditious delivery of justice here in this particular incident, and that means that the Cagayan de Oro police must demonstrate that they have the guts, the determination, the will and the skill to do their job and thereby restore the superiority of law and order over criminality and disorder in our beloved city of Cagayan de Oro.

In closing, as we condole with the families of the victims, we would like to assure them and the rest of the country that the mayor of the city, Honorable Oscar Moreno, the members of the city council, the congressmen who represent the city — Klarex Uy and Rufus Rodriguez — we will all do what needs to be done to bring justice to all concerned and, above all, restore the reputation of the city as a haven of peace and security for our residents and visitors that had been compromised for so long under the last city administration.

## INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

At the outset, Senator Sotto expressed his sympathies to the people of Cagayan de Oro City, especially to the families of the victims of the tragedy.

Asked by Senator Sotto on the details of the incident, Senator Pimentel narrated that between 11:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on July 26, 2013, a bomb of undetermined magnitude exploded in a popular row of restaurants in Cagayan de Oro where hundreds of people, including medical practitioners who attended two conventions which the city hosted, were unwinding. He said that if he were not in Davao City at that time, he might have been in the vicinity enjoying a popular delicacy offered by one of

the restaurants. He believed that the bomb really intended to kill as it exploded between two popular restaurants at around 11:00 to 11:30 p.m., the time when the city was hosting many visitors who were participating in two conventions.

Asked how the bomb was detonated, Senator Pimentel replied that he was not certain on how the bomb was detonated, but he revealed that police investigators in Cagayan de Oro recovered a 9-volt battery in the area which they suspected could be connected with the bomb blast.

Asked if there were initial reports from the PNP on the possibility that the bomb was detonated through a cellphone, the same device that triggered a bus bombing in Makati, Senator Pimentel said that he could not confirm the assumptions as regards the detonating device, but he disclosed that in a text message that was sent to him by the PNP Regional Director, he was told that using the recovered fragments, the EOD team and post-blast investigators were able to reconstruct the bomb (IED) which was made of 81mm projectile as main component.

Acceding to Senator Sotto's request, Senator Honasan explained that an 81mm is a mortar round that could be improvised to become a remotely detonated explosive with a bursting radius of about 200 meters and whose potential damage is equivalent to a small bomb which can be maximized in an enclosed area. He affirmed that it can also be triggered by a cellphone.

Senator Sotto pointed out that the Makati bomb blast, as well as several other bombings in the country, were mostly triggered by cellphones, and that authorities failed to trace the origin of the bombings because telephone companies (telcos) have consistently refused to register prepaid SIM card buyers in spite of several calls for them to do so because of the belief that prepaid SIM cards are also used for kidnapping, bombing, blackmail and other illegal activities. He said that in the United States and other countries in Europe and Asia, prepaid SIM cards are registered upon purchase, with the buyer being asked to present a valid ID as one of the requirements. He said that even if the signal site where the call was made and the cellphone number are determined, the culprits could still not be traced because nobody knows where the prepaid SIM card was bought. He expressed hope that at the proper time, the NTC would be able to compel the telcos to register their prepaid SIM card buyers.

## **INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ENRILE**

Senator Enrile noted that Senator Pimentel repeatedly mentioned the word "mastermind" in his privilege speech. Asked what made him assume that there was a "mastermind" in the bombing, Senator Pimentel surmised that the perpetrator could himself be the mastermind or was part of a group with a mastermind.

Asked if the bombing was a politically motivated act of wreaking destruction, an economically or ideologically motivated act, or an act to terrorize the city, Senator Pimentel said that he would not wish to speculate on the motive of the bomber or of the group behind the act, except to say that it happened in Mindanao and it was definitely intended to hurt or kill people because it was placed in a crowded area.

Asked whether there was a particular group in Mindanao which could be suspected of perpetrating the act, Senator Pimentel replied that he has no theory yet, as he urged the Philippine National Police to do its job thoroughly, intelligently and transparently.

He reiterated that he could not speculate on what the motives for the bombing were, but he maintained that it was meant to hurt or kill because the bomb was placed in a strategic area. He also revealed that several bombing incidents had happened in Cagayan de Oro in the past, such as that which occurred two years ago at around 2:00 a.m. but which exploded in an isolated place. He believed that in those instances, the bomb blastings were intended to make a loud statement but not to hurt or kill people, unlike that on July 26.

Asked whether the bombing could be a product of a lunatic mind or the work of a prankster, Senator Pimentel opined that the bomber must be an anarchist if his only purpose was to make a bomb explode as a prank. He said that his mind is open to all possibilities as regards the motive for the bombing, including the likelihood of it to be a work of a group or a conspiracy that was concocted to terrorize the city.

## **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GUINGONA**

At the onset, Senator Guingona condemned the bombing in Cagayan de Oro City, saying that he, in fact, personally knew some of the casualties,

one of whom was the newly elected provincial board member. He added that a couple, who has just migrated from Zamboanga City to Cagayan de Oro, were also victims.

Senator Guingona stated that the cowardly act was meant to put fear into the populace because it happened in Lim Ket Kai Center, a place similar to Eastwood or Greenbelt in Metro Manila, on a Friday night when everybody was out with their families.

Senator Guingona expressed concern for the deteriorating peace and order situation in the area, noting that other similar incidents have occurred in Northern Mindanao. He agreed with Senator Sotto that SIM cards should be registered because cellphones have been used in the past to detonate bombs.

Senator Pimentel said that if the SIM cards were registered and the bomb was activated by a cellphone, then the identity of the culprit could be easily obtained. He supported the suggestion of Senator Sotto to review the requirements to register all types of SIM cards.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR LEGARDA**

Preliminarily, Senator Legarda associated herself with the many voices calling for peace, and hoped that justice be brought to the perpetrators of such a heinous and cowardly act and to those who have been victims of the violence so that their families can also find peace amidst the continuous conflict in Mindanao.

Senator Legarda pointed out that apart from the PNP, information could be requested from the ISAFP if it is connected with the ongoing peace process, and advice could be asked from the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process if the act is related to the possibility of amending the Constitution because of the Bangsamoro accord. She said that there are many possible motives as well as probabilities. She lamented that such incidents had happened in the past, and most only form part of the statistics of unresolved crime and violence. She asked who should be held accountable for the acts of violence and what they, as public servants, and the private citizens could do to arm themselves to combat the menace of society.

Senator Pimentel stated that all possible motivations should be considered by the police in investigating

the crime. He conceded that the commission of crimes could not be completely prevented, but he nevertheless underscored that it is more important to solve crimes and bring the perpetrators to justice. For this to happen, he said, crime prevention should be desired and cooperation is needed from the community. He said that the DILG and PNP have asked the neighboring establishments to surrender their CCTV footages, as well as those who have taken photographs during the relevant period of time. He added that the people in the area at the time of the incident were asked by the police to share their observations.

Asked if the Senate could do anything to help assure the safety of the people in their private homes and commercial establishments, Senator Pimentel said that the Body could look into measures on crime prevention and solution of crimes. As an example, he cited the ordinance requiring the installation of CCTV cameras in some business establishments since the video footages would come in handy in case something happens. However, he said that a bill should be passed to require only quality CCTV cameras to be sold in the country since the quality of footages produced by the CCTV cameras being used are rendered almost useless in securing a conviction because the quality is too low.

Asked if any advance information on the Cagayan de Oro explosion has been relayed to him or to any police authority, Senator Pimentel answered in the negative, saying that he was in Davao when the incident occurred. He assured Senator Legarda that he would ask the authorities in Region X and in Cagayan de Oro if advance information was given.

Saying that the country would be hosting the APEC Summit in 2015 and the Asia-World Economic Forum in 2014, Senator Legarda asked if the country is ready in terms of peace and order, considering that some of the attacked venues are bidding as areas to host those events and how the people could prepare themselves.

Senator Pimentel stated that the people should be prepared, and that the country should continue to participate in international activities. He said that the best thing to do is learn from the incident, particularly the police authorities, by solving the case and apprehending the perpetrators.

Senator Legarda expressed support for the proposal with respect to the registration of SIM cards as suggested by Senator Sotto, and the requirement for the installation of CCTV cameras in private and public establishments. She then asked for a thorough and swift probe on the incident to bring the perpetrators to justice.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR HONASAN**

Senator Honasan stated that the policy issue is the adequacy of the law, particularly its ability to provide a deterrent to a wide array of possible terroristic crimes, suspects and motives. He pointed out that the basis of the national security policy – Commonwealth Act No. 1 (National Defense Act), which was drafted by the late Major Dwight Eisenhower and Major James Ord, is more than 70 years old. He noted that in the case being discussed, the police are being blamed for failure of intelligence, contamination of the crime scene, among others.

Senator Honasan also pointed out another dimension which is the information system that drives the intelligence operations and counter-terrorist anti-criminality efforts. He recalled that more than 10 years ago, the issue of a national crime information system was raised, and the equipment that was supposed to be used was already outdated.

Senator Honasan pointed out that Senator Pimentel has raised important points that impact the national order of priorities. He said that a decision has to be made and invoking the principle of convergence or public-private partnership, the police and other law enforcement agencies should be given the wherewithal to develop a cost-effective and consolidated information system that would allow them to identify the perpetrators. He suggested that Senator Pimentel raise the concern during the budget deliberations. Senator Pimentel agreed, particularly on providing the wherewithal to the police for them to solve crimes.

#### **REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Pimentel and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), the session was suspended to allow the Members to greet Senator Villar on the occasion of her birth anniversary.

*It was 3:57 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (A) acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the councilors from the province of Albay, led by Atty. Carol Sabio and Neil Montallana.

Senate President Drilon welcomed the guests to the Senate.

#### **PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR ESTRADA**

At the outset, Senator Estrada thanked Senator Legarda for yielding the floor and opted to deliver her privilege speech the next day.

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Estrada delivered the following speech on the abuses of the country's embassy/labor officials in the Middle East:

#### ***MAGINOO, PERO SOBRANG BASTOS***

I rise today on a matter of personal and collective privilege.

The plight of our overseas Filipino workers has always been at the forefront of news. This is understandable given the number of issues confronting the OFW sector – freeze hiring of OFWs in Taiwan, Saudization policy in Saudi Arabia, ongoing crackdown in Kuwait, the conflict in Syria, to mention a few.

However, these issues are all results of external forces, beyond the control of our workers but their movements, safety and incomes are adversely affected.

*Pero may mga isyu na gumigimbal sa sambayanan dahil sarili nating mga kaba-*

*ra*

*bayan at mga kawani pa ng ating pamahalaan ang nambabastos at nagtutulak sa ating mga bagong bayani sa kapahamakan. Ito po ay batay sa mga rebelasyon ni Akbayan Representative Walden Bello patungkol sa sex-for-repatriation or sex-for-flight. Para sa akin po, kung may sex-for-repatriation, meron din mga sexual predators in Barong Tagalog.*

I rise today to issue this challenge for truth, justice and meaningful reforms on behalf of our runaway maids and distressed OFWs living and waiting for their ticket home in Filipino Workers Resource Centers or often referred to as “Bahay Kalinga” around the world.

*Alam natin na karamihan sa ating mga OFWs ay naninilbihan sa ibayong dagat bilang mga domestic workers. Hindi rin lingid sa ating kaalaman ang mga pang-mamaltrato at pang-aabusong dinaranas ng marami nating OFWs sa kamay ng kanilang mga banyagang amo. Hindi ba at sa mga ganitong pagkakataon ang ating mga embahada at konsulado ang takbuhan ng ating mga OFWs?*

While in the country, our citizens can rely on the entire government machinery from President down to barangay captains to protect and promote their welfare. But once a Filipino travels and crosses borders especially as an OFW, that entire government machinery is shrunk to fit an embassy or consulate that proudly bears the Philippine flag.

*Saan pa ba, maliban sa ating mga embahada, maghahanap ng pagkalinga at proteksyon ang mga OFWs lalo na ang mga kasambahay na minaltrato ng kanilang mga amo sa Middle East o Asya o saan mang sulok ng mundo?*

*Bigyan po natin ng mukha at anyo ang ilan sa mga OFWs na lumapit sa ating embahada upang humingi ng saklolo. Si “Analiza,” (hindi niya tunay na pangalan) ay isang domestic helper na ginawang alipin ng kanyang mga amo sa Riyadh. Nandito po siya. Puwede ka bang tumayo, Ms. Analiza?*

*Sa unang linggo ng kanyang paglilingkod, maganda raw ang turing sa kanya ng kaniyang amo. Ngunit sa di kalaunan, lumabas na ang katotohanan. Sa suweldong katumbas lamang ng P8,000 kada buwan, isang buong angkan ang kaniyang pinaglilingkuran, halos bente-kuwatro oras kung magsilbi sa mag-asawa na may limang mga anak at lima pang mga kapatid na lalaki, lahat sa loob ng isang bahay.*

*Sa sarili niyang pananalita, ito po ang dinanas ni Analiza:*

*Noong February 1, nagalit po ang aking among babae dahil hindi ko daw natapos ang paglilinis ng mga kuwarta sa loob ng tatlung (30) minuto. Bilang parusa, ikinulong po ako sa isang kuwarta ng dalawang araw na walang pagkain maliban sa isang pitsel ng tubig sa tabi ng aking kama. Dahil sa gutom at sakit, hinimatay po ako at nagkamalay na lamang sa ospital. Minadali ng aking amo ang aking paglabas ng ospital upang pagtrabahuin muli sa kanilang bahay. Feeling ko mamamatay na ako noon. Ang tanging ginawa ko na lamang ay manalangin sa Panginoon na magkaroon ng pagkakataon na makatakas.*

*Dininig po ng Diyos ang aking panalangin. Noon February 5, laking tuwa ko dahil nakaligtan nilang ikandado ang pinto kaya ako po ay nakatakas. Alas otso ng umaga, tulog pa ang aking mga amo, lumakad po ako nang halos walang dala, pera man o damit mula sa bahay na iyon hanggang sa highway. Sa highway, doon ako sumakay ng taxi para magpahatid sa Philippine embassy. Ngunit, imbis na doon ako dalhin ay sa disyerto ako dinala ng driver at sinubukan niya akong pagsamantalan. Nagmakaawa po ako sa kanya. Nag-iiyak. Nagkunwari ako na isang Muslim at pinaalala ko sa kanya na bawal sa Islam ang kanyang binabalak. Hinipuan po niya ako ng ilang beses, tinangkang halayin ngunit nanlaban ako. Dahil ayaw ko pong pumayag sa gusto niya, napilitan po siya na ihatid ako sa embahada. Iyak po ako ng iyak sa tuwa nang namataan ko na ang bandila ng Pilipinas.*

*Iyan ang ilang pahayag ni Analiza.*

At the POLO office, Assistant Labor Attaché Tony Villafuerte noticed her crying while waiting for her turn to be attended to. He arranged for the kitchen staff to feed her lunch. Weak and traumatized, Analiza told Villafuerte everything, including her ordeal in the desert. Villafuerte said “Muntik ka na, ah. Pero masuwerte ka pa rin.”

After the interview at the POLO office, Mr. Villafuerte brought Analiza to Bahay

*Kalinga*. While driving the car from the POLO office to the *Bahay Kalinga*, where Analiza would be sheltered, Villafuerte allegedly asked the dazed OFW:

*"Na-rape ka ba ng amo mo?"*

*"Hindi po," sagot ni Analiza.*

*"Hinipuan ka ba?"*

*"Hindi po, Sir."*

*"Hindi ka pala hinipuan, puwede bang ako na lang ang humipo diyan?"*

Analiza was shocked by the request, made by a man she thought would be her protector. She endured that verbal sexual assault in silence.

*Para kay Mr. Villafuerte, kung nanunood o nakikinig ka man, kung ikaw kaya ang makaranas ng pagmamaltrato o kaya dalhin sa disyerto at pagtangkaang halayin ng isang taxi driver na Arabo, matutuwa ka ba kung ganyang uri ng mga tanong ang iyong maririnig mula sa isang opisyal ng embahada?*

Apparently, this labor officer's insensitivity and crude behavior is not confined to sexual innuendoes alone. His impropriety in dealing with Saudi agencies also deserves a closer look.

On Analiza's third day at the *Bahay Kalinga*, Assistant Labor Attaché Tony Villafuerte arranged a meeting between Analiza and her Saudi agent – a man named Mr. Turki. She saw how the labor officer and her agent greeted each other warmly. *Nagbeso-beso pa raw sa magkabilang pisngi*. Both men met in private while she waited outside Villafuerte's office.

After that long, private meeting, Mr. Villafuerte called her in and left the room, locking his office door, leaving Analiza alone with Mr. Turki. Behind that locked door, the Saudi agent shouted and scolded the OFW, berating her for escaping from her employers. She wondered to herself why she had to endure such humiliation, unprotected, with no less than the labor official locking her inside with the abusive agent.

After several minutes, the labor officer returned and asked Analiza to go back to her employer. She refused. The Saudi agent then gestured that he has given up on Analiza and would just shoulder the cost of her repatriation. After that meeting, she returned to *Bahay Kalinga* and never heard from Mr. Turki again.

While waiting for the promised repatriation, a certain "Mohammad" who claims to be also from the POLO office called her cellphone. This mysterious person knew a lot about her case. He even sounded a lot like Tony Villafuerte, Analiza claims. This Mohammad promised her a ticket

home in exchange for a one-night stand. He also requested for a photo of Analiza wearing nothing but her underwear. How can this pervert have access to the phone and case records of a *Bahay Kalinga* ward?

Analiza had to endure all these until a kindhearted pastor provided her with a ticket back home. When she finally came home, she immediately went to her Manila agency. To her dismay, the local agency showed her a copy of an air ticket that Mr. Turki had purchased for her as early as February 27. Analiza came home last May using the ticket donated by private individuals. Why was that ticket from the agency never given? Why keep Analiza in the government shelter for four months when clearly she could have come back with her family much earlier?

I have a copy of said two tickets: one paid for by Mr. Turki, but was never used; and the second, a ticket home for Analiza donated by a certain Pastor Beny and Madam Nelda.

Clearly an injustice has been done and Mr. Villafuerte and the entire POLO staff have much to explain. *Ang tanong, madalas ba nangyayari ang ganito, Mr. Villafuerte?*

Another complainant known as "Angel" went to Saudi Arabia on March 28, 2013, to work as a domestic helper. In Riyadh, she not only worked for a family with eight children, she also had to clean three big houses for a monthly salary equivalent also to P8,000.

*Isang araw noong Mayo, habang naglilinis ng bahay, timutukan ng patalim si Angel ng kanyang among lalaki at pinagsamantalahan. Hindi nagawang magsumbong si Angel sa among babae. Naisip niya na baka baliktarin siya nito at patayin. Nagplano na lamang siyang tumakas. Puwede ka bang tumayo, Angel?*

*Noong May 8, nakatakas po si Angel sa kanyang demonyong amo. Sumakay siya sa isang taxi at nagpahatid sa Riyadh clinic kung saan may isang nurse na Pinay na doon nagtatrabaho. Ang nurse na iyon ang tumawag sa Philippine Embassy para humingi ng tulong para kay Angel.*

*Sinundo ni Villafuerte si Angel sa nasabing clinic. Nakahinga si Angel nang maluwag nang malamang nandoon na ang taga-embassy para siya ay sunduin. Ngunit nagkamali ng pag-aakala si Angel dahil habang sila ay nasa sasakyan papunta sa POLO office ay puro kalaswaan ang lumabas sa bibig ng assistant labor attaché. Tinanong niya kay Angel "Malaki ba ang ari ng amo mo? Masarap ba? Saan ka tinira, sa harap o likod?"*

Ganyan ang mga uri ng tanong ni Mr. Villafuerte kay Angel. Ayon sa kawawang OFW, hindi man lang niya kinakitaan ng simpatiya o awa ang nasabing labor official, bagkus ay minaliit at niyurakan pa nito ang kanyang pagkatao.

Nasa aking kamay po ang affidavit ni Angel pero hindi ko na po ito babasahin sa records ng Senado dahil ayokong magmistulang imburnal at puno ng kabastusan ang ating talaan.

Sa isang pagkakataon, pinayuhan ni Villafuerte si Angel na mag-file ng kaso laban sa kanyang employer dahil malaking pera raw ang makukuha nito.

Ganoon ba ang tingin niya sa mga naging biktima ng pagmamaltrato at panggagahasa? Mga mukhang pera?

Ganitong-ganito rin po ang inasta ng isa nating labor attache sa Saudi Arabia sa isang OFW na tinangkang gahasain ng kanyang driver doon mismo sa POLO office. Si "Josie" ay isang takas na OFW, lumayas sa kanyang amo dahil sa tangkang panghahalay. Nakaligtas nga si Josie sa kalaswaan ng Arabong amo, ngunit pagdating sa Bahay Kalinga ay ang demonyong tsuper ng labor attaché naman pala ang naghahasik ng kalaswaan sa mismong shelter ng ating pamahalaan.

Kinuha si Josie ng labor attaché mula sa Bahay Kalinga upang magtrabaho bilang janitress sa POLO Office. Isang araw, napilitan itong maiwan sa opisina at abutin ng gabi dahil ayon sa driver ay kailangan daw niyang tapusin ang mga inutos sa kanya ng labor attaché. Hindi naman pala overtime sa trabaho ang balak ng driver, kundi ang mag-short time sa POLO office. Nagpumiglas at nanglaban si Josie at nagpasyang muling tumakas, pero imbis sa dayuhang amo ay mismong ang Bahay Kalinga ang nais niyang takasan. Pagkaraan ng ilang araw, naglakas loob na magsumbong si Josie sa labor attaché. Ngunit siya ay nadismaya dahil imbis na tanggalin ang driver, ni-renew pa ng labor attaché ang kontrata nito at inalok pa ng suhol si Josie para manahimik na lang. Labor Attaché Adam Musa, may nakahanda ring upuan para sa inyo sa magaganap na pagdinig dito sa Senado.

May isang testigo pa po, isang OFW na itago na lang natin sa pangalang "Michelle." Marahil ay napanood na ninyo siya o napakinggan ang kanyang mga sinabi sa media. Sadyang hinuli ko ang kanyang kuwento dahil siya po mismo ay hinalay at minolestiyang

ni Ginoong Tony Villafuerte doon mismo sa POLO office. Kung kay Angel at Analiza ay pambabastos sa pamamagitan sa salita, kay Michelle po ay pambabastos sa salita at gawa. Ayon kay Michelle, may nakasaksi sa pangmolestiyang ginawa sa kanya sa POLO office. I am helping Michelle to secure this witness.

Dahil si Michelle ay isang takas, humingi siya ng tulong kay Villafuerte na magkaroon ng personal na gamit katulad ng underwear. Ang tugon po ng ating magiting na assistant labor attaché ay ang isang text message na naitago ni Michelle at aking babasahin: "Nagpabili na ako ng 2 salungso at 6 na salungki, kunin mo kay Mam Lita." Bihasa din mag-Tagalog itong si Villafuerte. Salungso at salungki – iyun pala po ang bra at panty sa Tagalog, ayon sa ating mahusay na assistant labor attaché.

Ayon sa salaysay ni Michelle, noong May 18 sa POLO office, sa opisina ni Welfare Officer Rodrigo nangyari ang pananamantala. Biglang hinila siya ni Villafuerte, sinandal sa pader, hinalikan at dinilaan sa labi habang nilalamas ang kanyang dibdib. At nang itinataas na ni Villafuerte ang abaya ni Michelle, siya ay nagpumiglas at nagkaroon ng pagkakataon na tumakas. Base sa aking pagtatanong kay Michelle, mayroong isang tao na nakasaksi ng pangyayaring ito at siya ay ihaharap ko sa tamang oras at panahon. Kaya, Ginoong Villafuerte, alam kong nasa Maynila ka na, paghandaan mo ito.

Nais ko lang ipaalala sa lahat lalo na sa mga kinauukulan sa DOLE, DFA, POEA AT OWWA na malinaw ang nakasaad sa ating mga batas.

Under Republic Act No. 8042, otherwise known as the "Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act of 1995," the State shall "afford full protection to labor, local and overseas, organized and unorganized, and promote full employment and equality to all. Toward this end, the State shall provide adequate and timely social, economic and legal services to Filipino migrant workers."

In the same breadth, RA 10022, which amended and strengthened RA 8042, mandates that agency-hired workers shall be covered by a compulsory insurance policy to cover, among others, the repatriation cost of the worker when his/her employment is terminated without any valid cause.

Samakatuwid, kung maroon naman palang mandatory insurance ay mayroon ding



*kaukulang pondo na maaaring gugulin at ipangtustos sa ating mga kababayan na karapatdapat at kailangang mapauwi. Bakit nangyayari ang pambabastos, pang-aabuso, pang-insulto, pang-hingi ng mga donasyon para sa air tickets, pati na ang sex-for-repatriation?*

Certainly, the laws enacted by Congress are not just meant to pay lip service to the enormous contribution of our OFWs to the country's economy and to the sacrifices they have to endure to give a better future to their family.

It is also clear, based on the testimonies of OFWs who have stayed in embassy shelters, particularly in the Middle East, that these shelters are also not being managed professionally and in keeping with best practices in the handling of abused women and victims of human trafficking and modern-day slavery. In fact, the shelters no longer have fully trained center coordinators, no structured reintegration and counseling programs, and are often led by house parents designated from among the ranks of the distressed OFWs.

In countries categorized as highly problematic by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Department of Labor and Employment and where there is a concentration of Filipino migrant workers, the government must provide a *sharia* or human rights lawyer, a psychologist and a social worker for the Center. In addition to these personnel, the government must also hire within the receiving country, in such number as may be needed by the post, public relation officers or case officers who are conversant, orally and in writing, with the local language, laws, customs and practices. The labor attaché shall coordinate the operation of the Center and shall keep the chief of mission informed and updated on all matters affecting it.

Clearly, our intent as legislators was to provide the best welfare services and protection to OFWs seeking refuge in our overseas shelters. What happened? How can the protectors be the very people that these workers need protection from?

*Kay Assistant Labor Attaché Villafuerte at Labor Attaché Musa, bukas ang aking tanggapan para sa inyong mga kasagutan sa nilahad ng ating mga OFWs. Para maging patas, ilang ulit ko pong hinihingi mula sa DOLE ang report ng fact-finding team tungkol sa inyong mga kaso pero matatagalan pa raw ito. Wala pa raw pormal na tugon si Ginoong Villafuerte sa mga nasabing alegasyon.*

Accordingly, in relation with this speech, this humble Representation has filed Senate Resolution No. 97, with the desire to analyze this problem from a point of view different from that of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Department of Labor and Employment which have initiated separate investigations.

In closing, may I just say that I still firmly believe in the integrity of our foreign service and I still have faith in our many dedicated and committed public servants. I am confident that in the end the good and just will prevail. To all *barong*-wearing sexual predators in government, especially among those posted overseas, beware because your days are numbered. *Walang puwang sa gobyerno para sa mga maginoo pero sobrang bastos, lalo na sa ating mga Bahay Kalinga at bawat sulok ng embahada at konsulado sa labas ng bansa.*

I know that you and all of our distinguished colleagues would agree when I say that our modern-day heroes, especially our domestic workers, deserve much better than this.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (A)**

Senator Cayetano (A) inquired whether the victims, who are also considered witnesses, were being provided support by concerned government agencies such as the OWWA or the POEA while they are waiting for the dispensation of justice. Senator Estrada affirmed that the victims have already sought the help of the Department of Labor and Employment as well as of public officials, including Senator Cayetano (A).

Senator Cayetano (A) recalled that he was informed by the victims a month ago that they have yet to receive any kind of support. He opined that it is such an ordeal for whistleblowers, witnesses or victims to survive and take care of themselves, and he believed that some sort of support ought to be given to them while the case is being investigated.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

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

*It was 4:27 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 4:27 p.m., the session was resumed.

## REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Estrada to the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations as the primary committee, and to the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development as the secondary committee.

## RECONSIDERATION OF THE REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the referral of the speech of Senator Estrada was reconsidered to give way to Senator Sotto's interpellation.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Sotto for his interpellation.

## INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Preliminarily, Senator Sotto commended Senator Estrada for bringing attention to the issue that has already captivated not only the interest of the public but of the international community.

Asked on the whereabouts of Antonio Villafuerte and Adam Musa, Senator Estrada said that Mr. Villafuerte has been recalled by the Department of Foreign Affairs to Manila, while Mr. Musa is still holding his post in Saudi Arabia. He expressed hope that Mr. Musa could be invited in the investigation for him to shed light on the complaints and grievances of the so-called sex-for-flight victims.

Senator Sotto recalled that during the term of the late Ambassador Reynaldo "Boy" Parungao who was once the country's labor attachè to Saudi Arabia, no such incident ever occurred.

Asked whether all labor attachès of the Philippines are male, Senator Estrada replied in the affirmative.

To Senator Sotto's suggestion to consider the appointment of female labor attachès, Senator Estrada said that he had already suggested the same thing to the DFA and the DOLE; however, he was told that Riyadh, as the host government, preferred men

and would not accept female labor attachès as a matter of policy.

At this point, Senator Sotto asked instead on the possibility of appointing a female supervisor. Senator Estrada said that female appointees are allowed in other parts of Saudi Arabia and that it was only in Riyadh that a restriction has been issued.

## REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Estrada and the interpellation of Senator Sotto to the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations as the primary committee, and to the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development as the secondary committee.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS (Continuation)

Pursuant to Section 13, Rule X of the Rules of the Senate, upon nomination by Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

### *Committee on Foreign Relations*

*Chairperson:* Defensor Santiago

*Members:*

Angara	Legarda
Pimentel	Lapid
Villar	Marcos
Cayetano (P)	Revilla
Guingona	Trillanes

### *Committee on Health and Demography*

*Chairman:* Guingona

*Vice Chairperson:* Cayetano (P)

*Members:*

Angara	Legarda
Aquino	Defensor Santiago

### *Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws*

*Chairperson:* Defensor Santiago

*Members:*

Pimentel	Lapid
Trillanes	Marcos
Angara	Villar
Guingona	

**Committee on Rules***Members (partial list):*

Angara	Guingona
Aquino	Trillanes
Cayetano (P)	

**Committee on Electoral Reforms  
and People's Participation**

<i>Chairman:</i>	Pimentel
<i>Vice Chairperson:</i>	Poe
<i>Member:</i>	Legarda

**Committee on Government Corporations  
and Public Enterprises***Chairperson:*

Senator Villar vice Senator Trillanes

<i>Vice Chairman:</i>	Trillanes
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**Committee on Ways and Means***Member:*

Senator Defensor Santiago vice Senator Poe

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

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

*It was 4:37 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 4:37 p.m., the session was resumed.

**MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO**

Senator Sotto informed the Body that the Minority would be nominating their members to the different committees in the next session. However, he said that Senator Estrada would be nominating members of the Minority as chair of committees.

**MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ESTRADA**

For his part, Senator Estrada expressed gratitude to the Majority headed by Senate President Drilon for giving the Minority five vital committees.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

*(Continuation)*

Upon nomination by Senator Estrada, there being no objection, the following senators were elected chairs of the committees hereunder indicated:

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

<i>Chairman:</i>	Estrada
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**Committee on Agrarian Reform**

<i>Chairman:</i>	Honasan
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**Committee on Social Justice, Welfare  
and Rural Development**

<i>Chairman:</i>	Binay
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**Committee on Urban Planning, Housing  
and Resettlement**

<i>Chairman:</i>	Ejercito
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**Committee on Economic Affairs**

<i>Chairman:</i>	Ejercito
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Upon nomination by Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committee hereunder indicated:

**Committee on Civil Service  
and Government Reorganization**

<i>Chairman:</i>	Trillanes
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*Members:*

Marcos	Legarda
Aquino	Villar

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

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

*It was 4:40 p.m.*

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**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

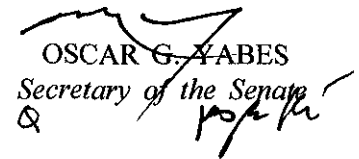
At 4:41 p.m., the session was resumed.

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

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

*It was 4:41 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

OSCAR G. YABES  
Secretary of the Senate  


Approved on July 30, 2013