



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

# Journal

**SESSION NO. 5**  
Tuesday, July 30, 2013

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

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Tuesday, July 30, 2013

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:04 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

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

*Let us put ourselves in the presence of the Lord.*

Our God and Father in heaven, we acknowledge with gratitude Your sovereign rule over our lives as senators and citizens of this nation.

As we begin our work in the Sixteenth Congress, may You give us wisdom in drafting relevant laws especially those that will uplift the lives of the poor.

For the sake of Your people, we ask for unity that we can rise above individual differences of opinion.

Thank you for allowing us to serve You and to serve our people well. We pray all these in Jesus' Name.

Amen.

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

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

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

Senator Lapid was on official mission.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

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**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. 4 (July 29, 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. 201, entitled

**AN ACT TO DEVELOP FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION**

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 202, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 203, entitled

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF STUDENT FARE DISCOUNT PRIVILEGES ON LAND, WATER AND AIR TRANSPORT UTILITIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 204, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 205, entitled

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049 ENTITLED, "AN ACT REGULATING HAZING AND OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES IN FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

**To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 206, entitled

**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 21 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002**

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

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

Senate Bill No. 207, entitled

**AGUS-PULANGUI PRIVATIZATION EXEMPTION ACT OF 2013**

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

**To the Committees on Energy; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises**

Senate Bill No. 208, entitled

AN ACT AUTOMATICALLY DECREASING THE VALUE-ADDED TAX RATE ON PETROLEUM PRODUCTS DEPENDING ON INCREASING WORLD CRUDE OIL PRICES

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

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

Senate Bill No. 209, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485 ENTITLED, AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE ANIMAL WELFARE IN THE PHILIPPINES OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF 1998

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

**To the Committee on Agriculture and Food**

Senate Bill No. 210, entitled

AN ACT TO DECRIMINALIZE LIBEL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

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

Senate Bill No. 211, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A TOTAL BAN ON ANTI-PERSONNEL LANDMINES, FOR OTHER PROHIBITIONS OR RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF LANDMINES, BOOBY-TRAPS AND OTHER DEVICES, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE A PHILIPPINE COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON LANDMINES, AND FOR RELATED PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

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

Senate Bill No. 212, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE OF THE PHILIPPINES", APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

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

Senate Bill No. 213, entitled

AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN OF THE GOVERNMENT AMENDING AND REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165 ENTITLED AN ACT INSTITUTING THE COMPREHENSIVE DRUGS ACT OF 2002, REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6425, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 1972, AS AMENDED, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

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

Senate Bill No. 214, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING THE MINIMUM HEIGHT REQUIREMENT FOR APPLICANTS TO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), AND BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP)

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

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

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Senate Bill No. 215, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 216, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING SECTION 12 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1869 AS AMENDED AND ALLOCATING A PORTION OF THE FUNDS GENERATED BY THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION TO STATE RUN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AS FINANCIAL EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

**To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 217, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE RIGHT OF CITIZENS TO INFORMATION HELD BY THE GOVERNMENT

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 218, entitled

AN ACT DETERRING AND PUNISHING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERA-

TION OF CRIMINAL STREET GANGS, RECRUITMENT OF INDIVIDUALS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE COMMISSION OF GANG CRIMES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 219, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Trade and Commerce**

Senate Bill No. 220, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING PENSIONS UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

**To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development**

Senate Bill No. 221, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN AUTOMATIC PAY INCREASE TO ANY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO IS DEPLOYED AWAY FROM THE MEMBER'S PERMANENT STATION OR, IN THE CASE OF A MEMBER OF A

RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE MEMBER'S HOME OF RECORD, ONCE THE DEPLOYMENT PERIOD EXCEEDS 180 DAYS OF CONTINUOUS DUTY

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 222, entitled

AN ACT DIRECTING THE REDUCTION OF ELECTRICITY RATES THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT SHARE IN THE DISCOVERY, EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT AND/OR PRODUCTION OF INDIGENOUS SOURCES OF ENERGY FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOWERING THE COST OF ELECTRICITY

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

**To the Committee on Energy**

Senate Bill No. 223, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT OF BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS IN EVERY BARANGAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, FURTHER EXPANDING THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 224, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL INDEPENDENT POWER PRODUCERS, GENERATION COMPANIES OR ENERGY

RESOURCE DEVELOPERS TO REMIT THE AMOUNT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO SET ASIDE AS FINANCIAL BENEFIT DIRECTLY TO THE HOST COMMUNITIES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 225, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING INDIVIDUALS WHO SELL, GIVE OR IN ANY WAY SHARE ANY TYPE OF FIREWORKS OR FIRECRACKERS TO MINOR CHILDREN 15 YEARS OLD AND BELOW

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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

Senate Bill No. 226, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING TITLE FOUR OF BOOK FOUR OF THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES PROVIDING FOR WOMEN AND GENDER EDUCATION IN THE WORKPLACE

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

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

Senate Bill No. 227, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING ALL FORMS OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT AND ALL OTHER FORMS OF HUMILIATING OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN AND PROMOTING POSITIVE AND NON-VIOLENT DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy  
S. Binay

**To the Committees on Youth, Women and  
Family Relations; Justice and Human Rights;  
and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 228, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 9262, DEFINING ELECTRONIC  
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN OR  
E-VAW, PROVIDING PROTECTIVE  
MEASURES AND PRESCRIBING  
PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy  
S. Binay

**To the Committees on Youth, Women and  
Family Relations; and Science and Technology**

Senate Bill No. 229, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING OWNERS AND/OR  
OPERATORS OF MALLS, DEPART-  
MENT STORES, STALLS AND  
SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS TO  
GRANT AND ALLOW THEIR WOMEN  
EMPLOYEES ASSIGNED IN SALES  
15-MINUTE RESTS EVERY TWO  
HOURS OF CONTINUOUS AND  
UNINTERRUPTED SALES AND  
STORE OPERATION ASSIGNMENTS,  
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE  
SECTION 132(A), CHAPTER 1, TITLE  
III, OF THE LABOR CODE OF THE  
PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy  
S. Binay

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

Senate Bill No. 230, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT THE SAFETY,  
MORALS, AND WELL-BEING OF  
SCHOOL CHILDREN BY PROHIBIT-  
ING LISTED SEX OFFENDERS FROM  
ENTERING SCHOOL PREMISES OR

SCHOOL ACTIVITIES, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy  
S. Binay

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and  
Culture; and Justice and Human Rights**

Senate Bill No. 231, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE  
ARBITRATION COMMISSION AND  
INSTITUTIONALIZING COMPULSORY  
ARBITRATION FOR SPECIFIC  
AREAS OF DISPUTE, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy  
S. Binay

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

Senate Bill No. 232, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE DIS-  
COVERY AND PRODUCTION OF  
INDIGENOUS PETROLEUM AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy  
S. Binay

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

Senate Bill No. 233, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUGAR  
CANE INDUSTRY, AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy  
S. Binay

**To the Committees on Agriculture and  
Food; Government Corporations and Public  
Enterprises; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 234, entitled

AN ACT TO REMOVE OR EXCLUDE  
REFINED SUGAR FROM THE LIST

OF PRODUCTS COVERED BY MANDATORY FOOD FORTIFICATION, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8976, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FOOD FORTIFICATION ACT OF 2000

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 235, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR STIFFER PENALTIES ON ILLEGAL DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE ARTICLE 254 OF TITLE VIII CHAPTER ONE OF ACT 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 236, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF THE CRIME OF ECONOMIC SABOTAGE AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1689

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 237, entitled

AN ACT LIMITING THE AMOUNT OF WEIGHT OF BAGS CARRIED BY CHILDREN IN SCHOOL AND IMPLEMENTING PROACTIVE MEASURES TO PROTECT SCHOOLCHILDREN'S HEALTH FROM THE ADVERSE EFFECT OF HEAVY SCHOOL BAG

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 238, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A CACAO RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER, AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 239, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE CRIME OF COIN HOARDING AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lapid

**To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

Senate Bill No. 240, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL PROGRAM TO MITIGATE AND COMBAT AGE-RELATED MACULAR DEGENERATION, IMPLEMENTING A NATION-WIDE INFORMATION, EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 241, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM ON AUTISM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES



Introduced by Senator Lapid

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 242, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL SCREENING PROGRAM TO COMBAT PROSTATE CANCER, IMPLEMENTING A NATIONWIDE INFORMATION, EDUCATION, COMMUNICATION (IEC) CAMPAIGN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 243, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 244, entitled

AN ACT SEPARATING THE CITY OF ANGELES FROM THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA TO CONSTITUTE THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF ANGELES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

**To the Committee on Rules**

Senate Bill No. 245, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING CHAPTER ONE,

TITLE THIRTEEN, BOOK TWO OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES THEREBY DECRIMINALIZING LIBEL AND DEFAMATION

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (A.P.)

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

Senate Bill No. 246, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SUPPORT MECHANISM FOR THE PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GEARED TOWARDS THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE INTERESTS OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (A.P.)

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

Senate Bill No. 247, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROGRAMS THAT PROMOTE THE WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) AND THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) PERSONNEL THROUGH THE ENHANCEMENT OF RECREATIONAL AND HEALTH FACILITIES IN THE POLICE AND MILITARY CAMPS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (A.P.)

**To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; National Defense and Security; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 248, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 19 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175, OTHER-

**WISE KNOWN AS THE CYBER-CRIME PREVENTION ACT OF 2012**

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (A.P.)

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

Senate Bill No. 249, entitled

**AN ACT REPEALING SECTIONS 4(c) (4), 5, 6, AND 7 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10175, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CYBERCRIME PREVENTION ACT OF 2012**

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (A.P.)

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

Senate Bill No. 250, entitled

**AN ACT MODERNIZING HEALTHCARE AND HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE BY EARMARKING THE ENTIRE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE CHARITY FUND FOR SUCH PURPOSE, THEREBY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1169, AS AMENDED BY BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 42**

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH  
OF SENATOR LEGARDA**

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

**STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT 2013**

We open a new Congress with much fervor as we take on the role of representing the varied issues and challenges that our citizens expect us to address through legislation. And though we have different advocacies, I wish to enjoin

everyone, my colleagues old and new, to take a closer look at the state of our environment and how it is intrinsically linked to climate change—the greatest humanitarian and development challenge of our time.

Working our way backwards, let us look at one of the most visible outcome of the degradation of our environment – the increasing impact of climate-related disasters.

Evidence from the IPCC Special Report on Extreme Weather Events suggests that climate change has changed the magnitude and frequency of some extreme weather and climate events.

We are all aware that typhoons are normal occurrences in a tropical country like the Philippines, with some 20 heading our way every year. But lately, the occurrence of destructive torrential rains has been increasing even with the absence of typhoons.

This means that the heavy and excessive rainfall we are experiencing is part of what climate scientists call “the new norm,” which leads to some weather extremes that are more widespread and harder to predict.

The SREX also found that even without climate change, disaster risk would continue to increase in countries like the Philippines, as more people and assets are exposed to weather extremes.

As an archipelago, 70% of the cities and municipalities in our country are in coastal areas, and as a 2013 World Bank report revealed, 74% of the country’s population is vulnerable to the impact of natural hazards.

If we think we have problems now, we should be more wary of the future. For example, the international bank HSBC has predicted that the Philippines would leapfrog 27 places to become the 16<sup>th</sup> largest economy in the world by 2050, driven by an increasing and productive population – up to 70% more Filipinos by the year 2050.

However, if we do not manage our environment well, and make our urban and land-use-planning risk-sensitive, this increase in population and economic activity would translate to an equivalent increase in exposure to disasters.

Our environment and the ecosystem services it provides support human life and provide the basic materials for our economy, such as food, fuel and clean water. It also

sequesters carbon emissions, regulates erosion and landslides, and reduces floods.

In terms of legislation, we have enough laws and policies needed to help us achieve sustainable and disaster-resilient communities. It is all stated there — Philippine Environmental Impact Statement System, Marine Pollution Control Law, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Ecological Solid Waste Management Act, Renewable Energy Act, Environmental Awareness and Education Act, Climate Change Law, NDRRMC Law, the Act Creating the People's Survival Fund, Toxic Substances and Hazardous and Nuclear Wastes Control Act and many, many more. The number of environmental and climate change laws is no guarantee for effective action. In fact, the UN has lauded the country's laws on climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR) as the "best in the world." However, the UN also noted that the challenge is to translate national policies, plans and programs into local action with measurable gains.

It is now more than 12 years ago since we enacted the Solid Waste Management Law, but the NEDA noted that in 2012, only nine out of 17 local government units (LGUs) in Metro Manila have submitted a solid waste management plan, and only 414 of 1,610 LGUs nationwide, or only 25.7%, have complied with the national plan.

We need to ask why some LGUs can comply with the law, while others cannot. We need to understand what enables action since only through effective enforcement that these laws gain their true meaning.

It is in this light that I will push for an environmental audit of those mandated by the above laws, to identify whose and where implementation can be supported and how to remove barriers to implementation.

There are things that we are doing right to protect our environment, but there are still many areas that need to be improved. For example, the air quality of our country is still dirty, gradually improving, however. In 2004, the total suspended particulates in our air was 145 micrograms per cubic meter. By 2011, the TSP level was 99.

The state of our forests needs to improve, as well. According to the DENR, of the country's total land area of about 30 million hectares, only 7.168 million hectares, or 24.27%, are forest covered. The ideal should be at least 12 million hectares or 48% of the total land area.

The past three decades have seen the rapid decline of the Philippine coastal ecosystem,

which also needs to improve — 70% of the mangroves and 20% of its sea-grass have been destroyed; nearly 90% percent of coral reefs are under threat; and biomass of coastal fish stocks now stand at only 10%.

To improve the situation, we need to start looking at how existing initiatives like the National Greening Program and the Integrated Coastal Management Program can be implemented fully.

In parallel, we need to look at how sometimes a greener approach can be a more resilient approach. For example, instead of spending U.S.\$6.8 billion in drainage improvements, New York invested U.S.\$5.3 billion in green infrastructure — permeable pavements, more green areas, and other measures to address drainage capacity. Green infrastructure acts like a sponge — absorbing and regulating peak water flows.

What we need is a "can-do" attitude that is positive and focuses more on what can be done, instead of what should not be done.

We need to promote a new approach in dealing with climate change and disasters that would not only protect our environment, but would also reap development benefits. To adapt to the new norm requires from us a change in perspective, a change in mindset, a change in the way we think and the way we do things. In essence: *Building resilience should be an attitude.*

With resilience as an attitude, advancing climate change adaptation throughout the country could pay off.

A new study done by Environmental Business International, Inc. estimates that in the next seven years, the annual market for "climate adaptation services" will grow by 12% to 20% per year, becoming a \$700-million annual market in the United States, and \$2 billion globally.

With resilience as an attitude, disaster risk reduction is not a cost, but rather an investment that brings benefits now and in the future.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is presently developing a compelling narrative that demonstrates the contribution of disaster risk reduction (DRR) investments into sustainable development. In the case of Pakistan, JICA has calculated that if DRR investment is ensured, approximately 25% more economic growth is projected for the year 2042 compared to the case without DRR investment.

With resilience as an attitude, we appreciate the concept of "the glass is half-full" instead of

“half-empty.” We can, therefore, promote the scaling up of existing national programs to rectify the social and economic structures that breed disaster risk and trap the poor in the vicious cycle of risk and poverty.

With resilience as my attitude, I therefore propose that we examine how the government’s social protection programs, in particular the conditional cash transfer and other poverty reduction-related initiatives, can be scaled up to not only address the structural poverty, but also build resilience against the recurring impact of natural hazards, which may well be holding them to the very poverty we are trying to address in the first place.

With the support of this august Chamber, together with the University of the Philippines, we will also help establish the center for biodiversity and resilience to help the Philippines and other countries which are vulnerable to disasters. We will be at the forefront of strategic planning and operations that will address the adverse effects of climate change and prevent disasters.

Just last night, I met with U.P. president Pascual, as well as UPAA president, Mr. Rivera and the UPAA board, and they were more than willing to collaborate for the establishment of the U.P. Center for Biodiversity and Resilience which will not only serve the University of the Philippines but the whole Asia Pacific as well. And the president of the University of the Philippines has already received the initiative from several universities in other vulnerable nations in the Asia Pacific.

Again, with the support of many U.P. alumni present in this Chamber today and the non-U.P. alumni as well, who believe that vulnerability should be a national priority, I seek their cooperation and support.

I strongly believe that scaling up our social protection program, with more innovative means to build the resilience of poor families, would deliver the genuine reduction in poverty that the Aquino Administration longs for.

We cannot let disasters keep the poor forever poor. We cannot let recurrent disasters take away from them their lives and the little that they have in life. Social protection should effectively address the underlying causes of their poverty, reduce their vulnerability, and build their strong resilience against disasters. If we wish the poor to enjoy their rightful share of the fruits of development, then building resilience must be at the heart of the country’s social protection program.

While heavy and excessive rainfall is part of the new norm, we cannot remain passive to the growing risk that disrupts our social and economic activities. We cannot always have flooded streets, heavy traffic, and stranded commuters in the metropolis, washed away homes, collapsed bridges, displaced families, and devastated farmlands, in every intense rain or typhoon.

Let us learn the lessons from our past. Let us reduce the vulnerability and exposure of our people and our economy to the impact of natural hazards. Let us intensify our efforts in disaster prevention, mitigation, and preparedness. Let us be more proactive and more effective in reducing risk.

As we pursue the path towards sustainable development, I am confident that with the attitude of resilience and a strong resolve to make a difference for the Filipino people, we will be able to weather the many challenges of our fast-changing environment and let our resilience be the new norm for us.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL**

At the outset, Senator Pimentel thanked Senator Legarda for introducing a new word in the DRR terminology, which is “resilience.” He said that he got involved in DRR planning and preparedness because of personal experiences when typhoon *Ondoy* hit Marikina and when typhoon *Sendong* hit Cagayan de Oro.

Asked whether there was a Filipino translation of the term “resilience,” Senator Legarda informed the Body that when she was drafting her privilege speech last week, she initially wanted to deliver it in Filipino, however, even upon consultation with the *Komisyong ng Wikang Filipino*, it was not able to come up with the appropriate Filipino term for resilience.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Pimentel, the session was suspended.

*It was 3:37 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:37 p.m., the session was resumed.

Upon resumption, Senator Legarda said that the agency has not yet come up with a Filipino term that

perfectly fits the word “resilience.” Nonetheless, she explained that she used the word “resilience” to illustrate how one should be able to rise from problems just like how a bamboo would rise and not fall despite the strong winds.

Senator Pimentel said that he would endeavor to look for the equivalent term of “resilience” in Filipino and even in *Bisaya* because to use this new buzzword “resilience” in the local dialects or the vernacular would make the Filipinos understand better and picture in their minds this value or attitude of resilience. He said that he intended to continue his initiatives for a disaster risk reduction and multi-hazard awareness summit and accommodate this new idea and attitude of resilience.

Senator Legarda said that next year, the UN will launch “resilience” not only as a buzzword but as a global platform in its initiatives on disaster risk reduction and climate change, and she took pride that the Philippine Senate started the use of the word several months ahead of the UN because the Philippines is considered as one of the most vulnerable nations in the world, and it has to lead the global resilience platform of the UNISDR.

Senator Legarda said that she was challenged to look for the Filipino or Visayan word for “resilience” and proposed that in the absence of a local term for “resilience,” *resilyens* be used.

At this point, Senator Sotto suggested that since there was no direct Filipino, Tagalog or Visayan word for resilience, the Spanish word “*elastico*” be used.

Senator Legarda said that Senator Marcos googled the term “resilience” and it meant elastic and tensile.

Asked by Senator Pimentel for examples on how to highlight this attitude of resilience to be used in his modules for the disaster-risk reduction summits that he intends to continue organizing, Senator Legarda stated that all the environmental laws enacted so far have to be followed, among these are: 1) the Solid Waste Management Law, which is the institutionalization of segregation of waste at source, recycling and composting; 2) the Clean Water Act, which compels those who throw toxic waste in the Pasig River and Manila Bay to follow the law; and 3) the early warning system of the DOST-PAGASA. She

pointed out that the provision of early warning systems should not only be in the form of text messages but also include the use of the whistle system, the red-flag system and the buddy-system in the evacuation of people in hazardous and risky areas to safer grounds. She also stressed the importance of using the geohazard maps distributed by the Mines and Geosciences Bureau of the DENR and the DOST. She said that these maps should be used and followed by the LGU executives in terms of planning for their cities, municipalities and barangays.

She believed that the tragedy, death and destruction in Barangay Andap, New Bataan, Compostela Valley during typhoon *Pablo* could have been avoided had the LGU used the geohazard map of the MGB-DENR which has been uploaded since 2007 but lamentably, she said, not all barangay captains have access to the website.

Senator Legarda stated that had people known that the barangay hall where they were evacuated was colored purple in the geohazard map, which meant it was a “no-habitation zone,” then casualties during tropical storm *Pablo* would have been minimized or avoided. However, she clarified that no one was to blame, not even the barangay captain. She underscored the need for sufficient information as regards evacuation procedures, particularly on data pertaining to geohazard areas.

Senator Pimentel urged the DENR to fast-track the reproduction of accurate geohazard maps for distribution not only to the provincial or city levels but also down to the barangays and *puroks*. He also expressed hope that the government could set aside resources so that the proper agencies could come up with better geohazard maps with lower scales, for instance, 1:10,000.

#### INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ENRILE

Senator Enrile noted that Senator Legarda mentioned in her speech New York City’s investment in “green infrastructure” to safeguard the city during calamities and natural disasters. Senator Legarda explained that green infrastructure does not necessarily pertain to planting trees; these are efforts or activities geared toward addressing, for instance, the drainage capacity of the area by cleaning and declogging it, using renewable energy, and retrofitting infrastructure to adapt to climate change.

Asked whether the calamities that happened in other parts of the world, such as New York, are comparable in magnitude to those in the Philippines, Senator Legarda stated that typhoons in America may be stronger than those in the Philippines, but because of political will, particularly in closing their mass transport system during such eventualities, New York suffered less damages and casualties.

Senator Enrile then asked if the Department of Environment and Natural Resources could carry on such tasks as cited in the green infrastructure program. Senator Legarda clarified that the green infrastructure program was merely used as an example to illustrate that New York saw the program as an investment rather than a cost. She added that the program would not only involve the DENR but likewise the National Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC) in collaboration with the proper government agencies.

Asked if New York has also experienced earthquakes, Senator Legarda stated that she could not confirm whether it had.

Since New York was used as the model, Senator Enrile asked whether earthquake survival was also included in its green infrastructure program. Senator Legarda explained that different areas have different susceptibility or vulnerability to different natural hazards. She admitted that she has no idea whether New York has an earthquake fault similar to the one crisscrossing Metro Manila. She clarified that she mentioned New York because when it invested in green infrastructure, the damage wrought by hurricanes *Sandy* and *Irene* became of lesser magnitude.

But Senator Enrile argued that the Philippines has suffered more calamities compared to the United States, except in California that experienced earthquakes, noting that the country is always visited by typhoons, earthquakes and other calamities, and that its coastlines are slowly claimed by the sea. Senator Legarda replied that precisely the Philippines has been named as one of the most vulnerable areas in the world as regards natural disasters and calamities. She said that while it is indeed difficult to compare the Philippines to countries that are progressive and with available resources, there is all the more need to prepare and not merely to respond in order that the negative effects of such natural hazards could be minimized.

To the observation that the country's biggest drainage systems are the rivers, Senator Legarda affirmed that these are where floodwaters flow during heavy rains.

Noting that the country experiences a multitude of calamities, including forest fires, dry spells, and drought, Senator Enrile asked if enough resources and funding would be available should such a program be implemented. Senator Legarda admitted that funding and resources are never enough to effect a complete paradigm shift and implement all the laws. However, she said that if the laws will not be applied or implemented, and absent a paradigm shift that would make resilience an attitude and would put DRR in the mainstream of every government agency, then there would be more adverse effects such as more lives lost, and a negative impact on the country's economy.

Senator Enrile inquired where the programs could be jumpstarted — whether in the drainage system in order to prevent the destruction of infrastructure and to minimize the problems of people during typhoon and floods, or in the urban centers where skyscrapers are big hazards during earthquakes. Senator Legarda clarified that while both are disasters, typhoons and earthquakes are two different issues. As regards earthquakes, she revealed that scientists have predicted an imminent earthquake happening within the next 50 years, and she pointed out that no law could prevent such disaster from happening, so that the country must prepare for it by retrofitting public structures and infrastructure so that it can withstand the intensity of the earthquake.

Asked by Senator Enrile whether the country has enough firetrucks and equipment to put out fires of bigger magnitude, Senator Legarda admitted that the government is not fully prepared so that efforts should be focused on saving lives by way of spreading a greater level of awareness and by putting resources together. Moreover, she suggested that the program start in households or at the barangay level. She cited best practices in Barangay San Francisco, in Camotes Island, a coastal barangay that is always flooded during heavy rains and typhoons. She said that when the barangay implemented waste segregation and an early warning system to warn the locals of impending heavy rains and typhoons, it has since achieved zero casualty during calamities.

For his part, Senator Enrile cited Cagayan Valley which has the longest river in the country that serves

as a catch basin for water that flows from the Cordilleras and Sierra Madre. He said that at present, the river is already shallow and heavily silted that it overflows during heavy rains. He believed it would be better for government to allot funding to dredge major river systems in the country so that more people could benefit from it. Senator Legarda stated that river dredging, along with the production of geohazard maps, installation of early warning devices, waste segregation and planting of mangroves, is part of the "to-do list" aimed at improving and protecting the lives of the people.

Senator Enrile revealed that in the Ilocos region, the coastlines have eroded without warning and some were claimed by the sea. He said that his childhood house in Cagayan was bounded by a river known as the Mison River which empties the water to the sea in the south side, and in the north side was Babuyan Channel. He recalled that from his barangay, one had to walk 3.5 kilometers in order to get to the coastline, but at present, it is almost a stone's throw away from his house, and the river traversed by big boats before has now become impassable even by bancas.

Senator Legarda maintained that Senator Enrile's observation was not contradictory to her privilege speech as she confirmed that Cagayan River and other bodies of water like Laguna de Bay, have become shallow due to siltation and soil erosion, among others. She agreed that the state of the country's river systems must be looked into in light of this problem. Senator Enrile recalled that the rivers in Central Luzon, like Pampanga River and Agno River, were once deep but have since been heavily silted that a light rainfall would bring about flood. He lamented that while people blame the illegal loggers, there are no reforestation efforts and no programs to dredge the rivers.

To Senator Legarda's suggestion that an agency be assigned to make an inventory of the river systems in the country, Senator Enrile pointed out that a lot of inventories have been made by the DENR and DPWH since time immemorial. Senator Legarda stated that during the budget hearings, the relevant agencies could be tasked to look into the state of the river systems and to make sure that there are enough funds for desiltation, declogging and dredging of the waterways.

Senator Enrile stressed that there was no need to copy what other countries are doing because the

problem really is lack of budget, so the government should learn to prioritize projects. He noted that the government has funds for programs like Conditional Cash Transfer that, in the long run, would make the country bankrupt but has no funds for programs that would address the basic condition of the country, like deepening the water arteries to avoid flashfloods.

Senator Legarda agreed that dredging is an engineering solution that should be given priority in order to solve the flooding problem in Metro Manila. She expressed hope that the Philippine River Basin Administration Act pending in the Chamber be also prioritized.

### INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR VILLAR

At the outset, Senator Villar recalled that when she was the congresswoman representing Las Piñas City, she bought backhoes and dredged 56 kilometers of river, so that after 10 years, the city has become flood-free. She surmised that the problem could be solved if the local government has the will to act on it.

Moreover, Senator Villar agreed that there are enough laws and policies that would help attain a sustainable and disaster-resilient communities. However, she lamented that there is lack of implementation, and as a practical person, she believed that laws are useless if not implemented.

Asked on the agencies in charge of implementing the relevant laws, Senator Legarda replied that it varies depending on the scope and purpose of the law. For example, she said that the LGUs are tasked to implement Republic Act No. 9003 – the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act – which, to date, has only 25.7% compliance.

Asked what should be done to non-complying LGUs, Senator Legarda conceded that it was quite difficult to enforce the penal provisions of the law.

To the observation that the oversight committee is responsible for ensuring the implementation of the laws, Senator Legarda assured the Body that with the help of her colleagues, she would do her best to undertake the task as the new chair of the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources. Since she authored Republic Act No. 9003 twelve years ago, she said that she has a benchmark for environmental audit and hoped that the percentage

of compliance would increase. She admitted that it is a challenge to efficiently and effectively implement the law which could not be done without the resources and the cooperation of the various government agencies and LGUs.

Senator Villar stressed that non-cooperation would render the efforts of other LGUs useless since cities and municipalities are connected. To illustrate, she said that if the law would be implemented in Las Piñas but not in Parañaque or Bacoor — and those cities share the same river — then it would be problematic. She pointed out that there are about 1,600 LGUs in the country, and the “clean and green” and Kalasag awardees remain a minority. She lamented that the call for solid waste management, environmental awareness and education, and disaster risk reduction was like a cry in the wilderness. She emphasized that the law should be given teeth and the agencies and LGUs should be compelled to comply, otherwise, the environmental problems will never be solved. She reiterated her suggestions to summon the agencies and LGUs involved in the implementation of the laws.

Senator Legarda agreed with the suggestion. She said that her speech aimed to bring to the attention of the Body the urgency of the situation.

#### **REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEES**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the speech of Senator Legarda and the interpellations thereon were referred to the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Climate Change.

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

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (A) acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following:

- Usec. Demetrio L. Ignacio, Jr. and Directors Ricardo L. Calderon and Theresa Mundita S. Lim of the DENR;
- Mayor Maximino Seno of Opol, Misamis Oriental; and
- Vice Mayor Diosdado Obsioma and Councilor Donsals Ellarina of Laguindingan, Misamis Oriental.

Senate President Drilon welcomed the guests to the Senate.

#### **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 Local Government***

*Members:*

Angara                      Poe

##### ***Committee on Public Works***

*Members:*

Legarda                      Guingona

##### ***Committee on Cooperatives***

*Member:*

Villar

##### ***Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs***

Senator Legarda vice Senator Trillanes

##### ***Committee on Public Information and Mass Media***

Senator Trillanes vice Senator Legarda

##### ***Committee on Environment and Natural Resources***

*Vice Chairman:* Honasan

*Member:* Angara

##### ***Committee on Foreign Relations***

*Vice Chairman:* Angara

##### ***Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation***

*Vice Chairman:* Pimentel

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

*Vice Chairmen:*

Trillanes                      Pimentel

##### ***Committee on Agriculture and Food***

*Vice Chairmen:*

Cayetano (A)                      Poe



**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

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

*It was 4:23 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 4:32 p.m., the session was resumed.

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS**

Pursuant to Section 18, Article VI of the Constitution, upon nomination by Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, on the part of the Majority, the following senators were elected to the Commission on Appointments:

*Members:*

Recto	Legarda
Guingona	Pimentel
Marcos	Trillanes
Cayetano (A)	Osmeña

Senator Cayetano (A) manifested that he will nominate one more member in the next session in consultation with Senators Defensor Santiago and Lapid.

Upon nomination by Senator Estrada, there being no objection, on the part of the Minority, the following senators were elected to the Commission on Appointments:

*Members:*

Enrile	Sotto
Estrada	

**MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENATE ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL**

Pursuant to Section 17, Article VI of the Constitution, upon nomination by Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, on the part of the Majority, the following senators were elected to the Senate Electoral Tribunal:

*Members:*

Aquino	Cayetano (P)
Villar	Angara

Upon nomination by Senator Estrada, there being no objection, on the part of the Minority, the following senators were elected to the Senate Electoral Tribunal:

*Members:*

Honasan	Binay
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**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

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

*It was 4:36 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 4:36 p.m., the session was resumed.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**  
*(Continuation)*

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

***Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations***

*Members:*

Binay	Estrada
Ejercito	Honasan

***Committee on Accounts***

*Members:*

Binay	Sotto
Ejercito	

***Committee on Agrarian Reform***

*Chairman:* Honasan

*Member:* Sotto

***Committee on Agriculture and Food***

*Members:*

Binay	Honasan
Ejercito	

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***Committee on Amateur Sports  
Competitiveness***

*Members:*

Ejercito          Honasan

***Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions  
and Currencies***

*Members:*

Estrada          Sotto

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

*Members:*

Binay            Ejercito

***Committee on Climate Change***

*Members:*

Binay            Honasan

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

*Members:*

Estrada          Sotto  
Honasan

***Committee on Cooperatives***

*Members:*

Binay            Ejercito

***Committee on Cultural Communities***

*Members:*

Binay            Honasan

***Committee on Economic Affairs***

*Chairman:*          Ejercito

*Member:*            Honasan

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

*Members:*

Binay            Estrada  
Ejercito          Honasan

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

*Members:*

Ejercito          Sotto  
Honasan

***Committee on Energy***

*Members:*

Binay            Estrada  
Ejercito          Honasan

***Committee on Environment  
and Natural Resources***

*Members:*

Binay            Honasan  
Ejercito          Sotto

***Committee on Ethics and Privileges***

*Members:*

Binay            Sotto

***Committee on Finance***

*Members:*

Binay            Estrada  
Ejercito          Sotto

***Committee on Foreign Relations***

*Members:*

Binay            Estrada  
Ejercito          Honasan

***Committee on Games and Amusements***

*Members:*

Estrada          Honasan

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

*Members:*

Binay            Ejercito

***Committee on Health and Demography***

*Members:*

Binay            Sotto  
Honasan

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***Committee on Justice and Human Rights***

*Members:*

Estrada            Honasan

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

*Chairman:*            Estrada

*Members:*

Ejercito            Sotto

***Committee on Local Government***

*Members:*

Binay                Honasan  
Ejercito

***Committee on National Defense and Security***

*Members:*

Binay                Honasan  
Ejercito            Sotto  
Estrada

***Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation***

*Members:*

Honasan            Sotto

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

*Members:*

Estrada            Honasan

***Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs***

*Members:*

Honasan            Sotto

there are other members in the Majority who are requesting additional memberships in certain committees and that he would have to consult both sides to accommodate such requests.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**  
*(Continuation)*

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

***Committee on Public Services***

*Members:*

Ejercito            Honasan  
Estrada

***Committee on Public Works***

*Members:*

Binay                Estrada  
Ejercito

***Committee on Rules***

*Members:*

Estrada            Sotto

***Committee on Science and Technology***

*Members:*

Binay                Honasan

***Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development***

*Chairperson:*        Binay

*Member:*              Honasan

***Committee on Tourism***

*Members:*

Binay                Sotto

***Committee on Trade and Commerce***

*Members:*

Ejercito            Honasan

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

*Chairman:*            Ejercito

**MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO**

Senator Sotto stated that for the Committee on Public Services, the membership of the Majority would be 8.25%, while the Minority would be 2.75%. Thereafter, he nominated Senators Ejercito, Estrada and Honasan to the committee.

Senator Cayetano (A) stated that while there is no such thing as .25 or .75 of a person, normally the Majority and Minority coalitions would consult and give in to each other. He informed the Body that

*Vice Chairperson:* Binay

*Member:* Sotto

***Committee on Ways and Means***

*Members:*

Binay	Honasan
Ejercito	Sotto

***Committee on Youth, Women  
and Family Relations***

*Members:*

Binay	Ejercito
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**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

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

*It was 4:43 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 4:45p.m., the session was resumed.

**WITHDRAWAL  
OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered the nomination of Senators Ejercito and Honasan to the Committee on Amateur Sports Competitiveness as withdrawn.

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Atty. Edwin B. Bellen, read the following resolutions which the Chair referred to the committees hereunder indicated:

Senate Joint Resolution No. 1, entitled

JOINT RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE COMBAT DUTY PAY OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) FROM A MINIMUM OF FIVE PER CENTUM (5%) TO A MAXIMUM OF TWENTY-FIVE PER CENTUM (25%) OF THE BASE PAY OF A PRIVATE AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 1, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PLIGHT OF FILIPINO COCONUT FARMERS TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE REPORTED OUTBREAK OF SCALE INSECTS IN CALABARZON, THE RECURRING PROBLEM OF PESTILENCE AND THE STRESSES OF WEATHER DESTROYING COCO FARMS WITH THE INTENTION OF PROTECTING THE COCONUT INDUSTRY AND ITS FARMERS

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

**To the Committee on Agriculture and Food**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 2, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT A RE-EXAMINATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ANENT THE VARIOUS PROGRAMS OF THE GOVERNMENT TO HELP OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS WITH THE INTENTION OF FORMULATING FOCUSED MEANINGFUL AND VIABLE MECHANISMS INCLUDING FINANCIAL LITERACY PROGRAM TO ASSIST MIGRANT WORKERS AND THEIR FAMILIES IN THE USE OF THEIR EARNINGS

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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

## Proposed Senate Resolution No. 3, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON CIVIL SERVICE AND GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND ON FINANCE TO CONDUCT A REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, OF THE COMPENSATION SCHEDULE OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INCREASING SALARY, THEREBY ENSURING THAT IT IS RESPONSIVE TO THE PREVAILING ECONOMIC CONDITIONS

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

## Proposed Senate Resolution No. 4, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PASS-ON CHARGES OF MAYNILAD WATER AND MANILA WATER, WHICH INCLUDE THEIR INCOME TAX PAYMENTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REVISITING THE REGULATORY POWERS OF THE METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM (MWSS), AND ENSURING THAT CONSUMER RIGHTS AND WELFARE ARE PROTECTED

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committee on Public Services**

## Proposed Senate Resolution No. 5, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COMPREHENSIVE TRAFFIC PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT AMID THE WORSENING TRAFFIC GRIDLOCKS WHERE PRECIOUS RESOURCES AND MAN-HOURS ARE WASTED,

WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING IF SUCH TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT PLAN WOULD ACTUALLY EASE CONGESTION IN MAJOR URBAN CENTERS AND SPEED UP THE SAFE AND EFFICIENT MOVEMENT OF PEOPLE AND GOODS

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committee on Public Services**

## Proposed Senate Resolution No. 6, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE VIABILITY OF THE APPROVED OVER-ALL MASTER PLAN ON FLOOD MANAGEMENT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING A COMPREHENSIVE AND COST-EFFICIENT SOLUTION TO THE FLOODING PROBLEM AND WOULD IMMEDIATELY BRING RELIEF TO THE PUBLIC

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committee on Public Works**

## Proposed Senate Resolution No. 7, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT AND ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE JOB GENERATION PROGRAM OF THE GOVERNMENT IN THE FACE OF THE STRONG GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP) GROWTH IN THE FIRST QUARTER OF 2013 THAT HAS GENERATED FEWER JOBS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THAT FILIPINOS HAVE ACCESS TO QUALITY JOBS ESPECIALLY DURING PERIODS OF HIGHER ECONOMIC GROWTH

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Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Economic Affairs**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 8, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPOSAL TO CORPORATIZE PUBLIC HOSPITALS AND MEDICAL CENTERS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING THE PROVISION OF AN EFFECTIVE AND AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE SERVICE FOR ALL FILIPINOS

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 9, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SERIES OF INCREASES IN ELECTRICITY RATES REPORTEDLY DUE TO THE STRANDED DEBTS OF THE NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION (NPC) THAT ARE BEING PASSED ON TO POWER END-USERS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING A RELIABLE AND SECURE SUPPLY OF ELECTRIC POWER AT REASONABLE AND AFFORDABLE RATES

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 10, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING ARCHITECT JOSE "GERRY" ACUZAR FOR ESTABLISHING THE LAS CASAS

FILIPINAS DE ACUZAR AS A HERITAGE RESORT IN BAGAC BATAAN

Introduced by Senator Lapid

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 11, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON FOREIGN RELATIONS AND ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO LOOK INTO THE ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT OF SELECTED EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND STAFF POSTED IN THE MIDDLE EAST ON THE SEXUAL EXPLOITATION OF DISTRESSED OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS CURRENTLY BEING SHELTERED INSIDE EMBASSY PREMISES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF STRENGTHENING CURRENT MECHANISMS IN THE REPATRIATION OF BELEAGUERED MIGRANT WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

**To the Committees on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 12, entitled

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT A SENATE CODE OF CONDUCT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Ethics and Privileges**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 13, entitled

RESOLUTION TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE *SUMMER SA SENADO* PROGRAM, THEREBY RECOGNIZING THE VITAL ROLE OF THE YOUTH IN NATION-BUILDING

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations**

## Proposed Senate Resolution No. 14, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO LOOK INTO THE IMPACT OF THE SIGNIFICANT INCREASES OF OIL PRICES VIS-À-VIS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 8479 WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REVIEWING THE SUFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVITY OF SAID LAW AND ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES, IF THERE BE A NEED, TO ADDRESS THE SAME

Introduced by Senator Escudero

**To the Committee on Energy**

## Proposed Senate Resolution No. 15, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON LABOR, EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT; HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY; AND CIVIL SERVICE AND GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION TO LOOK INTO THE PLIGHT OF FILIPINO NURSES, THEIR WORK AND EMPLOYMENT CONDITIONS

Introduced by Senator Escudero

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development**

## Proposed Senate Resolution No. 16, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE MINDANAO POWER SUPPLY SITUATION WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SAME

Introduced by Senator Escudero

**To the Committee on Energy**

## Proposed Senate Resolution No. 17, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE TO LOOK INTO THE GOVERNMENT'S SEARCH AND RESCUE CAPABILITY IN DISASTERS AND CALAMITIES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO INSTITUTIONALIZE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE FORCES, PROVIDE A MAGNA CARTA FOR RESCUE WORKERS AND ENHANCE THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10121

Introduced by Senator Escudero

**To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Local Government**

## Proposed Senate Resolution No. 18, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED LOOMING INCREASE IN FARE RATES AT THE METRO RAIL TRANSIT 3 (MRT 3) AND THE TWO LINES OF THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT (LRT), WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING THE PROPRIETY OF SUCH PLANNED HIKES AND ENSURING A SAFE, RELIABLE AND AFFORDABLE MASS TRANSIT SYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committee on Public Services**

## Proposed Senate Resolution No. 19, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEW SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) POLICY PROVIDING RULES AND QUALIFICATIONS IN

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AVAILING LIFETIME PENSIONS,  
WITH THE END IN VIEW OF  
ENSURING THE WELFARE OF SSS  
MEMBERS AND PENSIONERS

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 20, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN OMNIBUS ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, OF THE ACTUARIAL STATUS OF STATE AND PRIVATE SECTOR PENSION AND INSURANCE FUNDS AS MANAGED BY THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS), SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) AND THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHILHEALTH), AS WELL AS THE HOUSING FUNDS AS ADMINISTERED BY THE HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (HDMF) OR Pag-IBIG, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF IMPROVING THE DELIVERY OF THEIR SERVICES AND ENSURING THE FINANCIAL VIABILITY OF THESE GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 21, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136 OR THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY REFORM ACT

OF 2001, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF AMENDING THE LAW IN ORDER TO MAKE IT MORE EFFECTIVE IN LOWERING THE ELECTRICITY RATES

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 22, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT BENIGNO S. AQUINO III TO DECLARE THE YEAR 2013 AS THE YEAR OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR COURAGE, DETERMINATION AND SELF-SACRIFICE FOR THE SAKE OF THEIR FAMILIES AND OF THE NATION AT LARGE

Introduced by Senator Legarda

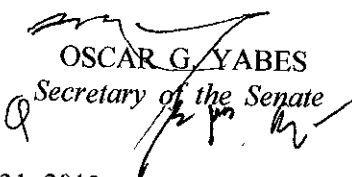
**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Foreign Relations**

**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 4:55 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

  
OSCAR G. YABES  
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on July 31, 2013