



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 6
Wednesday, July 31, 2013

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 6
Wednesday, July 31, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:01 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

PRAYER

The Body observed a minute of silent prayer.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:01 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:02 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

With 17 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

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

Senator Cayetano (P), who was on official mission, likewise arrived after the roll call.

Senators Lapid and Marcos were 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. 5 (July 30, 2013) and considered it approved.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 251, entitled

AN ACT IMPROVING THE QUALITY
OF EDUCATION BY AUGMENTING
THE BUDGET FOR THE K TO 12
PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT

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OF EDUCATION (DEPED), PROVIDING FUNDS FROM THE PHILIPPINE AMUSEMENT AND GAMING CORPORATION (PAGCOR) INCOME, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1869, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9487

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Senate Bill No. 252, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF A FULL CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE TO QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9700, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM EXTENSION WITH REFORMS

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Senate Bill No. 253, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING JOB GENERATION BY PROVIDING ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES TO MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 254, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE RIGHTS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS) MEMBERS, PROVIDING THEM ADDITIONAL REPRESENTATION IN THE GSIS BOARD, ENSURING

PROMPT PAYMENT OF ALL THEIR BENEFITS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 255, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING ENVIRONMENTALLY SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT BY PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR THE MANUFACTURE, ASSEMBLY, CONVERSION AND IMPORTATION OF ELECTRIC, HYBRID AND OTHER CLEAN ENERGY VEHICLES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Senate Bill No. 256, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE CEILING OF THE 13TH MONTH PAY, CHRISTMAS BONUS AND OTHER BENEFITS EXCLUDED FROM THE COMPUTATION OF GROSS INCOME FOR THE PURPOSES OF INCOME TAXATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 32(B), CHAPTER VI OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 257, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO FAMILIES WITH DEPENDENTS, SUPPORTING AGING PARENTS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Ways and Means

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Senate Bill No. 258, entitled

AN ACT TO INCLUDE THE TEACHING OF COMPUTER AS PART OF THE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 259, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A DENTAL UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AS PART OF THE PRIMARY APPROACH IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 260, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND RATIONALIZING THE CAREER SERVICE OF THE CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES BY ESTABLISHING A LEGISLATIVE CAREER SERVICE, PROVIDING BENEFITS FOR ITS OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

To the Committees on Accounts; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 261, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR BENEFITS TO MILITARY DEPENDENTS, CREATING THE MILITARY

DEPENDENTS WELFARE OFFICE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Juan Edgardo "Sonny" M. Angara

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 262, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE LISTING OF CALORIE CONTENT INFORMATION ON MENUS AND BOARDS OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 263, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6939 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT CREATING THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY TO PROMOTE THE VIABILITY AND GROWTH OF COOPERATIVES AS INSTRUMENTS OF EQUITY, SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, RATIONALIZING GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND AGENCIES WITH COOPERATIVE FUNCTIONS, SUPPORTING COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT, TRANSFERRING THE REGISTRATION AND REGULATION FUNCTIONS OF EXISTING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES ON COOPERATIVES AS SUCH AND CONSOLIDATING THE SAME WITH THE AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Cooperatives; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 264, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN "ADOPT-A-WILDLIFE SPECIES PROGRAM," PROVIDING INCENTIVES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 265, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE ISSUANCE OF COMMEMORATIVE PLATES FOR MOTOR VEHICLES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 266, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 137 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9520 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT AMENDING THE COOPERATIVE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO BE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE COOPERATIVE CODE OF 2008

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Cooperatives

Senate Bill No. 267, entitled

AN ACT TO ADDRESS THE NATIONAL WATER CRISIS PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Public Services; Environment and Natural Resources; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 268, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR CARE FOR ANIMALS HELD IN CAPTIVITY

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 269, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF JUNK FOODS FROM PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 270, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO AT LEAST FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THEIR STUDENT POPULATION WHO ARE POOR BUT DESERVING STUDENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 271, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OR OPERATORS OF TELEVISION NETWORKS OR STATIONS AND PRODUCERS OF TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS TO HAVE THEIR NEWS PROGRAMS BROADCAST WITH CLOSED-CAPTION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

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Senate Bill No. 272, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE OF THE WORD "MUSLIM" OR "ISLAMIC" IN PRINT, RADIO, TELEVISION INCLUDING CABLE TELEVISION AND OTHER FORMS OF BROADCAST MEDIA TO REFER TO OR DESCRIBE ANY PERSON SUSPECTED OR CONVICTED OF A CRIME OR UNLAWFUL ACT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 273, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL HOSPITAL FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; Health and Demography; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 274, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAM (SHNP) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 275, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM IN

THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 276, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 2206 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 277, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BOOKS FOR THE BARRIOS PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 278, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND AQUATIC RESOURCES, PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 279, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 280, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF PARENTS ASSOCIATIONS AND CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL PARENT COUNCIL

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 281, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL BRANCHES, SUBDIVISIONS, INSTRUMENTALITIES AND AGENCIES OF THE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS OR THEIR SUBSIDIARIES TO DIVULGE THE IDENTITY OF HIRED FOREIGN CONSULTANTS, THE NATURE OF THEIR WORK AND THEIR COMPENSATION, PERKS AND OTHER PRIVILEGES, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES IN CASE OF VIOLATION THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 282, entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING AGRICULTURE EDUCATION IN THE PHILIPPINES BY ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SYSTEM OF AGRICULTURE EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS, PROVIDING FOR MECHANISMS OF IMPLEMENTATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 283, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN BOARD TO IMPLEMENT A NATIONAL STUDENT LOAN PROGRAM FOR THE POOR, DEFINING ITS IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES, RULES AND REGULATIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 284, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING PARAGRAPH (A), SECTION 90 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Local Government; and Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 285, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL INSURANCE BENEFITS TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF ITS PREMIUMS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 286, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7880 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SPORTS' BUDGET FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY"

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 287, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE PHILIPPINE DRUG ENFORCEMENT AGENCY, DEFINING THE PROSECUTORIAL POWERS PROVIDED THERETO, AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 288, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING MATERNITY LEAVE BENEFITS TO UNMARRIED PREGNANT WOMEN WHO ARE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 289, entitled

AN ACT REORGANIZING AND RENAMING THE PHILIPPINE RETIREMENT PARK SYSTEM, ENLARGING ITS POWERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 290, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS EDUCATION

DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 291, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN REAL PROPERTY VALUATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL VALUATION AUTHORITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Ways and Means; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 292, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 293, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 3, 5, AND 7 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7900, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE HIGH VALUE CROPS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1995 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Agrarian Reform

Senate Bill No. 294, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE PHILIPPINE

HALAL SYSTEM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE HALAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL AND CONVERTING THE SAME INTO A BOARD AFTER THE TRANSITION PERIOD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Trade and Commerce; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 295, entitled

AN ACT ENSURING THE FULL REALIZATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT OF ALL CITIZENS TO QUALITY EDUCATION ORDAINING FOR THE PURPOSE A NO FILIPINO CHILD LEFT BEHIND ACT

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 296, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BUREAU OF ALTERNATIVE LEARNING SYSTEM (BALS)

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 297, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL COMPUTER LITERACY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 298, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR STUDENTS OF ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES AND AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 299, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING EACH CITY OR MUNICIPALITY TO CREATE A RIVER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL RIVERS, RIVER SYSTEMS, AND NATURAL WATERWAYS WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 300, entitled

AN ACT PROPOSING THE CREATION OF THE PHILIPPINE BAMBOO AND RATTAN CENTER (PBRC) TO CONSERVE, PROPAGATE AND PROMOTE BAMBOO AND RATTAN SPECIES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

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 Justice and Human Rights

Member: Escudero

Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

Member: Trillanes

Committee on Finance

Members:

Defensor Santiago Lapid

**WITHDRAWAL
OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered as withdrawn the nomination of Senator Pimentel to the Committee on Public Services so that the Minority could elect its third member therein.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:17 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:17 p.m., the session was resumed.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
(Continuation)**

Upon nomination by Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committee hereunder indicated:

Committee on Public Services

Members:

Ejercito Honasan
Estrada

Upon nomination by Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committee hereunder indicated:

Committee on Rules

Vice Chairman: Pimentel

Member: Villar

**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, Senator Defensor Santiago was elected member of the Commission on Appointments.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:18 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:25 p.m., the session was resumed.

**COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
(Continuation)**

Upon nomination by Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

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

Chairman: Guingona

Vice Chairman: Osmeña

Members:

Poe	Pimentel
Aquino	Escudero
Trillanes	Cayetano (P)
Villar	Marcos
Defensor Santiago	Legarda
Lapid	

Committee on Rules

Member: Senator Osmeña vice Senator Villar

Committee on Science and Technology

Chairman: Recto

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Vice Chairpersons:

Angara Villar

Members:

Legarda Aquino

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)**

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Cayetano (P) delivered the following speech on the occasion of the Breastfeeding Awareness Month and World Breastfeeding Week 2013:

I rise to bring up an important issue— infant and children’s health, a vital component of which is breastfeeding. Tomorrow, the first of August, marks the beginning of World Breastfeeding Week. But in the Philippines, Republic Act No. 10028, otherwise known as the “Expanded Breastfeeding Promotion Act,” provides for a month-long celebration.

This year’s World Breastfeeding Week’s theme, “*Breastfeeding Support: Close to Mothers*,” underscores the importance of a support system for the mother not only within her family but also in her community. There are five Circles of Support identified by the World Alliance for Breastfeeding Action (WABA) that contribute to a mother’s positive breastfeeding experience.

The first circle is the “Family and Social Network” which comprises the mother’s immediate support system. This includes a woman’s husband, partner, family, and friends. The second circle is the “Healthcare System” which provides not only pre- and post-natal care, but also counselling for mothers before and after childbirth. The third circle is “Workplace and Employment,” because support from the workplace is vital and necessary for employed women to succeed in breastfeeding as they transition back into work. The fourth circle is “Government and Legislation.” The role of government is to guarantee adequate and responsive legislation that prevents aggressive marketing of “breast milk substitutes” and to ensure protection and support for breastfeeding mothers. The fifth circle is “Response to Crisis or Emergency” which involves special planning in order to properly care for the breastfeeding mother and her baby such as in times of natural disaster, family problems such as separation of husband and wife, or critical illness of the mother or child.

I am happy to note and report that by way of legislation, through Executive Order No. 51 and Republic Act No. 10028, including its implementing rules and guidelines, we have addressed all five by:

1. Ensuring information is available;
2. Prohibiting the advertisement, promotion, and sponsorship or marketing of infant formula for infants 0-6 months, while regulating the advertisement, promotion, and sponsorship or marketing of infant formula for those above six months; and
3. Requiring that a breastfeeding environment is created in the workplace and in crisis situations.

But let me point out areas which still require further action.

***Strict enforcement of the law
or the revisiting of the law with respect
to the marketing of milk formula***

Executive Order No. 51, or the “National Code of Marketing of Breast Milk Substitutes, Breast Milk Supplements and Other Related Products,” and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) mandate a total ban on the advertisement, promotion, and sponsorship of marketing of infant formula for infants 0-6 months, while those products intended for above six months should be regulated by the Inter-Agency Committee (IAC) chaired by the Secretary of Health.

Clearly, the law and its implementing guidelines are spelled out for us: no advertisement, promotion and marketing of infant formula intended for infants 0-6 months of age.

Why is this important?

Breastfeeding within the first few hours and days of life of an infant is crucial. It sets the correct environment for continued breastfeeding.

Delayed onset of breastfeeding or interrupted breastfeeding due to the introduction of milk formula prevents a mother from establishing her milk supply.

Again, I cannot overemphasize how important breastfeeding is for both the infant and the mother. WHO emphasizes that early initiation of breastfeeding within an hour of birth protects the newborn from acquiring infections and reduces newborn mortality. Exclusive breastfeeding for six months protects the infant from gastrointestinal infections. The risk of mortality due to diarrhea and other infections can increase in infants who are either partially breastfed or

not breastfed at all. Breast milk is also a critical source of energy and nutrients during illness and reduces mortality among children who are malnourished.

Knowing all these, why would a mother not breastfeed?

There are a number of reasons.

Mothers are vulnerable and will do whatever is needed for their baby. Thus, if a health worker tells a mother that she does not have milk or does not have enough milk, and that she must use infant formula or her baby will starve, many mothers will obey this out of fear. That is why the laws mandate that health care institutions, workers, and personnel encourage and support breastfeeding for mothers and do not initiate the use of formula milk.

Sadly, there are still health care providers who violate the laws on breastfeeding and who continue to push the use of milk formula with the new mothers instead of encouraging and teaching them how to breastfeed. I continue to receive reports of this nature. Thus, I call on the Department of Health (DOH) to look into these illegal practices and call these establishments and these health practitioners to task. I likewise call on various medical associations such as the Philippine Medical Association (PMA), Philippine Obstetrical and Gynecological Society (POGS), and the Philippine Pediatrics Society, to work closely with the DOH and their members, to ensure that those who are called to educate and support a breastfeeding mother are not the ones being used by milk formula companies to push their products.

Sustainability of the workplace environment for breastfeeding

It has been three years since Republic Act No. 10028, or the "Expanded Breastfeeding Promotion Act of 2009," was passed, and two years since its implementing rules and regulations were approved. The law and the IRR mandate the establishment of lactation stations in all public workplaces. I still receive complaints from pregnant and breastfeeding mothers that their offices are noncompliant, and although I am happy to see breastfeeding/lactation stations in public places like malls and some airports, there are still many places that have not complied.

I take this opportunity to call on those concerned to make sure that you are embracing the breastfeeding culture and providing the necessary environment to allow a mother to continue expressing her milk while she is away from home.

On a personal note, I have always supported a breastfeeding culture in my office. Both my chief of staff and deputy chief of staff who, for the information of my colleagues and their chiefs of staff, are on maternity leave, have successfully breastfed each of their children that were born while their mothers were working full time in the Senate. These mothers were able to breastfeed their children for more than a year and this was only made possible by being able to express their milk during office hours in my office.

I will be filing a concurrent resolution to look into the noncompliance of government offices, private offices and public places with Republic Act No. 10028 which requires the establishment of lactation stations.

As we celebrate Breastfeeding Awareness Month and World Breastfeeding Week, let us keep in mind that the support we give mothers in the early stages of nurturing their infants essentially translates to the support for the healthy upbringing of our children.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR VILLAR

Asked by Senator Villar if there is any breastfeeding facility in the Senate, Senator Cayetano (P) stated that even before the law was passed, she has already been working with the Secretariat for the establishment of a breastfeeding/lactation facility in the Senate; however, she was told that the lactation center would be the day care facility which is not within the Senate building, which means that an employee has to go out to express her breast milk. She said that many breastfeeding employees do not have much time to do that, hence, it would be better to establish the facility within the building since expressing breast milk occurs during office hours.

Senator Cayetano (P) enjoined the Senate department heads to be as supportive as she is with her staff who are allowed to use her office as their breastfeeding/lactation area. She pointed out that a breastfeeding mother does not demand a lot of space, only a private, well-ventilated place with a chair and table to put her paraphernalia on, or even a cubicle that would be temporarily deserted for her convenience. She stated that the most important factor is to embrace the breastfeeding culture so that even a male boss would still make it convenient and comfortable for a nursing mother to ask for time to express her breast milk.

Senator Villar then moved for the establishment of a breastfeeding/lactation facility within the Senate building at the soonest time possible.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ANGARA

Preliminarily, Senator Angara commended Senator Cayetano (P) for her timely privilege speech which, he believed, touches on a very important subject not only for women but for the youth as well. He said that he himself has personal knowledge on breastfeeding because his wife breastfed all of their three children, one of whom was breastfed for two weeks, while the other was breastfed for six months.

Asked by Senator Angara whether there is an ideal period for breastfeeding infants, Senator Cayetano (P) replied that the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) recommend that "exclusive breastfeeding" for six months — no milk formulas or substitutes during this period — be provided for infants from zero to six months of age. But she noted that many women fail in this exercise due to lack of support from their partner or family, and that many breastfeeding mothers — especially those who are working — find it difficult to practice exclusive breastfeeding not only because it is painful but also because it is taxing especially for a woman who is still physically and emotionally weak after having given birth. She pointed out that studies and scientific evidence have proven that babies who have either been exclusively or predominantly breastfed become healthier children.

Asked if there are infant formulas that specifically cater to infants 0-6 months old, Senator Cayetano (P) explained that the law mandates absolute prohibition on advertising milk substitutes for infants aged zero to six months, while milk substitutes for infants aged six months and beyond are regulated through the inter-agency committee. She said that personally she has always been in favor of increasing to one year the absolute ban on promoting milk products for babies aged zero, particularly because babies used in advertisements for milk substitutes are hardly distinguishable, whether the baby is seven months old or older. In fact, she disclosed that some companies are implementing an internal code prohibiting the promotion of milk substitutes for infants up to one year, while other breastfeeding advocates favor the extension of the ban on such advertisements to 24 months. She also expressed disappointment over

some advertisements that give the vulnerable mother the false impression that milk in a can is better for her infant.

On whether the tax break given to establishments with lactation rooms for female workers has been effective in promoting breastfeeding, Senator Cayetano (P) admitted that she has not monitored the effect. But she revealed that she did not support the tax break in the Senate version of the law because she believed that such a facility should be part of a company's corporate social responsibility. She stressed that providing such a facility is the right thing to do for a mother and her child, whether or not a tax break is provided in the law.

On the need to provide consultancy services to breastfeeding women, Senator Cayetano (P) agreed on the need for breastfeeding consultants. She said that although breastfeeding should come naturally, many women still find it to be a difficult and painful experience. She stated that it was only because she was personally determined to breastfeed all her children that she did not give up on doing so. Moreover, she recalled that during a recent forum in Cebu, health practitioners and NGO supporters of breastfeeding requested crafting legislation or policy that would authorize them to provide such counselling support to breastfeeding mothers in public. She believed that promoting a culture of breastfeeding could be achieved by training more lactation consultants and authorizing their presence in public hospitals.

In closing, Senator Angara noted that although DOST figures showing an increase in breastfeeding rates from 36% in 2008 to 47% in 2011 indicate that the law is somehow effective in helping the government meet the Millennium Development Goals for health, the low 27% breastfeeding rate in some parts of the country also means that implementation could still be improved.

Senator Cayetano (P) said that the data may not necessarily reflect the rate of women who are breastfeeding exclusively for six months. In an effort to promote breastfeeding, she said that her office conducts maternity and breastfeeding seminars in different areas such as Aurora province. At this point, she acknowledged for the record that former Sen. Edgardo Angara was not only a cosponsor of RA 10028 – the Expanded Breastfeeding Promotion Act — but was also the author of the Rooming-In

law which was instrumental in giving mothers the opportunity to breastfeed immediately within the first hour of birth. She called upon the DOH to ensure that the laws on breastfeeding are fully implemented to achieve their desired effect.

Senator Angara thanked Senator Cayetano (P) for her valuable assistance to the people of Aurora.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Cayetano (P) and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Health and Demography.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS
(Continuation)

Upon nomination by Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Member: Cayetano (P)

Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

Members:

Guingona Osmeña
Angara

WITHDRAWAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body considered as withdrawn the membership of Senator Cayetano (P) from the Committee on Rules.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

Dir. Regina Evangelista read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 301, entitled

AN ACT INCLUDING BARANGAY OFFICIALS WITHIN THE COVER-

AGE OF THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM (GSIS)

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 302, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING FIXED MONTHLY HONORARIA AND TRAVEL ALLOWANCES TO BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7883, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES ACT OF 1995 AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 303, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING QUALITY STANDARDS FOR MINERAL WATER AND CARBONATED WATER

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 304, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE FULL REALIZATION OF THE CONSTITUTIONAL PROVISIONS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND THE RIGHT TO HEALTH, THROUGH THE STRENGTHENING OF A COMPREHENSIVE FREE VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO INFANTS AND CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 305, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE A SYSTEM OF ASSISTANCE AND INCENTIVES TO FAMILIES OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN TIMES OF NEED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 306, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING CONSUMER PROTECTION IN THE PURCHASE OF BRAND NEW MOTOR VEHICLES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 307, entitled

AN ACT GOVERNING THE CREATION AND ACCREDITATION OF MICRO-ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia Villar

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 308, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF STUDENTS

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 309, entitled

AN ACT TO PROCLAIM FIRE-FIGHTERS' MEMORIAL DAY

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Senate Bill No. 310, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING INDEMNIFICATION FOR OWNERS WHOSE LIVESTOCK ARE AFFECTED BY HIGHLY COMMUNICABLE DISEASES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 914, ENTITLED "AN ACT CREATING THE LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 311, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE ONION RESEARCH INSTITUTE, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES AND PROVIDING FOR THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR ITS OPERATION

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Trade and Commerce; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 312, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE HALAL ACCREDITATION AND REGULATORY BOARD AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Trade and Commerce; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 313, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING HYDROPONICS AGRICULTURE AS AN INSTRUMENT TO SOLVE PROBLEMS OF

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FOOD SECURITY AND AS A MECHANISM OF WISE USE OF SCARCE LAND RESOURCES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 314, entitled

AN ACT TO REGULATE PESTICIDE CHEMICAL RESIDUES IN FOOD

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 315, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO CREDIT CARD HOLDERS BY SETTING A CEILING ON INTEREST RATES AND SURCHARGES AND PROHIBITING HIDDEN PENALTIES OR COSTS IMPOSED BY BANKS AND SIMILAR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ON PURCHASES AND CASH ADVANCES MADE THROUGH CREDIT FACILITY

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 316, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING CREDIT CARD FRAUD AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 317, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING PAWNSHOP ESTABLISHMENTS AND OPERATIONS

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 318, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM OF GOVERNMENT EDUCATION/SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO DESERVING NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 319, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THEFT, ROBBERY AND DESTRUCTION OF PUBLIC SCHOOL PROPERTY

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 320, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PASO-NANCA WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE SITUATED IN ZAMBOANGA CITY AS A PROTECTED AREA, UNDER THE CATEGORY OF NATURAL PARK, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 321, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BESSANG PASS NATURAL MONUMENT/LANDMARK IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CERVANTES, ILOCOS SUR AS

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**PROTECTED AREA AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

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

Senate Bill No. 322, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LIDLIDDA-BANAYOYO PROTECTED LANDSCAPE IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF LIDLIDDA AND BANAYOYO, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR AS A PROTECTED AREA, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

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

Senate Bill No. 323, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SIARGAO GROUP OF ISLANDS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BURGOS, DAPA, DEL CARMEN, GEN. LUNA, PILAR, SAN BENITO, SAN ISIDRO, STA. MONICA AND SOCORRO, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE AS A PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES PURSUANT TO R.A. 7586

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

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

Senate Bill No. 324, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE EL NIDO-TAYTAY MANAGED RESOURCE PROTECTED AREA LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF EL NIDO AND TAYTAY, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

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

Senate Bill No. 325, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

**To the Committees on Youth, Women and
Family Relations; and Constitutional Amend-
ments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 326, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE AREA COVERED BY THE NORTHERN NEGROS FOREST RESERVE SITUATED IN THE CITIES OF TALISAY, SILAY, VICTORIAS, CADIZ, SAGAY AND SAN CARLOS AND THE MUNICIPALITIES OF E.B. MAGALONA, MURCIA, TOBOSO, CALATRAVA AND DON SALVADOR BENEDICTO, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AS A PROTECTED AREA, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT PURSUANT TO R.A. 7586 (NIPAS ACT OF 1992) AND SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN NEGROS NATURAL PARK

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

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

Senate Bill No. 327, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MT. HILONG-HILONG RANGE SITUATED IN THE CITIES OF BUTUAN AND CABADBARAN AND IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF REMEDIOS T. ROMUALDEZ AND SANTIAGO IN THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE AS A PROTECTED

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LANDSCAPE PURSUANT TO R.A. 7586, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 328, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING EVERY THIRD WEEK OF NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK AGAINST COUNTERFEIT MEDICINES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 329, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MALAMPAYA SOUND SITUATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TAYTAY AND SAN VICENTE, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 330, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE MAXIMUM VALUE OF THE FAMILY HOME EXEMPT FROM EXECUTION, FORCED SALE OR ATTACHMENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 157 OF THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 331, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PENSION AND HEALTH BENEFITS TO COMFORT WOMEN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

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

Senate Bill No. 332, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 20 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO BE KNOWN AS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

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

Senate Bill No. 333, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLE 133 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

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

Senate Bill No. 334, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING INDEPENDENT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR ALL MINING PROJECTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE MINING ACT OF 1995

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (P)

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

Senate Bill No. 335, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING THE BANK DEPOSITS OF SENIOR CITIZENS FROM THE 20% WITHHOLDING TAX ON INTEREST INCOME, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 336, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 363 AND 364 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 337, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIES AND APPROACHES FOR SUSTAINABLE LAND MANAGEMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 338, entitled

AN ACT PUNISHING THE WILLFUL FAILURE TO PAY CHILD SUPPORT

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 339, entitled

AN ACT TO MANAGE MEDICAL RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 340, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING THE FILIPINO CHILDREN FROM MALNUTRITION, INSTITUTIONALIZING FOR THIS PURPOSE "THE MILK FEEDING PROGRAM," APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 341, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 109 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Ways and Means; and Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 342, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANNER AND DATE OF ELECTION OF SECTORAL REPRESENTATIVES TO THE LOCAL SANGGUNIAN

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Local Government; and Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

Senate Bill No. 343, entitled

AN ACT RESTORING JURISDICTION OVER FINAL DECISIONS, ORDERS, OR RESOLUTIONS OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION FROM THE COURT OF APPEALS TO THE SUPREME COURT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 9 (3) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AS THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 344, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 345, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MAGNA CARTA FOR BARANGAYS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 346, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DIRECT REMITTANCE TO THE HOST LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OF ITS FORTY PERCENT (40%) SHARE OF THE GROSS COLLECTION DERIVED BY THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT FROM NATIONAL WEALTH TAXES, AMENDING FOR

THE PURPOSE SECTION 293 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 347, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES ACCOUNTING SYSTEM, DESIGNATING THE AGENCIES RESPONSIBLE FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, PROVIDING INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AMONG RESPONSIBLE AGENCIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Economic Affairs; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 348, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A PROACTIVE APPROACH IN RECYCLING USED PLASTIC BAGS BY STORES AND OTHER RETAIL OUTLETS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 349, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL FRANCHISE HOLDERS OR OPERATORS OF TELEVISION STATIONS, PRODUCERS OF TELEVISION PROGRAMS, HOME VIDEO PROGRAMS AND MOTION PICTURES TO BROADCAST OR PRESENT THEIR PROGRAMS AND FILMS WITH CLOSED-CAPTION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

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Introduced by Senator Legarda

Tot Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 350, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL SEAFARERS COMMISSION, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:11 p.m., the session was resumed.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

(Continuation)

Upon nomination by Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Members:

Pimentel Cayetano (P)

Committee on Health and Demography

Members:

Marcos Poe

WITHDRAWAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body considered as with-

drawn the membership of Senator Angara from the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation.

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 351, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MISSING CHILDREN RECOVERY PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 352, entitled

AN ACT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE A SYSTEM OF PERFORMANCE PLANNING AND REPORTING IN NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 353, entitled

AN ACT REINFORCING REPUBLIC ACT NO 9242, KNOWN AS "AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE USE OF THE PHILIPPINE TROPICAL FABRICS FOR UNIFORMS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES," THEREBY AMENDING THE LAW FOR THIS PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 354, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO CONDUCT A QUARTERLY BREAST CANCER DETECTION PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 355, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7743, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 356, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL HOSPITALS, CLINICS, HEALTH CENTERS AND OTHER SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS RENDERING MATERNITY SERVICES TO ESTABLISH LITERACY PROGRAMS FOR ALL EXPECTANT PARENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 357, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE CONDUCT OF FIRE, EARTHQUAKE, AND OTHER HAZARDOUS PHENOMENA

DRILLS IN EDUCATIONAL BUILDINGS AND ESTABLISHMENTS, SCHOOL BUSES, AND HEALTH-CARE INSTITUTIONS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 358, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 359, 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 Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 360, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE MODERNIZATION PROGRAM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 361, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 287 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, BY REQUIRING EMPLOYERS TO RELEASE THE RETIREMENT PAY OF EMPLOYEES WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS FROM SUBMISSION OF COMPLETE DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 362, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING MOTOR-CYCLE LANES ALONG NATIONAL, PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL ROADS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Works; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 363, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING ALL 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

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 364, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR THE IDENTITY OF MILK AND REQUIRING THE LABELING THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 365, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF MOBILE PHONE WHILE DRIVING, PROVIDING PENALTIES IN VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 366, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE LIABILITIES OF INDIRECT EMPLOYERS IN JOB CONTRACTING, COVERING OTHER BENEFITS DUE THEIR EMPLOYEES, FOR THIS PURPOSE AMENDING ARTICLE 106 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bili No. 367, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE WORKERS' CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO COLLECTIVE BARGAINING, REPEALING AND REPLACING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 368, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE LABELING
OF IMPORTED MEAT AND MEAT
FOOD PRODUCTS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Trade and Commerce;
and Agriculture and Food**

Senate Bill No. 369, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE RURAL
HEALTH BY PROVIDING FOR AN
ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR
THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POT-
ABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM
IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE
COUNTRY WITHIN THREE
YEARS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 370, entitled

AN ACT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE
BASIC SERVICE OF INTEGRATED
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND
DISPOSAL IN ALL LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING
FOR THIS PURPOSE THE "LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991,"
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 371, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BARANGAY
HUMAN RIGHTS ACTION CENTER
IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE
COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 372, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
ESTABLISHMENT OF THE MAGNA
CARTA OF STUDENTS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 373, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR TOY
SAFETY LABELING

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 374, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE WORKERS
COMPENSATION PROGRAM, THE
WORK CONTINGENCY INSURANCE
FUND, THE PHILIPPINE WORKERS
COMPENSATION AUTHORITY
AND DEFINING THEIR POWERS
AND FUNCTIONS, AMENDING FOR
THIS PURPOSE ARTICLES 166 TO
288-A OF TITLE 2 BOOK IV OF
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442,
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE "LABOR CODE OF THE
PHILIPPINES," AND APPROPRIAT-
ING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 375, entitled

AN ACT TO COMBAT ABUSE AND
ENHANCE PENALTIES FOR
CRIMES AGAINST SENIORS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 376, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING OLD-AGE PENSION FOR LIFE TO SENIOR CITIZENS WHO RETIRED UNDER REPUBLIC ACT 1616 AS WELL AS SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS TO THEIR SURVIVORS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 377, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AT LEAST ONE (1) SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED) CENTER FOR EACH SCHOOL DIVISION AND AT LEAST THREE (3) SPED CENTERS IN EVERY SCHOOL DIVISIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (CSN), CREATING THE IMPLEMENTING MACHINERY THEREOF, PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER INCENTIVES AND SUPPORT FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 378, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5921, THE PHARMACY LAW, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 379, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF THE ISLAND OF BORACAY, MUNICIPALITY OF MALAY, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, DEFINING FOR THE PURPOSE THE MODE OF ACQUISITION FOR CERTAIN PARCELS OF ITS PUBLIC DOMAIN CLASSIFIED AS AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN TO DISPOSITION UNDER PROCLAMATION NO. 1064 AND PROVIDING ENVIRONMENTAL SAFEGUARDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 380, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING A MAGNA CARTA FOR JOURNALISTS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 381, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING CHILDREN'S WELFARE FUND FOR THE PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION OF ABANDONED, ABUSED AND SEXUALLY EXPLOITED CHILDREN, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610. OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT"

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 382, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACADEMY OF THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Local Government; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 383, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CRIME OF THEFT AND ROBBERY OF PORTABLE COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 384, entitled

AN ACT TO PREVENT CREDIT CARD ISSUERS FROM TAKING UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF COLLEGE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 385, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING CONSUMERS OF PREPAID CALLING CARDS AND PROHIBITING DECEPTIVE PRACTICES IN THE PRE-PAID PHONE CARD INDUSTRY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Public Services; and Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 386, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TEACHER PROGRAM TO STRENGTHEN THE TEACHING PROFESSION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 387, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT RUNAWAY, HOMELESS, AND EXPLOITED YOUTH

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 388, entitled

AN ACT IMPOSING LIMITATIONS ON THE RIGHT OF INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL OF PERSONS UNDER INVESTIGATION, EMPOWERING THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURTS TO ISSUE HOLD DEPARTURE ORDERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 389, entitled

AN ACT DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP A UNIVERSAL PREKINDERGARTEN PROGRAM TO ENSURE THAT ALL CHILDREN THREE, FOUR, AND FIVE YEARS OLD HAVE ACCESS TO HIGH-QUALITY FULL-DAY, FULL-CALENDAR-YEAR PRE-KINDERGARTEN EDUCATION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

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Senate Bill No. 390, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FEEDING PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN IN PUBLIC KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 391, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF FIRE PROTECTION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 392, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANAGEMENT, CUSTODY, AND ACCESS TO PRESIDENTIAL RECORDS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 393, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DISCLOSURE OF LOBBYING ACTIVITIES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 394, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE FLOOD RECOVERY FUND ACT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 395, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF BABY FOOD PRODUCTS WITH BPA AND PROVIDING FOR ITS REPLACEMENT WITH THE LEAST TOXIC ALTERNATIVE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 396, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6770, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMBUDSMAN ACT, EXPEDITING THE PROSECUTION OF CASES RECOMMENDED BY CONGRESS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 397, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING SCHOOLS, COLLEGES, AND UNIVERSITIES TO CREATE ANTI-BULLYING POLICIES IN THEIR INSTITUTIONS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 398, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A YOUTH SUICIDE EARLY INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 399, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 218, ARTICLE 220, AND ARTICLE 223 OF THE FAMILY CODE TO PROHIBIT ALL FORMS OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 400, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE USE OF BICYCLES AS AN ALTERNATIVE MODE OF TRANSPORTATION AND ESTABLISH BIKE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Public Services; Local Government; and Finance

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:24 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:28 p.m., the session was resumed.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF SENATOR SOTTO

Asked by Senator Sotto on the status of the organization of the different standing committees, Senator Cayetano (A) replied that it was nearing completion, while the organization of the oversight committees would start next week. He said that as agreed upon, the Committee on Rules would convene

at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday to discuss various committee matters and possible reforms, if any, as regards the Rules.

Senator Sotto asked when the Committee on Foreign Relations would be convened as he expressed concern over the announcement by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) as reported in the newspapers, that it would be providing lawyers to two Filipino tourists who were caught recently in Hong Kong while in possession of three suitcases of shabu worth U.S.\$11 million. He questioned the propriety of providing legal assistance to the accused, who are merely tourists, while many overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) charged with different offenses are deprived of such legal assistance by the DFA. He urged the Committee on Foreign Relations to look into the matter, particularly to inquire from the DFA where it would get the money for the legal assistance that it would be providing.

At this juncture, Senator Legarda called attention to the item in the DFA budget called "Fund Assistance to Nationals" and she asked if this is going to be the source of the money to pay the lawyers for the suspected traffickers. Moreover, she asked whether it was the DFA's policy to give legal assistance not only to suspected Filipino drug traffickers but to all distressed Filipinos overseas, including those who were brought to the Senate recently by Senator Estrada.

Senator Sotto stated that Migrante and other OFW organizations have always complained about the lack of legal assistance from the DFA.

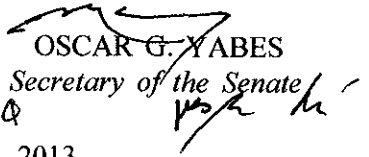
For his part, Senator Cayetano (A) expressed the need for the various committees to immediately convene because indeed there are multi-faceted concerns and issues that have to be discussed. He informed the Body that the Senate President has, in fact, directed him to call on the different committee chairs to start conducting committee hearings, the reason why quite a number of bills and resolutions are being read everyday. As regards the legal assistance announced by the DFA, he assured Senator Sotto that he will ask Senator Defensor Santiago, the chair of the Committee on Foreign Relations, when the committee could possibly meet. He said that the Committee on Foreign Relations has been fully organized.

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 Monday, August 5, 2013.

It was 4:34 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on August 5, 2013