



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 9
Wednesday, August 7, 2013

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 9
Wednesday, August 7, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile led the prayer, to wit:

In these difficult times, Lord, we pray for Your mercy and grace upon our people and for Your wisdom and strength of character upon the leaders of this land.

We also pray and hope that our young people will find their rightful place and be productive citizens of our society, and that those who are working here and abroad will be treated with equality and dignity.

Bless those who work with their hands in the service of other people.

May those who work with harm in their minds be drawn away from the dark.

Comfort those who have come in contact with violence.

Let us most specially pray for our brothers and sisters in Cagayan de Oro and Cotabato City. Let not their hearts turn cold like stone.

May each candle lighted for their sake,

may each prayer whispered for their aid, turn into a commitment to seek and render justice and peace for the least of our brethren.

These we ask of You, Dear Lord.

Amen.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:06 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:07 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:

Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Marcos Jr., F. R.
Cayetano, P. S.	Recto, R. G.
Drilon, F. M.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Enrile, J. P.	Sotto III, V. C.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Trillanes IV, A. F.
Estrada, J.	Villar, C. A.
Guingona III, T. L.	

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

Senators Angara, Binay, Ejercito, Honasan, Legarda, Osmeña, Pimentel and Poe arrived after the roll call.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 8 (August 6, 2013) and considered it approved.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto asked whether the plenary session of the Senate was still available on live streaming. Senator Cayetano (A) replied in the affirmative.

Senator Sotto asked the Senate leadership to consider the clamor of the public to have the plenary sessions covered live on cable television. He said that the Senate could even earn additional income or seed money from possible advertisers.

Senator Cayetano (A) welcomed the suggestion, saying that the Committee on Rules would meet on Tuesday, not only to discuss the committees and the oversight committees but also other proposals and innovations that can be done in the Senate, for instance, the suggestion of Senator Cayetano (P) to make the Senate paperless and more environmentally friendly.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY OF SENATOR ESTRADA

Senator Estrada inquired whether the Rules of the Senate would be suspended to allow the public hearing being conducted by the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs to continue while the plenary session was ongoing.

Senator Cayetano (A) replied that Senator Poe, chair of the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs, has said that the committee would wrap up the hearing in time for the plenary session at three o'clock in the afternoon.

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. 651, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING COURT ORDERS, WRITS AND INJUNCTIONS WHICH PREVENT MEDIA REPORTS AND COMMENTARIES ON, OR PUBLICATION OF, PROCEEDINGS *SUB JUDICE*, EXCEPT UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 652, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING POST-HARVEST FACILITIES TO RICE FARMERS

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Public Works; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 653, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN INFANT MORTALITY PROGRAM TO REDUCE THE RATE OF INFANT MORTALITY IN THE COUNTRY PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 654, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF DISEASES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 655, entitled

AN ACT CONSTITUTING A NATIONAL CAPITAL COMMISSION FOR CAPITAL RELOCATION

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 656, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FREE MEDICINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FOR THE POOR AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 657, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SOLIDARITY FUND OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FOR DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 658, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 659, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 660, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE RIGHTS OF AIRLINE PASSENGERS BY PROVIDING STANDARDS FOR AIRLINE CARRIER SERVICES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Public Services

Senate Bill No. 661, entitled

THE BUDGET IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Finance

Senate Bill No. 662, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO PROVIDE COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP GRANT TO AT LEAST TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THEIR STUDENT POPULATION WHO ARE POOR BUT DESERVING STUDENTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 663, entitled

AN ACT CHANGING THE TERM OF

OFFICE OF BARANGAY AND SANG-GUNIANG KABATAAN OFFICIALS FROM THREE (3) YEARS TO FIVE (5) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 9340 AND REPUBLIC ACT 9164, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 664, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF MARIANO MARCOS MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER (MMMHMC) IN BATAK CITY FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO THREE HUNDRED (300), UPGRADING ITS SERVICE AND FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Marcos Jr.

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 665, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING REGIONAL HOUSING ONE-STOP SHOPS, PRESCRIBING TIME PERIODS FOR ISSUANCE OF HOUSING-RELATED CERTIFICATIONS, CLEARANCES AND PERMITS, AND IMPOSING SANCTIONS FOR FAILURE TO OBSERVE THE SAME, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos Jr.

To the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Senate Bill No. 666, entitled

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE DONATION AND TRANSPLANT OF HUMAN ORGANS AND TISSUES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 667, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE AKLAN AIRPORT AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 668, entitled

AN ACT ACCELERATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL RAILWAY SYSTEM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL RAILWAY AUTHORITY, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Public Services

Senate Bill No. 669, entitled

AN ACT SAFEGUARDING THE TRADITIONAL PROPERTY RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 670, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONS OF HEALTH AND MAINTENANCE ORGANIZATIONS (HMOs), PROVIDING THEM INCENTIVES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 671, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING, PROMOTING AND PRIORITIZING BREASTFEEDING AS A MEANS OF ENSURING THE HEALTH AND WELL-BEING OF INFANTS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 672, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1536, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING LAW OF 1978, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 673, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 674, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT IN SOUTHERN PALAWAN, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SOUTHERN PALAWAN ECOZONE AND FREEPORT AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 675, entitled

AN ACT TO SPUR THE PLANTING OF A BILLION TREES THROUGH COMPLEMENTARY TREE PLANTING PROGRAMS OF THE DENR AND VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND COMMUNITIES, SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES, AND CIVIC AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, PROTECTING THE REMAINING NATURAL FORESTS AND FOREST PLANTATIONS, AND CREATING A FUND THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 676, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, CREATING THE PHILIPPINE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 677, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (LLDA), REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4850, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAGUNA LAKE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY ACT OF 1966, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 678, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MONITORING AND SUPERVISORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE SAFE OPERATIONS OF THE LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) INDUSTRY; RATIONALIZE THE MANUFACTURE, SALE, DISTRIBUTION, EXCHANGE, SWAPPING, REPAIR, REQUALIFICATION AND REHABILITATION OF LPG CYLINDERS; PROVIDE ADDITIONAL POWERS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY; DEFINE AND PENALIZE VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Energy

Senate Bill No. 679, entitled

AN ACT TO GOVERN THE OPERATIONS AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 680, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LAKE LANAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 681, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES EXTENSION SYSTEM TO ACCELERATE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES DEVELOPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 682, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A PHILIPPINE INVENTORS COMMISSION, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Science and Technology; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 683, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9502 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE CHEAPER AND QUALITY MEDICINES ACT OF 2008" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 684, entitled

AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE PHILIPPINE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) SYSTEM, TO STRENGTHEN PUBLIC PARTICI-

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PATION THEREIN, AND FOR
RELATED PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:21 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:21 p.m., the session was resumed with
Senate President Pro Tempore Recto presiding.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

(Continuation)

Senate Bill No. 685, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CRISIS
CENTER FOR STREET CHILDREN
IN ALL CITIES AND MUNICIPAL-
ITIES IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL
REGION AND IN EVERY HIGHLY
URBANIZED CITY IN THE
PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 686, entitled

AN ACT TO PROFESSIONALIZE THE
PRACTICE OF PRISON MANAGE-
MENT SETTING QUALIFICATIONS
FOR SUPERINTENDENTS OF THE
NATIONAL PRISON SYSTEM AND
OF WARDENS OF PROVINCIAL,
CITY OR MUNICIPAL JAILS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

**To the Committees on Justice and Human
Rights; and Civil Service and Government
Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 687, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE
PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY,
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE
EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 100 ALSO
KNOWN AS "CREATING THE
PHILIPPINE INFORMATION AGENCY"
BY PROVIDING AN ADDITIONAL
FUNCTION, ESTABLISHING A
NATIONWIDE WELFARE FUND
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 688, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 1
AND 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6850
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN
ACT TO GRANT CIVIL SERVICE
ELIGIBILITY UNDER CERTAIN
CONDITIONS TO GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES APPOINTED UNDER
PROVISIONAL OR TEMPORARY
STATUS WHO HAVE RENDERED
A TOTAL OF SEVEN (7) YEARS OF
EFFICIENT SERVICE, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 689, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO
ALL DULY-APPOINTED BARANGAY
SECURITY DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS
DURING THEIR INCUMBENCY,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

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Senate Bill No. 690, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATORY TEACHING OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

NO. 7309, ENTITLED, AN ACT CREATING A BOARD OF CLAIMS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF UNJUST IMPRISONMENT OR DETENTION AND VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 691, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING ENVIRONMENTAL UNITS IN EVERY BANKING INSTITUTION TO ASSESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENT OF LOAN APPLICATIONS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 695, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH NETWORK AS A STRUCTURE TO SUPPORT HUMAN RESOURCES FOR HEALTH DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 692, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE SEAWEED DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 696, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JULY 25 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL CAMPUS PRESS FREEDOM DAY

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 693, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6971 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE PRODUCTIVITY INCENTIVES ACT OF 1990" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 697, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE TAAL VOLCANO ISLAND NATIONAL PARK, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, ISLAND OF LUZON, AND ITS WATERSHED AREAS, A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES AS MANDATED FOR BY THE NIPAS ACT OF 1992

Introduced by Senator Escudero

Senate Bill No. 694, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT

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To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 698, 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 Escudero

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

Senate Bill No. 699, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF PLUMBING ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Escudero

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

Senate Bill No. 700, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FORENSIC SCIENCE INSTITUTE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES SYSTEM, DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 701, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT

NO. 9298, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE ACCOUNTANCY ACT OF 2004

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 702, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TWENTY FIVE (25)-BED HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORDOVA, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO BE KNOWN AS CORDOVA PUBLIC HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 703, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING DISOBEDIENCE TO THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 704, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 544, AS AMENDED, OR THE CIVIL ENGINEERING LAW

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 705, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7309, ENTITLED, AN ACT CREATING A BOARD OF CLAIMS UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF UNJUST IMPRISONMENT OR DETENTION AND

**VICTIMS OF VIOLENT CRIMES
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Escudero

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

Senate Bill No. 706, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386 OR THE CIVIL CODE AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Escudero

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

Senate Bill No. 707, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE SEVENTEENTH OF NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL STUDENTS' DAY

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 708, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Escudero

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

Senate Bill No. 709, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EDUCATION TRUST FUND FOR GRANTEEES OF GSIS AND SSS MEMBERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Escudero

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

Senate Bill No. 710, entitled

AN ACT LOWERING THE RETIREMENT AGE OF EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FROM 65 YEARS OLD TO 60 YEARS OLD

Introduced by Senator Escudero

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

Senate Bill No. 711, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE TREATMENT AND ERADICATION OF TUBERCULOSIS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10606, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR ALL FILIPINOS AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION FOR THE PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Recto

To The Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 712, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Health and Demography

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Senate Bill No. 713, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF A TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Senate Bill No. 714, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE GRANT OF A FULL CROP INSURANCE COVERAGE TO QUALIFIED FARMERS, PROVIDING FOR THE REQUIRED GOVERNMENT PREMIUM SUBSIDY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 715, entitled

AN ACT RESERVING TO GOVERNMENT THE EXCLUSIVE AUTHORITY TO IMPORT RICE TO FURTHER ENSURE FOOD SECURITY AND PROTECT DOMESTIC PRODUCERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 4, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE NATIONAL GRAINS AUTHORITY ACT," AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 716, entitled

AN ACT ADJUSTING THE LEVELS OF NET TAXABLE INCOME AND NOMINAL TAX RATES FOR PURPOSES OF COMPUTING THE INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX AMENDING SECTION 24(A)(2) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS

AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 717, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING MEMBERSHIP FEES, AND OTHER ASSESSMENTS/ CHARGES COLLECTED BY CONDOMINIUM CORPORATIONS FROM VALUE-ADDED TAX, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 109 (1) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 718, entitled

AN ACT ORDAINING A BILL OF RIGHTS FOR TAXPAYERS

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 719, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES FROM THE MOTOR VEHICLES USER'S CHARGE AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 2 AND 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8794, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MOTOR VEHICLE USER'S CHARGE ACT OF 2000

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committees on Public Works; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 720, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING CLEAN ENERGY VEHICLES FROM THE MOTOR

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VEHICLES USER'S CHARGE
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
SECTION 2 OF REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 8794, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE MOTOR VEHICLE USER'S
CHARGE ACT OF 2000

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Public Works; and
Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 721, entitled

AN ACT TO GOVERN THE OPERA-
TIONS AND ADMINISTRATION
OF THE OVERSEAS WORKERS
WELFARE ADMINISTRATION

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Senate Bill No. 722, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPRE-
HENSIVE SYSTEM FOR REGISTRA-
TION AND LICENSING OF SOCIAL
WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
AGENCIES AND ACCREDITATION
OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND
SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Senate Bill No. 723, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING COMPREHEN-
SIVE RESEARCH FOR THE PREVEN-
TION, CONTROL, AND MEDICAL
MANAGEMENT OF HEPATITIS C
VIRUS INFECTION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 724, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
LICENSURE AND REGULATION
OF NANNY PLACEMENT OR
EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 725, entitled

AN ACT TO FACILITATE THE
DEVELOPMENT OF MICROBI-
CIDES TO PREVENT SEXUALLY
TRANSMITTED DISEASES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 726, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPORT-
ATION OR SHIPMENT OF MAMMALS,
BIRDS, FISH (INCLUDING MOLLUSKS
AND CRUSTACEA), AMPHIBIA,
AND REPTILES THAT MAY BE
INJURIOUS TO THE PHILIPPINE
ECOSYSTEM, PROVIDING PENAL-
TIES AND EXCEPTIONS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 727, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL
CENTER FOR INFORMATION
AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE
RELATING TO ALL TYPES OF
FAMILY RESOURCE AND SUPPORT
PROGRAMS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; Youth, Women and Family Relations;
and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 728, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING GRANTS TO PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO ALLOW SUCH INSTITUTIONS TO PROMOTE EDUCATION INITIATIVES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 729, entitled

AN ACT TO ASSURE MEANINGFUL DISCLOSURES OF THE TERMS OF RENTAL PURCHASE AGREEMENTS, INCLUDING DISCLOSURES OF ALL COSTS TO CONSUMERS UNDER SUCH AGREEMENTS AND TO PROVIDE CERTAIN SUBSTANTIVE RIGHTS TO CONSUMERS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 730, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING EMPLOYERS, LABOR CONTRACTORS, AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS FROM DISCRIMINATING AGAINST ANY INDIVIDUAL BECAUSE OF AGE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 731, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING THE BANK DEPOSITS OF SENIOR CITIZENS FROM THE TWENTY PERCENT (20%) WITHHOLDING TAX ON INTEREST INCOME, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 732, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE UNLAWFUL SALE AND PURCHASE OF DISSERTATIONS, THESES, TERM PAPERS, ESSAYS, REPORTS, OR ANY OTHER SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 733, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING PUBLIC OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM CHARGING TO THE GOVERNMENT THE SALARIES OF THEIR PERSONAL PRIVATE SECURITY GUARDS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 734, entitled

AN ACT INTRODUCING EDUCATIONAL REFORMS AND SUPPORTING THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL REFORMS IN SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 735, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND MECHANISMS FOR THE CREATION, OPERATION, ADMINISTRATION, AND COORDINATION OF THE PHILIPPINE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT CENTER, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BOOK CITY," CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE, THE BOOK PUBLISHING ENTERPRISE ZONE AUTHORITY (BPEZA) AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 736, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4670, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 737, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR THE SAFE OPERATIONS OF THE LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS (LPG) INDUSTRY, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL POWERS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, DEFINE AND PENALIZE CERTAIN ACTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Energy

Senate Bill No. 738, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 739, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE THROUGH THE EMPOWERMENT OF NON-

GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS (NGO) AND PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATIONS, INSTITUTING FOR THE PURPOSE A BOTTOM-UP MECHANISM IN CRAFTING DEVELOPMENT PLANS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 740, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING A MECHANISM FOR THE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO AND OWNERSHIP OF PUBLIC LANDS BY FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK, MANDATING FOR THAT PURPOSE AN ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS FOR THE TITLING OF SUCH PUBLIC LANDS THROUGH THE ISSUANCE OF FREE PATENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 741, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 742, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE DEBT MANAGEMENT BOARD, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 743, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 744, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE RETIREMENT AND DISABILITY BENEFITS OF MILITARY PERSONNEL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on National Defense and Security

Senate Bill No. 745, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN INTEGRATED SYSTEM FOR AGRICULTURE TECHNOLOGY GENERATION AND TRANSFER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 746, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 747, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROTECTION TO BUYERS OF REAL ESTATE ON INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS BY REQUIRING SUBDIVISION OR REAL ESTATE OWNERS TO HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL TITLE ON EVERY LOT AVAILABLE FIRST BEFORE OFFERING THE SAME FOR SALE, PROHIBITING ANY MORTGAGE, LIEN OR ENCUMBRANCE ON THE SAME, MAKING THE ANNOTATION ON THE TITLE OF THE CONTRACT TO SELL OR SALE MANDATORY, MAKING IT COMPULSORY FOR THE EXECUTION OF A DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE AND THE DELIVERY OF THE TITLE TO THE BUYER UPON COMPLETION OF INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS, AND PROVIDING OTHER PROTECTIVE MEASURES, INCLUDING THE IMPOSITION OF PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Senate Bill No. 748, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING MONEY TRANSFERS TO THE PHILIPPINES OF OVERSEAS FOREIGN WORKERS FROM THE IMPOSITION OF DOCUMENTARY STAMP TAX, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 181 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "TAX REFORM ACT OF 1997," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 749, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN AUTOMATIC PAY INCREASE TO ANY

MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO IS DEPLOYED AWAY FROM THE MEMBER'S PERMANENT STATION OR, IN THE CASE OF A MEMBER OF A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE MEMBER'S HOME OF RECORD, ONCE THE DEPLOYMENT PERIOD EXCEEDS 180 DAYS OF CONTINUOUS DUTY

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 750, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body considered Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Atty. Regina Evangelista read the text of the resolution, to wit:

Resolved by the Senate, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislative Calendar for the First Regular Session of the Sixteenth Congress of the Philippines be as follows:

CALENDAR OF SESSION

First Regular Session

1. Commencement of Session
- July 22, 2013 to September 27, 2013
2. Adjournment of Session
- September 28, 2013 to October 13, 2013
3. Resumption of Session
- October 14, 2013 to October 25, 2013
4. Adjournment of Session
- October 26, 2013 to November 17, 2013
5. Resumption of Session
- November 18, 2013 to December 20, 2013
6. Adjournment of Session
- December 21, 2013 to January 19, 2014
7. Resumption of Session
- January 20, 2014 to March 14, 2014
8. Adjournment of Session
- March 15, 2014 to May 4, 2014
9. Resumption of Session
- May 5, 2014 to June 13, 2014
(Sine Die Adjournment)
10. Adjournment of Session
- June 14, 2014 to July 27, 2014

ADOPTION OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3 was adopted by the Body.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR GUINGONA

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Guingona delivered the following speech calling on the passage of the crowdsourcing bill:

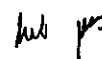
I stand here today to perform a dual task.

First, to call for the passage of Senate Bill No. 73, entitled "The Philippine Crowdsourcing Bill of 2013."

Second, to pay tribute to that cherished Filipino value and tradition called "democracy."

I shall attend to the second task ahead of the first.

Let me begin by citing a few facts, historical and otherwise.



One, it is a historical fact that the Philippines is the first democratic republic in Asia.

Two, it is a fact that our democracy is one of the liveliest in Asia, if not in the entire world.

Three, it is a fact that when we, Filipinos, discovered democracy and its various expressions, we fell in love with it.

We value democracy. We cherish democracy. We are more than willing to use the power of the people to restore and protect it. Many of us believe that it is worth dying for.

That our democracy is worth “dying for” is not merely lip service – many Filipinos actually did suffer and die for it.

To them, it means civil, political and human rights. It means majority rule. It means equality before the law, as well as elections and the popular vote. To them, it means empowerment.

To the Filipino, it means political participation. It means having a voice and making sure that voice is heard.

Voice. *Boses. Tinig.*

To them, democracy means letting their voices be heard. Kill the voice, you kill democracy.

There is another thing with which the Filipinos have fallen in love at first sight. This is called “technology.” And here is a fact that should interest many – the fact that this thing called “technology” has been a major tool used by the Filipino to make sure his voice is heard in an atmosphere and environment of democracy.

That was evident when the Filipino was introduced to the technology called the “*imprenta*” or the printing press. The early Filipino lovers of freedom and democracy used that technology to advance the aspirations of their generation. We need not name them since their names are inscribed in their work rendered timeless by the technology of the “*imprenta*.”

Later, the Filipino was introduced to the technologies of broadcasting, both voice and image. Again, he used the technologies and used them well to ensure that his voice is heard and that what he has to say is paid attention to by those who wield political power.

Later, the Filipino was introduced to the value-added features of telecommunication technologies – to the pager, to texting. Again, he used these technologies to make sure his voice is heard and heard loud and clear.

More recently, the Filipino was introduced to the more modern and advanced applications

of information technology of which he is one of the world’s top users today.

The applications of these technologies are myriad – email, worldwide web, blog, twitter, chat room, interactive kiosks, and social media, to name a few.

Whatever the form of the application is, the Filipino is there doing three things: one, making and maintaining friendships; two, exchanging pictures and exchanging views on almost anything under the sun; and three, voicing out what is in his mind and heart, and making sure that his voice is heard.

Voice. *Boses. Tinig.*

To the Filipino, democracy means letting his voice be heard. Silence his voice, and you kill democracy.

I shall now go to my other task.

Today, I call for the passage of Senate Bill No. 73, the Crowdsourcing Act of 2013.

The proposed law is a tribute to democracy which we value dearly as a people, and a recognition of the vast potential offered by modern information communication technologies in our aspiration to protect democracy and make its various expressions more meaningful in the life of our nation.

“Crowdsourcing” is a fairly recently-coined term, although the essence of the word has been applied by peoples and organizations throughout the ages. The essence is this: asking large groups of people to contribute their ideas. Today, the phrase “large groups of people” refers to the so-called “online community” – the millions who are connected to each other through the power of information communication technology.

The bill seeks to bring the principles of empowerment and people’s participation to a higher level. It is more than just getting a sense of public sentiment. It is more than just scanning the public opinion environment.

It is directly asking the Filipino to make his voice heard, to be an active participant in the process of legislation.

The intent of the proposed law is not so much as to compel our countrymen to unleash the power of their collective voice through the use of information technology. No, doing that comes naturally to the Filipino. Rather, the intent of the proposed law is to compel us — the drivers of the legislative processes – to ensure that we listen to that voice, and that we listen well.

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The intent of the proposed law is to allow maximum public scrutiny of our legislative initiatives: from the filing of the bill, through the consultation processes, to the debates and up to the approval of a proposed piece of legislation.

The proposed law does not seek to strengthen democracy in our country; rather, it compels us – the drivers of the legislative processes – to recognize the strength of that democracy and, in so doing, reflect that strength in the very manner in which we craft our laws.

It reminds us of who we are in this hall; that it is our duty to listen; that it is our duty to recognize the voice and the aspirations of those for whom we perform such duties.

We are told that the earlier generations of Filipino leaders had established a litmus test against which to determine the wisdom of an advocacy, a principle or a policy. That litmus test is enshrined in a bronze, dust-covered plaque at a monument built at the heart of Manila, in a place called Quiapo.

We are told that in that plaque, one would find the following words:

“Can we defend it at Plaza Miranda?”

“Maipagtatangol ba natin sa Plaza Miranda?”

The immortal words are attributed to the late President Ramon Magsaysay. His passion for the masses and for giving them a voice must have made him one of the early advocates of crowdsourcing.

We are told by our elders that Plaza Miranda then was like London’s Trafalgar Square. In those two arenas of ideas, politicians and ordinary people alike stood up, said their piece, applauded by believers, booed and challenged by adversaries. But that was how they found out if their idea, principle, belief or advocacy held water. They defended them at Plaza Miranda.

This Representation believes that there is a “new” Plaza Miranda – a “virtual” Plaza Miranda.

It is called “cyberspace” – the wired world, the internet, the social media. The “new” Plaza Miranda.

The arena is new, but the principle remains the same: any legislative initiative that is to affect the life of our people must be able to withstand the most intense, even the most cruel scrutiny by those for whom we perform our legislative tasks.

New arena, same principle.

I call for the support and passage of the Philippine Crowdsourcing Act.

As this proposed law goes through the legislative process, we shall bring it to the litmus test. We shall bring it through the virtual Plaza Miranda. In that arena of ideas, we shall let the netizens of our country examine it, scrutinize it, even rip it apart. We know that we shall be met both with the applause of believers, as well as the catcalls of adversaries.

We are not daunted.

At this point, we hold on to one firm belief – that as far as the Philippine Crowdsourcing Act is concerned, we can defend it, and defend it well, at the new and virtual Plaza Miranda.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR AQUINO

Asked by Senator Aquino if he has data regarding internet and telecom usage, Senator Guingona informed the Body that 35% of the more than 95 million Filipinos already own at least one mobile phone; a total of 33 million or 33% of the total population are internet users; and 1.5 million are broadband subscribers.

Asked whether in pushing for the bill, he was banking on the fact that there will be more internet access in the coming years, Senator Guingona replied in the affirmative, as he encouraged everyone to check out the bill and to give their insights and suggestions through the website “theguignonaproject.com.”

Senator Guingona said that one interesting input from a blogger, who pointed out the inaccessibility of internet in many parts of the country, was the suggestion to use “snail mail” or the regular mail. He said that the suggestion on the use of ordinary mail by those without internet access would be included as a provision in the crowdsourcing bill.

Likewise, Senator Guingona pointed out that crowdsourcing has been resorted to even before electricity became widely available, in the form of *pulong-pulong* or town hall meetings where people express their ideas and suggestions on which others give their critique. He agreed with Senator Aquino that the measure would allow lawmakers to gain access to more information, ideas, solutions to problems and even to criticisms from the people.

Asked what changes that the bureaucracy would have to undergo to be able to process properly all the

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information that would come in, Senator Guingona stated that the bill would usher in a paradigm shift that would require the retraining of people in the bureaucracy on the use of new hardware and software.

Asked to cite the international models after which the crowdsourcing bill was patterned, Senator Guingona stated that Iceland relied heavily on crowdsourcing when it revised its constitution. He said that since charter change has always been discussed in the Philippines, crowdsourcing could help make it happen. He also cited Finland which has a law that prescribes that an idea supported by at least 5% of the population should become a bill and should be taken up by parliament. Similarly, in the United States, he said that the White House itself presents the problem to the public and encourages people to propose solutions and even offers rewards for the best one that has been chosen.

Senator Aquino acknowledged the worthiness of the bill, stating that by opening up the legislative process, lawmakers would be able to elicit ideas from the people.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

At the outset, Senator Pimentel congratulated Senator Guingona for an out-of-the-box approach to lawmaking, as he admitted that the term "crowdsourcing" was something new to him.

Noting that crowdsourcing is a highly technical term, Senator Pimentel inquired if the bill would also accommodate inputs, comments, questions and even criticisms originating from non-digital or analog processes, or from other traditional means. Senator Guingona replied in the affirmative, stating that such inputs originating from face-to-face meetings such as those that happen in town halls, the internet and those coming from regular mail, will become part of official records which legislators can use in the crafting of the bill. He reiterated that the bill would institutionalize the practice of crowdsourcing.

Senator Guingona agreed with Senator Pimentel that a printed letter could be scanned and transformed into a digital form, thereby adapting traditional process to high technology.

Adverting to Section 32, Article VI of the Constitution on the system of initiative and referendum,

Senator Pimentel asked how crowdsourcing could play a role in enhancing the right of the people to enact laws, in view of the requirement that a certain percentage of voters nationwide and per legislative district must be complied with. Senator Guingona admitted that while Finland was able to use crowdsourcing to its advantage because it has national ID system, the Philippines, where such system is absent, would have to contend with the problem of identification of persons.

Senator Guingona admitted that one of the issues that the Body must have to thresh out is the matter of accepting inputs from people who do not reveal their true identities. He disclosed that one side posits that people should be responsible for their posts while the other avers that the identity is no longer necessary as the strength of the idea should be considered regardless of the source.

To Senator Pimentel's observation that the passage of the bill would allow the people to participate in the lawmaking process regardless of their location, effectively transcending the problem of distance, Senator Guingona agreed. He added that it would allow people to save money for a plane ticket, hotel accommodations and other expenses in going to the Senate.

Asserting that the bill would help the people of Mindanao, Senator Pimentel called on the Body to make sure that Mindanao would have electricity to be able to use digital devices for them to benefit from the Crowdsourcing Act.

To Senator Guingona's suggestion that one alternative would be to reverse the system of franking privileges which would allow people to send letters postage-free, Senator Pimentel pointed out that it would be best if the people could participate in lawmaking through the Crowdsourcing Act by taking advantage of modern technology.

Upon query, Senator Guingona affirmed that the bill itself was "crowdsourced." At this point, he invited everyone to log on to "theguignonaproject.com" for their inputs.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ESCUDERO

At the outset, Senator Escudero expressed his support to the bill, but he noted that some provisions

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in the bill did not need legislation because some committees, like the ones he had handled, have created a website where bills, schedules of hearings, the various versions of the bill as approved by the committee, the committee reports and final outputs, are posted or cross-referenced to the website of the Senate, and anyone interested could make comments thereon,

Senator Escudero suggested that while the bill is being taken up, it could also be referred to the Committee on Rules for its consideration. He recalled Senator Sotto's suggestion that the Senate proceedings be aired on cable or be made available through live streaming so that there could be an active participation in the internet by anyone interested in the bill.

On Section 8 of the proposed bill, which provides for a five-day window before the President signs a bill into law, Senator Escudero expressed concern about possible constitutional infirmities because it would impose additional requirements not provided for under the Constitution. Senator Guingona explained that the idea was to institutionalize a democracy-enhancing mechanism that would give the President a window to enable him to see the sentiments of the people prior to the passage of a law. He acknowledged that a number of issues would require a lot of debate.

Moreover, Senator Guingona allayed Senator Escudero's apprehension that additional requirements might be imposed during the crowdsourcing of a bill. He assured the Body that the intent was not to delay but to put a parallel process to the regular legislative process.

Noting that anonymity in the internet is both a blessing and a curse, Senator Escudero suggested that the committee deliberations also address the uniqueness of the internet. Senator Guingona explained that in the present crowdsourcing that they were conducting, the moderator imposes a rule of engagement where everything is allowed unless it is libellous, off-topic or in violation of the law. He affirmed that the rules of parliamentary practice would apply.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Senator Cayetano (P) stated that she has been a

supporter of crowdsourcing because it has been in the world in various forms for centuries. She said that she would give her inputs on the matter during the floor debates on the bill.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (A)

Senator Cayetano (A) recalled that when he visited the OWWA, the POEA as well as the consulate in Hong Kong to observe their processes, he discovered that there were a number of hardworking government employees who work beyond five o'clock in the afternoon without overtime pay, yet there were still many complaints. He said that one proposal that resulted from his discussions was the appointment of a social media officer.

Asked if he would be willing to expand the coverage to include other platforms currently available, Senator Guingona agreed to include other platforms available such as social media tools that are user-friendly.

Senator Cayetano (A) suggested the use of Google Hangout and that the names of the bills be posted on Twitter to allow netizens to give their comments. He explained that such proposal was a consequence of the uproar that was caused by the enactment of the Anti-Cybercrime Law. He said that people from media lamented that while the bills were posted on the website and were referred to the committees for public hearings, during the deliberations on the floor including the amendment process, the people do not have time to react, and the bicameral conference is closed to the public as well.

Finally, Senator Cayetano (A) expressed his support to the intention of the bill and commended Senator Guingona for always being in the forefront of transparency and accountability.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Guingona and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Science and Technology as the primary committee, and to the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media as the secondary committee.

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

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

- Political Science students from the University of Perpetual Help System; and
- Rotarian leaders and members, namely: Rotary charter president Matthew Torres of Makati Business District; Rotary charter president Lorelei Kelly Fajardo of Chinatown Circle; Senior Asst. Governor Cora Tan, Asst. Governor David Ackerman, Ms. Suzette Ledesma Dr. Elmer Linao, Mr. Vic Deveza, Mr. Kiko Ablain and Mr. Danny Gapasin.

Senate President Pro Tempore Recto 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 Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Chairman: Osmeña ✓

Vice Chairman: Guingona ✓

Members:

Legarda ✓	Trillanes ✓
Poe ✓	Pimentel ✓
Aquino ✓	

Committee on Energy

Chairman: Osmeña ✓

Members:

Guingona ✓	Trillanes
Legarda ✓	Pimentel ✓
Villar ✓	Escudero
Aquino ✓	Marcos
Poe ✓	Cayetano (P)

Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Vice Chairman: Osmeña ✓

Committee on Finance

Vice Chairman: Osmeña ✓

Committee on Economic Affairs

Member: Osmeña ✓

Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Member: Osmeña ✓

Committee on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation

Members:

Cayetano (P) ✓	Trillanes ✓
Aquino ✓	

Committee on Agrarian Reform

Member: Villar ✓

Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Members:

Villar ✓	Legarda
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SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:24 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:26 p.m., the session was resumed.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE PRESENCE OF GUEST**

Upon resumption, Senator Cayetano (A) acknowledged the presence in the gallery of Mayor Stephanie Uy-Tan of Catbalogan City, Samar.

Senate President Pro Tempore Recto welcomed the guest to the Senate.


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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 12, 2013.

It was 4:26 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate
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Approved on August 12, 2013