



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

# Journal

**SESSION NO. 18**  
Monday, September 9, 2013

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

**SESSION NO. 18**  
Monday, September 9, 2013

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**PRAYER**

Sen. Grace Poe led the prayer, to wit:

*Sa Ngalan ng Ama, ng Anak, at ng Espiritu Santo, Amen.*

*Diyos naming makapangyarihan, maraming salamat po sa pambihirang pribilehiyo na ibinigay Ninyo sa amin upang makapagsilbi sa aming mga kababayan.*

*Nawa ay gamitin namin ang pagkakataong ito upang makapagbalangkas ng mga batas na tunay na makatutulong sa pinakamahihirap naming kababayan na malapit sa Inyong puso.*

*Bigyan Ninyo po kami ng lakas na ipaglaban at ilabas ang katotohanan. Nawa'y ang aming trabaho rito ay maging karapat-dapat na ialay sa Inyo upang mabigyan ng karangalan ang aming bayan at ang aming mga mahal sa buhay.*

*Ito pong lahat ay galing sa Inyo at para sa Inyo. Salamat Po.*

*Amen.*

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

The New Life Sounds Choir of Cebu led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song, entitled "*Rosas Pandan*."

The Senate President thanked the choir which, he noted, came all the way from Cebu to sing for the Senate the song "*Rosas Pandan*."

**ROLL CALL**

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

Angara, S.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Legarda, L.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Marcos Jr., F. R.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Osmeña III, S. R.
Cayetano, P. S.	Poe, G.
Drilon, F. M.	Recto, R. G.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Enrile, J. P.	Sotto III, V. C.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Trillanes IV, A. F.
Estrada, J.	Villar, C. A.
Honasan, G. B.	

With 21 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Guingona and Pimentel were on official mission.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

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## APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 17 (September 4, 2013) and considered it approved.

## REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1451, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 18, SERIES OF 1986, TO EXPAND THE COMPOSITION OF THE SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION (SRA) SUGAR BOARD

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1453, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING ANTI-COMPETITIVE AGREEMENTS, ABUSE OF DOMINANT POSITION, AND ANTI-COMPETITIVE MERGERS, ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE FAIR COMPETITION COMMISSION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; Economic Affairs; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1454, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRODUCTION, IMPORTATION, SALE, PROVISION, USE, RECOVERY, COLLECTION, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL OF PLASTIC BAGS

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1455, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE MALNUTRITION PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 1456, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING, USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR DESTRUCTION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 1457, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 25-31 AND JANUARY 1 AS SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAYS

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

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

Senate Bill No. 1458, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE STUDY NOW, PAY LATER PLAN FOR POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

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

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Senate Bill No. 1459, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committee on Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 1460, entitled

AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT OLDER OR DISABLED PERSONS ARE PROTECTED FROM INSTITUTIONAL, COMMUNITY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT AND TO IMPROVE OUTREACH EFFORTS AND OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE TO OLDER OR DISABLED PERSONS VICTIMIZED BY SUCH VIOLENCE

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No.1461, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE TECHNOLOGY MANAGEMENT CENTER OF THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY, INTO A NATIONAL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR TECHNOLOGY ASSESSMENT, MANAGEMENT AND FORECASTING AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1462, entitled

AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE PHILIPPINE INDUSTRIAL AND LABOR

DISPUTE SETTLEMENT SYSTEM AND FOR THAT PURPOSE, AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442 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.1463, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL ECOTOURISM POLICY, ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR ITS INSTITUTIONALIZATION, PROVIDING THE MECHANISMS FOR ITS APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1464, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 426 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, "THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," BY MANDATING THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN TO IMPLEMENT AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAM IN THEIR RESPECTIVE BARANGAYS, PROVIDING THE MECHANISM FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No.1465, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 179 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE (ACT NO. 3815 AS AMENDED) BY INCREASING THE PENALTY PROVIDED THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1466, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PRESCRIBING ITS FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No.1467, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT (NCITD), DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No.1468, entitled

AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE, PROMOTE AND ALLOW PRIVATE COMPANIES AND INDIVIDUALS TO DONATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT (ITE) TO EDUCATIONAL AND/OR RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS BY PROVIDING TAX INCENTIVES THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 34 AND 101 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE (NIRC) AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No.1469, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A COMMISSION ON THE FAMILY

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Finance**

Senate Bill No.1470, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1638 AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "ESTABLISHING A NEW SYSTEM OF RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" BY GRANTING THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO RETIREES WHO HAVE REACQUIRED PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committee on National Defense and Security**

Senate Bill No. 1471, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHILIPPINE MUSIC INDUSTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1472, entitled

AN ACT TO RECRUIT, HIRE, AND TRAIN ADDITIONAL SCHOOL-BASED GUIDANCE COUNSELORS,

PSYCHOLOGISTS, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AND MENTAL HEALTH PERSONNEL

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1473, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING FAMILY PRIVACY PROTECTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Senate Bill No. 1474, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THAT EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM AND THE CONSEQUENT PREPARATION OF TEXTBOOKS AND RELATED MATERIALS SHOULD HAVE CONTINUITY AND STABILITY, AND THAT THE SAME SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BY ANY CHANGE DURING THE PERIOD OF AT LEAST SIX (6) YEARS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. NO. 8047, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACT

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 1475, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE COLLEGE EDUCATION OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "REGIONAL SUBSIDIZED COLLEGE EDUCATION PROGRAM OF 2013" AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1476, entitled

AN ACT TO REDUCE HEALTH CARE COSTS BY REQUIRING TERTIARY AND SPECIALIZED HOSPITALS TO SHARE CERTAIN SERVICES AND EQUIPMENT

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No.1477, 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

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1478, entitled

AN ACT TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BY CREATING LOCAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS IN EVERY CITY AND MUNICIPALITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Youth; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No.1479, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE URBAN AND COUNTRYSIDE GREENING IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1480, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN EXPANDED VOUCHER SYSTEM IN THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6728, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No.1481, 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 Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No.1482, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT SEVENTY NINE FORTY-ONE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PARTY LIST SYSTEM ACT

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1483, entitled

AN ACT TREATING LOCALLY MANUFACTURED INSTANT NOODLES AS BASIC NECESSITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 3 SUBPARAGRAPH (1) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PRICE ACT

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship**

Senate Bill No. 1484, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship**

Senate Bill No. 1485, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING RETIREMENT INCENTIVE AND HEALTH CARE BENEFITS TO PROFESSIONAL FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO HAVE WON WORLD TITLES OR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Games, Amusement and Sports; Health and Demography; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1487, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE SAMAR ISLAND NATURAL PARK (SINP), SITUATED IN THE PROVINCES OF SAMAR, NORTHERN SAMAR AND EASTERN SAMAR, AS PROTECTED AREA AND ITS PERIPHERAL AREAS AS BUFFER ZONE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No.1488, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING FULL DISCLOSURE OF ALL ENTITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS RECEIVING FUNDING FROM THE GOVERNMENT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1489, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE ESTATE TAX EXEMPTION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 84, CHAPTER I, ESTATE TAX, TITLE III OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Escudero

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1490, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING THE PUBLIC WITH ADEQUATE NOTICE AND EDUCATION ON THE EFFECTS OF EXPOSURE TO MERCURY THROUGH THE DEVELOPMENT OF HEALTH ADVISORIES AND BY REQUIRING THAT SUCH APPROPRIATE ADVISORIES BE POSTED, OR MADE READILY AVAILABLE, AT ALL BUSINESSES THAT SELL FRESH, FROZEN, AND CANNED FISH AND SEAFOOD WHERE THE POTENTIAL FOR MERCURY EXPOSURE EXISTS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No.1491, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM THE POPULATION AND THE LAND AREA REQUIREMENTS THE CONVERSION OF A MUNICIPALITY INTO A COMPONENT CITY IF IT HAS A LOCALLY GENERATED AVERAGE ANNUAL INCOME OF AT LEAST FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (500,000,000.00), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committee on Local Government**

Senate Bill No.1492, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE USE OF ENERGY-EFFICIENT LIGHTING PRODUCTS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Energy**

Senate Bill No. 1493, entitled

AN ACT ADOPTING THE HIGHER PRESCRIBED PENALTY, INCLUDING DEATH, OF THE NATIONAL LAW OF AN ALIEN FOUND GUILTY OF TRAFFICKING DANGEROUS DRUGS AND OTHER SIMILAR SUBSTANCES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 1494, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING MAY 15 OF EACH YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY TO OBSERVE THE NATIONAL FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK DAY

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

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

Senate Bill No. 1495, entitled

AN ACT STREAMLINING THE BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS BUREAUCRACY



AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1496, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE SOLICITA-  
TION OF CONTRIBUTIONS FROM, OR  
SALE OF TICKETS TO ANY GOVERN-  
MENT OFFICIAL OR EMPLOYEE  
BY ANY PUBLIC OFFICIAL,  
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE  
CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 3019, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE ANTI-GRAFT AND  
CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1497, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL BRANCHES,  
SUBDIVISIONS, INSTRUMENT-  
ALITIES, AND AGENCIES OF THE  
GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING  
GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CON-  
TROLLED CORPORATIONS OR  
THEIR SUBSIDIARIES TO DIVULGE  
THE IDENTITY OF HIRED FOREIGN  
CONSULTANTS, THE NATURE OF  
THEIR WORK AND THEIR COM-  
PENSATION, PERKS, AND OTHER  
PRIVILEGES, AND PROVIDING  
PENALTIES IN CASE OF VIOLA-  
TION THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1498, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING PENSIONS

UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY  
SYSTEM AMENDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, OTHER-  
WISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL  
SECURITY ACT OF 1997

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Government Corp-  
orations and Public Enterprises; and Labor,  
Employment and Human Resources Develop-  
ment**

Senate Bill No. 1499, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING TITLES V AND VI,  
SECTIONS 102 AND 107 OF  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHER-  
WISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Local Government;  
and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Develop-  
ment**

Senate Bill No. 1500, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 107 (A)  
OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL  
REVENUE CODE, SEEKING TO  
EXEMPT FROM THE IMPOSITION  
OF VALUE ADDED TAX ON  
DONATED IMPORTATIONS OF  
ITEMS OR GOODS, WHICH ARE  
FOR NON-PROFIT, CHARITABLE,  
HUMANITARIAN, RELIEF PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Proposed Senate No. 233, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER  
COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE TO  
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID



OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CLAIMS OF CERTAIN GROUPS AND AGENCIES CONCERNING THE ACTUAL STATE OF RICE SUPPLY IN THE COUNTRY, INCLUDING THE ROLE AND POLICIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY GIVEN OUR GOAL OF NATIONAL RICE SUFFICIENCY

Introduced by Senator Legarda

**To the Committee on Agriculture and Food**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 234, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE ACTIONS UNDERTAKEN TOWARDS THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9999 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2010 WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FINALLY AFFORDING FILIPINOS THE FULL BENEFITS ENVISIONED BY THE ACT

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

**CHANGE OF REFERRAL**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair approved to transfer the referral of the following Senate bills to the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship as the primary committee, and to the Committee on Economic Affairs as the secondary committee:

- Senate Bill No. 106 (creating and accrediting micro-enterprise development institutions) introduced by Senator Legarda;
- Senate Bill No. 253 (promoting job generation by providing additional incentives to micro, small and medium enterprises) introduced by Senator Recto;

- Senate Bill No. 307 (creating and accrediting microenterprise development institutions) introduced by Senator Villar;
- Senate Bill No. 615 (expanding the coverage of micro enterprises as beneficiaries of the Magna Carta for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) introduced by Senator Recto; and
- Senate Bill No. 1254 (amending the Magna Carta for Small Enterprises) introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

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

*It was 3:24 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:33 p.m., the session was resumed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS OF SENATOR CAYETANO (A)**

Senator Cayetano (A) stated that the Body would resume consideration on Second Reading of Senate Bill No. 1186 (postponement of SK elections) on the next session day.

As regards the resolutions proposing to abolish the pork barrel or the PDAF, and taking note of the popular support the measure has gained among the members of the Body, he said that he and Senator Escudero and the rest of the authors have agreed to meet first to define the appropriate terms to be used in said legislative measure before discussing them in plenary, as he pointed out the difficulty of abolishing something that has not been properly defined.

On the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill, Senator Cayetano (A) informed the Body that Senator Poe would be conducting a second hearing on September 18, after which a committee report would be presented for plenary deliberation.

In compliance with the request of the Members of the Chamber during the previous caucus, Senator Cayetano (A) presented a list of bills which were approved either on second reading or on third reading

during the Fifteenth Congress, among which were the following:

- The PAG-ASA modernization measure which was referred to the Committee on Science and Technology, and which is covered by Senate Bill Nos. 73, 572, 1039 and 1406 in the Fifteenth Congress, and Senate Bill Nos. 10, 842, 955 and 1160 in the Sixteenth Congress;
- The FOI measure, covered by Senate Bill Nos. 11, 25, 26, 149, 158, 162, 1254, 1440, 2086, 2189, 2283 and 2354 in the Fifteenth Congress, and Senate Bill Nos. 18, 36, 44, 74, 90, 217 and 514 in the Sixteenth Congress; and
- The NBI Modernization Act as well as the measure strengthening the Office of the Government Corporate Council, which will be tackled by the Committee on Justice and Human Rights.

Senator Cayetano (A) said that the bills would be looked at intently so that the committees concerned, if they so decide, could already prepare committee

reports thereon considering that they were already passed either on second reading or on third reading during the Fifteenth Congress. He added that the Office of the Majority Leader and the Senate President are ready to offer any assistance as regards measures that any Member wants to fast-track.

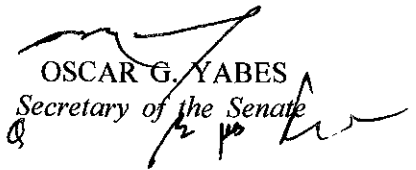
#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

*It was 3:57 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

OSCAR G. YABES  
Secretary of the Senate



Approved on September 10, 2013