



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 19
Tuesday, September 10, 2013

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 19
Tuesday, September 10, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

Sen. Ralph G. Recto led the prayer, to wit:

Lord, in these turbulent, troubled, and trying times, teach us to be instruments of Your peace.

Where there is hatred and outrage, let there be love and stillness in our hearts.

Where there is dishonesty and trickery, let there be truthfulness and openness in seeking out the truth.

Where there is divisiveness and dissension, let there be unity and harmony among our people.

Where there is selfishness and greed, let there be generosity and kindness to those in need.

Where there is despair and helplessness, let there be hope and triumph of spirit.

Grant, O Lord, that we may never seek self-adulation and praise in the performance of our duties, lest we forget that we are public servants;

That we never forget to follow Your teachings and examples, lest we lose sight of the purpose and mission of Your Kingdom here on earth.

For it is only in following Your path, O gracious Lord, that we may be Your true disciples. And it is only in You, great and merciful God, will our hearts and our souls be at rest.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

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

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

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

Senators Legarda and Marcos arrived after the roll call.

Senator Guingona was on official mission.

Senators Defensor Santiago and Enrile were on sick leave.

۳

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. 18 (September 9, 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. 1501, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 19, 28, 30, 37, 38 AND 65 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Services; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 1502, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE HEALTH AND EDUCATION ACCELERATION PROGRAM CORPORATION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1503, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING DIFFERENT PENALTIES FOR POLITICAL AND PRIVATE LIBEL, AMENDING ARTICLE 354 AND 361 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, FOR THIS PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1504, entitled

AN ACT DEVOLVING FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990," REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION AND BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY PROFESSIONALIZATION ACT OF 2004," REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9592, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT EXTENDING FOR FIVE (5) YEARS THE REGULATORY PERIOD FOR COMPLYING WITH THE MINIMUM EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION AND APPROPRIATE ELIGIBILITY FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP) AND THE BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 4 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9263," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1505, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE FORMER PRISONERS' EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

1

Senate Bill No. 1506, entitled

AN ACT ENSURING EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO MEMBERS OF INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND PREFERENCE IN CERTAIN CASES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1507, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CHAPTER 2, TITLE V OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1508, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE LAND MANAGEMENT BUREAU TO CONDUCT A SURVEY OF CADASTRAL LOTS IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1509, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT, WITHDRAWING FROM ITS APPLICATION ALL REFERENCES TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Finance; and Local Government

Senate Bill No.1510, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES THAT PROVIDE FRONTLINE SERVICES TO PROVIDE PUBLIC INFORMATION ON HOW TO ACCESS SUCH SERVICES FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE OFFICES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1511, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING LINE ITEM BUDGETING IN THE BUDGETARY PROCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT, REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1177, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Finance

Senate Bill No. 1512, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 1513, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE JOSE R. REYES MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER (JRRMMC) INTO A DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) NATIONAL CENTER FOR TRAUMA, CANCER AND DERMATOLOGY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1514, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS TECHNICAL INSTITUTE WITHIN THE NATIONAL BILIBID PRISONS (NBP) RESERVATION AND THE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTION FOR WOMEN (CIW), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1515, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE GOVERNMENT FROM ALLOWING ANY NON-GOVERNMENT ENTITY FROM OCCUPYING ANY BUILDING, OFFICE OR OTHER PREMISES WHERE GOVERNMENTAL FUNCTIONS ARE BEING PERFORMED

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 1516, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1517, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 26 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1518, entitled

AN ACT CODIFYING THE ALTERNATIVE CHILD CARE LAWS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1519, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION DATABASE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1520, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, BY REPEALING SECTIONS 139, 140, 141 AND 142 THEREIN

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1521, entitled

AN ACT RE-INSTITUTING ROTC AS A MANDATORY COURSE FOR ALL COLLEGE STUDENTS, REVIVING THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077 AND COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 1 AND AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9163 FOR THE PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

13

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

Senate Bill No. 1522, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Services; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 1523, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A NATIONAL FOLIC ACID EDUCATION PROGRAM TO PREVENT BIRTH DEFECTS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1524, entitled

AN ACT ABOLISHING THE PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND (PDAF) AND INSTITUTIONALIZING BOTTOM UP BUDGETING IN THE PLANNING AND IDENTIFICATION OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS TO BE FUNDED BY THE ANNUAL GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

Introduced by Senator Guingona III

To the Committee on Finance

Senate Bill No. 1525, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION FOR LEASE ON REGISTERED LANDS

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1526, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 80 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 705, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED FORESTRY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1775

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 1527, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

Senate Bill No. 1528, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION BY MAKING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER MANDATORY FOR PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 484 (A) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1529, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR LABOR REPRESENTATION IN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1530, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A JOB TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MATURE OR OLDER WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1531, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING PALLIATIVE AND END-OF-LIFE CARE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1532, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND INDIGENTS A TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT ON THE SALE OF MEDICINES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No.1533, entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARIES OF HEALTH AND LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO ISSUE REGULATIONS TO ELIMINATE OR MINIMIZE THE SIGNIFICANT RISK OF NEEDLESTICK INJURY TO HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1534, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MOVEMENT TO HELP ERADICATE RAPE AND OTHER FEMALE ABUSES ("MOTHER"), MANDATING THE COMPULSORY TEACHING OF SELF DEFENSE TO ALL FEMALE CONSTITUENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No.1535, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE BAKERY INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD AS ATTACHED AGENCY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE TITLE X, BOOK IV OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 292, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1536, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF WORKERS IN CASES OF MERGERS, ACQUISITIONS, CONSOLIDATION, SALE OF ALL OR SUBSTANTIALLY ALL ASSETS, BUSINESS ENTERPRISE TRANSFER, OR TRANSFER OF A GOING CONCERN AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

ro

Senate Bill No. 1537, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DEMONSTRATION, PERFORMANCE OR EXHIBITION IN PUBLIC OF CERTAIN SEXUAL ACTS, AND THE PRODUCTION, IMPORTATION, SALE OR DISTRIBUTION, OR PUBLIC SHOWING OR DISPLAY OF PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1538, entitled

AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM REAL PROPERTY TAX THE TREES AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS ON LANDS COVERED BY CERTIFICATES OF STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS UNDER THE INTEGRATED SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Local Government; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1539, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING TRANSPARENCY OF INFORMATION IN EXPROPRIATION PROCEEDINGS FOR GOVERNMENT PROJECTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Finance; and Public Works

Senate Bill No. 1540, entitled

AN ACT TO INDEX FINES OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND VARIOUS PENAL LAWS TO ADJUST TO INFLATION

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1541, entitled

AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, THROUGH THE NATIONAL MAPPING AND RESOURCE INFORMATION AUTHORITY, TOGETHER WITH THE NATIONAL DISASTER COORDINATING COUNCIL, TO IDENTIFY LOW-LYING AREAS OF THE PHILIPPINE TERRITORY VULNERABLE TO RISING SEA LEVELS AS A RESULT OF GLOBAL WARMING, AND AREAS AT HIGH RISK FOR NATURAL DISASTERS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1542, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1543, entitled

AN ACT CHANGING THE CRIME OF CONCUBINAGE INTO MARITAL INFIDELITY, AMENDING ARTICLE 333 AND ARTICLE 334 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality

je

Senate Bill No. 1544, entitled

AN ACT UPHOLDING THE RIGHT OF ACQUISITION BY QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES OF GOVERNMENT-OWNED LANDS THEY ACTUALLY OCCUPY, AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Urban, Planning Housing and Resettlement

Senate Bill No. 1545, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A FIVE-YEAR PUBLIC MARKETS PROGRAM INVOLVING INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT, MICROFINANCING SUPPORT, INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Local Government; Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1546, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SLOPING AGRICULTURAL LAND TECHNOLOGY FARMING PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUND THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1547, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADVANCED STUDIES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR EXCEPTIONAL EMPLOYEES FROM THE GOVERNMENT AND

PRIVATE SECTOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1548, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING THE GRANTING OF REWARDS AND PROTECTION TO THOSE WHO WILL REPORT MALFEASANCE IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1549, entitled

AN ACT DIRECTING ALL GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS TO PREPARE THEIR RESPECTIVE ASSET AND LIABILITY MANAGEMENT GUIDELINES THAT WILL DEFINE THE PARAMETERS AND/OR LIMITS OF THEIR FINANCIAL AND OPERATIONAL CAPABILITIES FOR CENTRAL CONTROL AND MONITORING BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 1550, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 155 AND 157 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209 AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, SO AS TO STRENGTHEN THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW GOVERNING THE FAMILY HOME

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Ways and Means

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ESTRADA

Senator Estrada requested that the Body take up Proposed Senate Resolution No. 176.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:18 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:21 p.m., the session was resumed.

REMARK OF SENATOR CAYETANO (A)

Upon resumption, Senator Cayetano said that Proposed Senate Resolution No. 176 would be taken up at a later hour and that he would explain to the Body why the other resolutions of the same nature have not yet been taken up on the floor.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Students of the Public Administration Department as well as the Executive Committee of Southern Luzon State University headed by Dr. Eriberto Casiño;
- Students of Manuel L. Quezon University headed by Dr. Bayani Santos Jr.; and
- Students of Lyceum of the Philippines University.

Senate President Drilon welcomed the guests to the Senate.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

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 committee hereunder indicated:

Committee on Youth

Chairman : Aquino

Members :

Angara	Binay
Trillanes	Ejercito
Pimentel	
Legarda	

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:22 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:26 p.m., the session was resumed.

REMARKS OF SENATOR CAYETANO (A)

Upon resumption, Senator Cayetano (A) explained that the Committee on Rules was in the process of coming up with a system of not only prioritizing but also of verifying Senate resolutions which are in the nature of commendations to make sure that before the name of the Senate is attached, everything has been verified, including the background of the person to be granted the award, the nature of the award to be granted, and the date of the conferment of the award.

He asked for the indulgence of the Members who have filed similar resolutions seeking to commend or congratulate certain athletes or outstanding individuals by giving the committee a few days to finish its task and to ensure that the institution is protected.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 176

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 176, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING DR. ALICIA SANTOS FOR BEING CONFERRED THE PRESTIGIOUS GAWAD MABINI WITH THE RANK OF DAKILANG KASUGO PRESIDENTIAL AWARD.

r

Deputy Secretary Edwin B. Bellen read the text of the resolution, to wit:

WHEREAS, the *Gawad Mabini* Award, created by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 490, is “to be conferred by the President of the Philippines on personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs, both in the Home Office and in the Foreign Service, as well as on other Filipinos who have rendered distinguished service or promoted the interests of the Republic of the Philippines at home and abroad”;

WHEREAS, the *Gawad Mabini* Award has three (3) ranks, namely, *Dakilang Kamanong*, *Dakilang Kasugo* and *Kasugo*;

WHEREAS, *Dakilang Kasugo* is “to be awarded to officers from Career Minister to Foreign Service Officer Class IV and to personnel of other government agencies serving as attachés in Foreign Service establishments who must have been recommended by the Chief of Mission or the Principal Office of the post where they have served, as the case may be, or by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs, in the case of officers in the Home Office”;

WHEREAS, Section 3 of PD 490 provides that “Before any Philippine government official or employee may be entitled to the *Dakilang Kasugo*, he must have rendered distinguished service, or helped promote the interests and prestige of the Philippines abroad, and must have served at least a minimum of four years in the Department of Foreign Affairs, provided that such prescribed period shall not apply in extraordinary circumstances, such as in displays of acts of heroism or loyal performance of responsibility beyond the call of duty, as decided by the President upon recommendation of the Secretary of Foreign Affairs”;

WHEREAS, in ceremonies in Manila last July 31 during the 115th Foundation Day of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the 149th Birth Anniversary of Apolinario Mabini, selected Foreign Service personnel were lauded for their exceptional service;

WHEREAS, Dr. Alicia Santos, our Labor Attaché in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, was conferred the *Gawad Mabini* with the rank of *Dakilang Kasugo* based on the recommendation of Philippine Ambassador to Malaysia Jose Eduardo E. Malaya III;

WHEREAS, Dr. Santos has been actively organizing events and zealously participating in skills training, education, and financial literacy programs for the Filipino community through the Filipino Workers Resource Center (FWRC);

WHEREAS, the exemplary work of Dr. Santos with the Filipino community in Malaysia is highlighted by her initiative to unify the organizations under one umbrella organization called the Federation of Filipino Associations in Malaysia (FFAM) which she successfully endeavored to be accredited by the Malaysian Registry of Societies in August last year;

WHEREAS, composed of around 35 Filipino community organizations, the FFAM serves as the Embassy’s conduit and partner in implementing the activities and programs;

WHEREAS, Dr. Santos’ commitment to public service started in 1977 when she served as an Administrative Officer at the National Manpower and Youth Council (now Technical Education and Skills Development Authority);

WHEREAS, a true career official, she rose as Regional Director of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) and served as Labor Attaché in various countries including South Korea, Lebanon, Syria, and Italy in her more than three (3) decades in government service;

WHEREAS, Dr. Santos’ dedication to service is backed by strong educational foundation: Master’s Degree in Public Policy and Program from the University of the Philippines, a Masters of Arts in English Literature from the University of Santo Tomas; and Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*, from the University of Regina Carmeli;

WHEREAS, Dr. Santos, who is now in the roster of respected and accomplished *Gawad Mabini* awardees, undeniably deserves the admiration and recognition of her fellow Filipinos both in the country and abroad;

WHEREAS, an epitome of loyalty and devotion to the people and the country she serves, the recognition given to Dr. Santos renews the call for public service with integrity, honesty, responsibility and dedication;

WHEREAS, amidst various issues and controversies alarming our line of foreign service, *Gawad Mabini* and Dr. Santos bring inspiration, hope and fervor to our public servants to strengthen their cause for our nation’s progress and genuine development;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Senate congratulates and commends Dr. Alicia Santos for being conferred the prestigious *Gawad Mabini* with the rank of *Dakilang Kasugo* Presidential Award.

†

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ESTRADA

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 176, Senator Estrada delivered the following speech:

The recent issues about the demeaning conduct and appalling services that our Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) experience and receive from our frontline officers in our various foreign posts are undeniably disheartening and demoralizing. When the very people whom our OFWs seek for care and protection in territories far from their families are the very ones who disdain and abuse them, we can expect that sooner or later, our *Bagong Bayani* will falter in giving pride and honor to their families and to our country.

It is, however, very enlightening to know that there are still exemplary officers who continue to be committed to helping our people and offering selfless service for the improvement of their welfare. One of them is Dr. Alicia Santos, our labor attaché in the Philippine Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

This fine lady was conferred the *Gawad Mabini* with the rank of *Dakilang Kasugo* last July 31 during the 115th Foundation Day of the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and the 149th birth anniversary of Apolinario Mabini.

The *Gawad Mabini* Award, created by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 490, is “to be conferred by the President of the Philippines on personnel of the Department of Foreign Affairs, both in the Home Office and in the Foreign Service, as well as on other Filipinos who have rendered distinguished service or promoted the interests of the Republic of the Philippines at home and abroad.”

One of the ranks of the *Gawad Mabini* Award is *Dakilang Kasugo* which is awarded to a Philippine government official or employee who has “rendered distinguished service, or helped promote the interests and prestige of the Philippines abroad.”

Dr. Santos has been actively involved in various programs for the Filipino community through the Filipino Workers Resource Center (FWRC), including the creation of the Federation of Filipino Associations in Malaysia (FFAM) which she successfully endeavored to be accredited by the Malaysian Registry of Societies in August last year.

Dr. Santos truly deserves the admiration and respect of our people and, hopefully, she will be

among our inspiration to strengthen our resolve for integrity, honesty, responsibility and dedication in public service.

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 176

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, Proposed Resolution No. 176 was adopted by the Body.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:36 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:40 p.m., the session was resumed.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1186 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1186 (Committee Report No. 1), entitled

AN ACT TO POSTPONE THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 28, 2013, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 1 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senator Cayetano (A) stated that the parliamentary status was still the period of interpellations.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Marcos, sponsor of the measure, and Senator Ejercito for his interpellation.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR EJERCITO

Asked by Senator Ejercito what good the postponement of the Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) elections would bring to the SK, Senator Marcos replied that the postponement would give Congress

the much-needed time to institute reforms in the SK system as it is well recognized by all parties involved, even the members of the SK included, that the system has not given the youth effective and sufficient representation since its inception 20 years ago. He stated that the process to reform the SK started in the last Congress but the bill did not make it before Congress adjourned. He added that given the unanimity, both in and out of government, that SK needs reform, the Committees proposed the postponement of the SK elections in order to put in place the desired structure and system before elections would be held.

Asked on the timeframe for the measure to be passed and for the reforms to be instituted, Senator Marcos conceded that the process could extend until 2016 but he expressed the hope that the task would be finished within a year, if not earlier. He said that once Congress approved the reform measure, a date for the SK elections could be set.

Asked whether the current SK officials would still be qualified to run in the elections if the age range would be raised to 18-24 years, Senator Marcos replied in the affirmative, explaining that if the reforms would be instituted in less than one year, some of the current SK officials who are 17 or 18 years old would still fall under the proposed age range.

Senator Ejercito expressed his support to the measure.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:51 p.m., the session was resumed.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

Preliminarily, Senator Pimentel noted that those who would vote for the postponement of the SK elections would have their own reasons, for instance, as mentioned in the sponsorship speech, to give Congress enough time to process all the pending bills aimed at reforming the SK. Senator Marcos affirmed that several bills in both houses of Congress contain proposals for the restructuring and reorganization of

the SK, many of which had been proposed in the last Congress. With the looming SK elections and the realization that the system needed to be fixed, he said that the Committees proposed instead to fix what was considered problematic, and to change what needed to be changed, after which, the SK elections would be set.

Asked what the effect would be of the proposed amendment to Section 1 of RA 9340 which states: PROVIDED THAT THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS ON OCTOBER 28, 2013 SHALL BE POSTPONED TO THE NEXT SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW, Senator Marcos replied that the proviso was put to signify the intention to finish the process as quickly as possible and to give Congress flexibility in setting the next SK elections, which would have to be desynchronized from the barangay elections. He clarified that the phrase "SHALL BE POSTPONED TO THE NEXT SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS" was in compliance with the Local Government Code which sets the next synchronized barangay and SK elections in 2016. But he revealed that a tacit agreement among the proponents had been reached to possibly finish the process in less than one year, as no proponent expressed any desire to defer the SK elections until 2016.

He agreed with Senator Pimentel that said proviso could be restructured even as he pointed out that the next synchronized barangay and SK elections was the only date that could be provided for the moment as the specific date depends on the time the reforms would be instituted, hence, the phrase "UNLESS OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW."

Senator Marcos further confirmed Senator Pimentel's observation that the word "LAW" refers to legislation which would schedule the SK elections earlier but in case Congress could not finish the task earlier, then the worst case scenario would be to hold the SK elections in 2016. He reiterated that the date for the next SK elections would be included in the reform bill.

Senator Pimentel suggested improving Section 3 of the bill by moving the phrase "to implement this Act" after the word "necessary." Senator Marcos agreed to propose the amendment at the appropriate time.

r

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

There being no further interpellation, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations and proceeded to the period of committee amendments.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENT

Adopting Senator Pimentel's proposal, on page 2, as proposed by Senator Marcos, there being no objection, the Body approved the transposition of the phrase "to implement this Act" appearing in line 4, to line 3, after the word "necessary."

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

There being no other committee amendment, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body closed the period of committee amendments and proceeded to the period of individual amendments.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto proposed the deletion of Section 2 on the holdover provision, as he recalled Senate President Drilon expressing his reservation over the holdover provision during the period of interpellations.

Senator Marcos stated that there were some misgivings about the deletion of the holdover provision for fear that it would remove the mechanism to maintain youth representation in government if elections would be postponed again in the future. He explained that the function of the holdover provision is to comply with the constitutional mandate that the youth shall have representation in the government.

Senator Sotto asked Senator Marcos to weigh in the proposal and relate it to the possibility of overaged youth representatives if the holdover principle is applied.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Marcos, the session was suspended.

It was 4:05 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:08 p.m., the session was resumed.

WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Recognizing the fact that there are two schools of thought regarding the holdover provision, Senator Sotto asked Senator Marcos to bring the proposal to the bicameral conference and to assess which proposal would be more amenable to the majority. Senator Marcos assured that the issue would be raised during the bicameral conference.

Thereupon, Senator Sotto withdrew his proposed amendment to delete Section 2 of the bill, hoping that he would be designated as member of the Senate panel in the Bicameral Conference Committee.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

There being no other individual amendment, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body closed the period of individual amendments.

APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 1186 ON SECOND READING

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, Senate Bill No. 1186 was approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:11 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1186

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

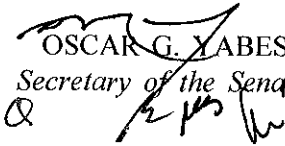
po

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

It was 4:12 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on September 11, 2013