



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 24
Monday, September 23, 2013

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

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

PRAYER

Sen. Sonny Angara led the prayer, to wit:

Minamahal naming Diyos,

Nagpapasalamat kami sa Iyo dahil sa pagkakaloob Mo sa amin ng panibagong pag-asa sa kabila ng lahat ng aming pag-aalala at alinlangan. Bilang Iyong mga nilalang na palaging nananalig sa Iyong dakilang Pangalan, lumalapit kami sa Iyo bilang isang nasyon na nasa gitna ng isang malaking krisis na gumigiba sa pinaka-pundasyon ng aming demokrati-kong institusyon.

Nawa ito'y aming malampasan bilang nagkakaisang mamamayang hangad ay gobyernong totoong naglilingkod at lipunang may moral at tunay na gumagana ang demokrasya.

Nawa'y gabayan Mo kami na naririto ngayon sa bulwagang ito. Bigyan Mo kami ng sapat na karunungan, at Iyong pangibabawin sa aming puso ang kapayapaan at pagkakaisa upang hindi namin hamakin at husgahan ang aming kapwa.

Hinihiling namin ang lahat ng ito sa Iyo, O makapangyarihang Diyos, lalo't inaasahan sa amin ng mamamayan ang tiyak at kagyat na mga kasagutan at solusyon sa kanilang mga katanungan at mga agam-agam. Nawa'y masolusyonan namin ang mga problema ng aming mahal na mga kababayan.

Maraming salamat po sa Iyo, Panginoon.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Senate Choir led the singing of the national anthem.

ROLL CALL

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

Angara, S.	Estrada, J.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Honasan, G. B.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Pimentel III, A. K.
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.	Villar, C. A.

With 18 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Osmeña arrived after the roll call.

Senators Guingona and Lapid were on official mission.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

Senators Marcos and Trillanes were absent.

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. 23 (September 18, 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. 1661, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1662, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING AN INCENTIVE PAY SYSTEM, BASED ON PRODUCTIVITY AND PERFORMANCE, FOR ALL OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1663, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC RESTROOMS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1664, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE VACCINATION AND IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM FOR FILIPINO INFANTS AND CHILDREN, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1665, entitled

AN ACT TO IMPROVE EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES AND TRAUMA CARE

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1666, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL BAMBOO AND RATTAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM HARMONIZING ECOLOGICAL BALANCE, WITH INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1667, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BUREAU ON HAZARDOUS WASTES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SPILLS AND DISEASE REGISTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1668, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE MEDICINE AND OTHER BASIC MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO ANY PRIVATE PERSON OR INDIVIDUAL INJURED OR WOUNDED DURING A MILITARY OR GOVERNMENT OPERATION

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1669, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1829, PENALIZING OBSTRUCTION OF APPREHENSION AND PROSECUTION OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1670, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FREE AND SUITABLE PUBLIC EDUCATION FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1671, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DIALYSIS WARD OR UNIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOSPITAL AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO INDIGENT PATIENTS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1672, entitled

AN ACT TO DECLARE THE UNIVERSITY BELT AREA IN MANILA AND ALL OTHER SCHOOL SITES OR CAMPUSES IN THE COUNTRY WHETHER PUBLIC OR PRIVATE AS DRUG-FREE AND CHILD PROTECTION ZONES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1673, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE ACADEMY (PAFA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1674, entitled

AN ACT TO REGULATE PESTICIDE CHEMICAL RESIDUES IN FOOD

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1675, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MINIMUM CONTENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF ELECTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO CONGRESS BY THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

Senate Bill No. 1676, entitled

AN ACT TO PROHIBIT PYRAMID PROMOTIONAL SCHEMES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 1677, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING A MAGNA CARTA FOR DAY CARE WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1678, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS WORKERS BANK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 1679, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH CENTER IN THE FIFTEEN (15)

REGIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1680, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING AS AGAINST PUBLIC POLICY THE RELEASE OR INTRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS INTO THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1681, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE INSTITUTE FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1682, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN LAND ADMINISTRATION

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1683, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A COMMISSION ON MISSING PERSONS

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1684, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE BENEFITS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 393 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, CREATING A NATIONAL BARANGAY BENEFITS AUGMENTATION FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1685, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 325 (A) 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. 1686, entitled

AN ACT TO PROFESSIONALIZE HOSPITAL EMERGENCY SERVICES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1687, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH A PERMANENT COUNCIL ON NUTRITION AND HEALTH

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1688, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SARANGANI PROVINCE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MAASIM, KIAMBA AND MAITUM, CREATING FOR THAT PURPOSE THE MAASIM-KIAMBA-MAITUM INDUSTRIAL TRIANGLE SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (MITSEZA), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 1689, entitled

AN ACT ADOPTING AN OMNIBUS COMPENSATION AND POSITION CLASSIFICATION OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AND THE BASE PAY SCHEDULE OF MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1690, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AT LEAST ONE (1) SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED) CENTER FOR EACH SCHOOL DIVISION AND AT LEAST THREE (3) SPED CENTERS IN BIG SCHOOL DIVISIONS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS (CSN), PROVIDING GUIDELINES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

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

INQUIRY OF SENATOR ESTRADA

Adverting to a copy of a Senate Press Corps letter addressed to the Senate President, Senator Estrada asked if indeed the Public Relations and Information Bureau (PRIB) of the Senate had issued a memorandum prohibiting the media from conducting interviews before the start of session. Replying in the negative, Senate President Drilon said that he has not received the letter adverted to.

Senator Cayetano (A) explained that during the previous session, Senators Sotto and Poe discussed the issue regarding the conduct of the media during session hours, and the Senate President referred it to the Secretariat. He said that he has read the memorandum from the PRIB to the Senate media, citing therein a violation of the Rules when interviews with senators were done at the railings of the session hall. He confirmed that the memorandum included a warning to media that accreditation would be revoked if media would continue to violate the Rules, and he surmised that this warning could have caused the miscommunication.

Senator Cayetano (A) said that while awaiting the report from the Secretariat, which would include a dialogue with the Senate media, he was assuring the media that their presence is not only welcome but also necessary because they inform the people on various issues discussed in the Senate.

Asked by Senator Estrada if the media are still allowed to interview the senators inside the plenary hall before the start of the session, the Senate President replied in the affirmative.

Senator Cayetano (A) explained that the senators may be interviewed even during the session provided the interview is conducted outside the session hall. He pointed out that as provided for in the Rules, as soon as the session starts, no one is allowed to do any activity that will interfere with the session.

Senator Estrada expressed his concern that a rule that would prohibit the media from conducting interviews before the session starts would be a violation of the freedom of expression. Senate President Drilon assured the Body that there is no such rule.

REMARKS OF SENATOR OSMEÑA

Senator Osmeña noted that the memorandum

issued by the PRIB merely warned the media from interviewing on the sidelines when the session is ongoing, and that neither did it prohibit the media from conducting interviews before or after the session, or to invite the senators outside the session hall to ask questions.

Senator Osmeña stressed that respect should be accorded the senators by not asking them to approach the railing to answer questions from the media, and he believed that the media know the rule and have always followed it.

Senator Cayetano (A) said that without pre-empting the dialogue and the investigation being done by the Secretariat, he could recall some media personnel rushing to interview some senators near the sidelines to get a scoop of a big news item the previous week but was warned by the staff of the Sergeant-at-Arms who were worried that the railings might fall over and could disrupt the session. He believed that what the media was more worried about was the warning of revocation of accreditation in the memo. He hoped that the dialogue between the Secretariat and the media would be held soon in order that the problem could be resolved promptly. He also assured the media that the Senate would not do anything to impede their work as they are essential to democracy.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR ENRILE

Senator Enrile rose on a question of personal privilege to explain his absence the past week because of a medical condition. He said that he was making the statement to avoid any misapprehension or misunderstanding about the reason for his hospitalization in light of too much speculation from the public.

Senator Enrile disclosed that after he was diagnosed as overweight, he was ordered to take a regimen to reduce weight, including exercising daily and taking at least eight glasses of water a day to replenish what was secreted from his body but because he did not realize the volume of the eight glasses, he drank large amounts of it. Because he was not able to pass the water the usual way, he said that he suffered heavy water retention which caused the sodium in his blood to go down at a critical level that his doctor had to warn him that with his condition, he could go through a convulsion and worse, into a coma.

Senator Enrile recalled that at one o'clock in the morning on Saturday, he was shivering so hard that he had to ask his maid to take his blood pressure which turned to be 220/100 units, and so he decided to call his cardiologist, but because the doctor was asleep at that time, it was the doctor's wife who advised him to go to the Makati Medical Center emergency room for an examination. He said that the hospital staff confirmed that his blood pressure shot up and immediately took measures to control it. When his blood pressure was stabilized, he said that he was transferred to the ICU because no private room was available, and that the following morning he was given a sedative that caused his blood pressure go down to a very low level at 80/47. He said that because of the condition of his blood pressure, a machine was attached to him to monitor it.

Senator Enrile stated that on that same Saturday morning, he was not able to urinate so a catheter was attached to him and after 30 minutes, the hospital personnel were able to draw out a little fluid from his body. He said that he had to stay in the hospital for four days – from Saturday to Tuesday – for proper monitoring of his condition and that the hospital personnel were able to extract a total of about eight liters of fluid from his body. He said that he was discharged from the hospital at 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday.

Senator Enrile stated that he was putting the incident into the record to disabuse the mind of the people that he had a cardiac arrest or a stroke or that there was a sad extraneous source of his condition. He reiterated that his sodium just went down to a very critical level, which he initially thought to be kidney stones, having a history of it over the years.

In closing, Senator Enrile stated that he was in a good condition to attend the session again.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- 215 members of the Barangay Kagawad Assembly of the Philippines — Lopez, Quezon Chapter, headed by Mayor Rachel Ubana;

- Gov. Zaldy Villa of Siquijor; and
- Mayors of the Province of Biliran, headed by LMP Chapter president, Rudy Espina, accompanied by Mayors Ricky Macorol of Maripipi, Domy Agahan of Almeria, Leo Maderazo of Caibiran, Lawrence Reveldez of Culaba and Grace Casil of Biliran.

The Senate President welcomed the guests to the Senate.

BIRTHDAY GREETING

As a manifestation of goodwill with members of the media, Senator Cayetano (A) greeted Nimfa Ravelo on the occasion of her birthday.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

CHANGE OF REFERRAL

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, Senate Bill No. 1681 (creating the Institute for Strategic Studies), which was originally referred to the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization, was instead referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations as the primary committee, and to the Committee on National Defense and Security as the secondary committee.

INQUIRY OF THE CHAIR

Asked by Senate President Drilon when the committee report on the Freedom of Information bill could be submitted for the consideration of the Body, Senator Cayetano (A) replied that Senator Poe was circulating the committee report for the signature of the Members. He said that deliberations on the bill could start the next day or on Wednesday.

Senate President Drilon said that he would appreciate it if the bill could be sponsored in the next session so that the Body could start debating on it.


Senator Cayetano (A) noted Senator Poe's agreement to the proposal of the Chair, adding that there were three or four senators who wanted to deliver cosponsorship speeches and that he would notify them of the scheduled deliberations.

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 3:35 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate
[Handwritten initials]

Approved on September 24, 2013