



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

# Journal

**SESSION NO. 27**  
Monday, October 14, 2013

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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:15 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

Sen. Alan Peter “Compañero” S. Cayetano led the prayer, to wit:

“But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth for the Father and is seeking such people to worship Him. God the Spirit and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and truth.”

(John 4:22-24)

Lord Father God, as we worship You in spirit and in truth, we seek the truth for our country. We seek, Lord Father God, the light at the end of the tunnel. We seek, Lord Father God, a government that will serve You and the people, a government, Lord, that people can back up, a government that the people could be proud of.

As the Senate has passed through many trials in the past, Lord, we lift up to You the trials we are passing through now. We pray, Lord, not only for the truth—that the innocent will be vindicated and the guilty will be punished—but we ask, Lord Father God, that You will strengthen the foundations of our Republic.

We lift up to You each and every senator, Lord God, and our agenda for this session and the coming days, and ask, Lord, that we do not forget the many, many needs, especially, of those areas that are stricken by calamity.

We lift this up to You and thank You, Lord Father God, Lord God Jesus, and Lord God Holy Spirit.

Amen.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

The Senate Choir led the singing of the national anthem.

**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.	Honasan, G. B.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Osmeña III, S. R.
Cayetano, P. S.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Drilon, F. M.	Poe, G.
Ejercito J. V. G.	Revilla, R. B.
Enrile, J. P.	Sotto III, V. C.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Villar, C. A.
Estrada, J.	

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

Senator Trillanes arrived after the roll call.

Senators Aquino and Marcos were on official mission abroad.

Senator Lapid was likewise on official mission.

Senators Defensor Santiago and Recto were on sick leave.

Senator Guingona was 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. 26 (September 25, 2013) and considered it approved.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR ENRILE**

Senator Enrile manifested into the record that while he recognized the importance of the subject matter to be taken up in the all-senators caucus, which was originally scheduled on the said day but which was reset on October 16, 2013, he will not be able to attend the same because he could not cancel a provincial commitment that he has previously accepted. He said that he was placing on record his notification of his absence to avoid any misunderstanding.

The Chair took note of the manifestation.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

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

*It was 3:20 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:20 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### **PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 272**

With the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 272, entitled

#### **RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MEGAN LYNNE**

**YOUNG FOR HONORING THE PHILIPPINES WITH THE PRESTIGIOUS MISS WORLD 2013 TITLE, AND FOR SHOWING THE WORLD THE BEAUTY AND INTELLIGENCE OF THE FILIPINA,**

taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 273, 274, 281, 282 and 285.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

At this juncture, the Chair suspended the session.

*It was 3:22 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:22 p.m., the session was resumed.

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate read the text of the resolution, to wit:

*WHEREAS*, the Philippine Senate has on several occasions paid tribute to outstanding Filipinos for bringing home pride and glory to the country by reaping awards in international events and competitions;

*WHEREAS*, 23-year-old Miss World Philippines 2013 title holder Megan Lynne Young made the country proud when she won the Philippines' very first Miss World crown on 28 September in Nasa Dua, Indonesia, besting 126 candidates from all over the world;

*WHEREAS*, Megan Lynne Young's victory was bolstered by her impressive performance in the pre-pageant challenges where she won the Top Model challenge, was declared the Continental Queen for Asia and Oceania, ranked fourth in the Multimedia Contest, and finished fifth in the Beach Fashion tilt;

*WHEREAS*, aside from being the country's first Miss World from the time the pageant was launched in 1951, Megan Lynne Young is the first Southeast Asian to win the elusive title;

*WHEREAS*, by being crowned this year's most beautiful woman in the world, Megan Lynne Young gave Filipinos unparalleled pride and showed the world the grace and excellence of Filipino beauty;

*WHEREAS*, the honor earned by our Filipino beauty queen deserves to be commended for the pride and recognition that she brought our country.

*NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, as it is hereby resolved by the Senate of the Philippines, To congratulate and commend Megan Lynne Young for honoring the Philippines with the prestigious Miss World 2013 title, and for showing the world the beauty and intelligence of the Filipina.

#### **SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR POE**

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 272, Senator Poe delivered the following speech:

Simplicity and beauty, it is in this light that I filed Proposed Senate Resolution No. 274. *At tunay nga bilang isa ring Pilipina ang pinakamaningning sa kanya ay ang kanyang simple ngunit nagmamarkang pagiging Pilipina.*

Projecting a winning mantra ever since she took home the Miss World Philippines' crown in August 23, Ms. Megan Young made the Filipinos' spirit rekindle during a tough period for our country when she was made Miss World at the island resort of Bali, Indonesia on September 28.

Showing her strength from within, confidently claiming victory and thus becoming an early favorite among fans and critics of the world's oldest surviving international beauty pageant and, finally, bringing home that elusive blue crown in the pageant's 62-year history and since the Philippines' debut in the pageant in 1966, Megan is a perfect example of a Filipino raised abroad, exposed to an array of diversity, cultures, and lifestyle but was able to maintain and imbibe our Filipino culture's psyche.

At the height of her glory, she first extended her gratitude to her *kababayans* by saying, "*Maraming salamat sa ating mga kababayan na sumusuporta sa akin,*" a simple gesture that we must emulate, a meek and humble heart of a young lady that makes each and every one of us feel proud of being Filipino and uplifted our spirit in a crucial time.

True to her word to treasure the core value of humanity, Ms. Megan Young embodies the best Filipino woman—simple, confident, intelligent, determined.

#### **COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ESTRADA**

In cosponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 272, Senator Estrada delivered the following speech:

Filipinas never fail to astonish the world. Here and abroad, their beauty, intelligence and wit never go unnoticed whether in public gatherings or in their simple daily routines. The unassuming yet elegant personality of our women has always been praised and admired by different races in various parts of the world.

Last September 28, Filipinos around the globe were once again united because of one historical feat – the first Filipina to win the Miss World pageant was crowned in Bali, Indonesia. Ms. Megan Young emerged victorious above 126 other candidates from different countries and triumphantly brought home the crown as Miss World 2013.

A student and showbiz personality who hails from Olongapo City, Ms. Megan Young poured her heart and soul in training and preparing for the pageant. At her tender age of 23, she was determined to finally win the crown which the Philippines has been yearning for since 1966.

Indeed, Ms. Young's hard work and perseverance paid off because apart from the major title, she was chosen as among the awardees of the "Dances of the World," as 5<sup>th</sup> placer in "Beach Fashion," 4<sup>th</sup> placer in "Multimedia Challenger," as winner of "Top Model," and the "Continental Queen of Beauty" as Miss World Asia.

Ms. Young will be travelling around the globe during her reign as Miss World and in the performance of her duties, she will undoubtedly exude the inherent grace, charm and pure heart of Filipinas. Her countrymen will join her journey in bringing into reality Miss World's principle "Beauty With A Purpose," and in reaching out to the needy, especially to children.

At this point, allow us to thank Ms. Megan Young, who graced us with her presence today, for bringing pride and honor to our country and for making a significant mark in world history. For the optimism and inspiration she brings to our people, we are truly grateful.

I move that we adopt Proposed Senate Resolution No. 272, congratulating and commending Ms. Megan Lynne Young as Miss World of 2013.

#### **COAUTHORS**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, all senators present were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 272.

## **ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 272**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body adopted, subject to style, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 272, taking into consideration Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 273, 274, 281, 282 and 285.

## **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

With the permission of the Body, the session was suspended to allow the senators to congratulate Ms. Megan Lynne Young.

*It was 3:31 p.m.*

## **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 3:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

## **PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 237**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 237, entitled

**RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND  
COMMENDING MUTYA JOHANNA  
FONTIVEROS DATUL FOR HAVING  
BEEN CROWNED AS MISS SUPRA-  
NATIONAL 2013, MAKING HERSELF  
A WORTHY ROLE MODEL IN  
DETERMINATION AND HARD  
WORK FOR FILIPINO YOUTH.**

Secretary Yabes read the text of the resolution, to wit:

WHEREAS, Miss Supranational is an annual international beauty contest run by the World Beauty Association (WBA) based in Panama. WBA's mission is to promote countries which are on the verge of becoming tourist destinations of high attraction. Likewise, WBA aims to enable the youth to expand horizons by zeroing in on the advantages of a globalized world;

WHEREAS, WBA further envisions excellence and solid compliance as its tools to gain advantages for all its stakeholders: the best performance for its country, utmost satisfaction of its sponsors, national directors, audience and bright prospects for the winners;

WHEREAS, Miss Supranational is an annual

international beauty contest utilized by WBA to carry out its above-stated missions and visions towards a truly globalized international community, and to choose amongst the beauties around the globe its fitting and rightful icon;

WHEREAS, the Philippine Senate jubilantly and proudly joins the Filipino people in congratulating and commending MUTYA JOHANNA FONTIVEROS DATUL for bagging the Miss Supranational 2013 crown, thus, once again highlighting our country in the international community as a haven of world-class beauties;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE PHILIPPINE SENATE, To congratulate and commend MUTYA JOHANNA FONTIVEROS DATUL of Sta. Maria, Isabela for being crowned as Miss Supranational 2013, likewise winning several special awards — Miss Personality, Top 8 in Miss Internet and Top 10 in Miss Talent, among others, thus, proving herself to be a Filipina worthy of emulation by the Filipino people by becoming an epitome of beauty backed up by hard work, substance and determination.

## **SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR POE**

In sponsoring Proposed Senate Resolution No. 237, Senator Poe delivered the following speech:

### **THE ISABELA LASS TO THE WORLD**

We are fortunate this afternoon to have in our presence a young lady whose breathtaking beauty and happy personality brought honor and international accolade for our country. This young lady's name is Mutya Johanna Fontiveros Datul, 2013 Miss Supranational.

Mutya Datul was born and raised in Santa Maria, a fourth-class municipality in Isabela province with a population of 20,000 Ibanag-speaking inhabitants. Mutya is the third in a brood of four boys and two girls of Mr. Wilfredo Jose Datul, a police officer, and Mrs. Merlie Dayag Datul. Growing up in a rural and primarily agricultural town like Santa Maria, Miss Datul, like most of our countrymen, experienced hardship and poverty. In fact, in one media interview, she charmed audiences with stories about how, when she was still a child growing up in Sta. Maria, they would catch grasshoppers and beetles for subsistence.

Mutya did not allow her underprivileged background to stifle her ambition and dampen her zest for life. On the contrary, poverty has only seemed to make her stronger and more determined in pursuing her dreams and aspira-

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tions. Soon, this “barrio lass” of uncommon beauty and poise started winning in beauty contests, first in her native Isabela province and eventually in the national level.

In closing, I would like to say that Mutya’s victory is made all the more remarkable because of the problems and difficulties she encountered along the way. She is a personality that can be emulated by our youth that she can triumph over adversity and she can represent and give honor to our country.

And so, please join me in commending and congratulating Miss Mutya Johanna Datul for winning the 2013 Miss Supranational title and for being a beautiful human being.

## COAUTHORS

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, all senators present in the Chamber were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 237.

## ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 237

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 237 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), the session was suspended to allow the senators to congratulate Miss Mutya Johanna Datul.

*It was 3:50 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Legarda spoke of the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction which was observed last October 13, 2013.

*The full text of Senator Legarda’s privilege speech follows:*

As our nation strives for equitable socio-economic development amid many recurring

calamities, it is essential that we preserve our development gains through disaster risk reduction.

My advocacies through the years have been founded on this — to protect the environment, to reduce disaster risk, and to adapt to climate change towards a more resilient Philippines.

However, with the unabated rise in disaster losses — about 18-fold increase in economic losses since the 1970s — all sectors of our society must come together now and respond as one against disaster risk.

Congress has done its crucial work: new laws on disaster risk reduction and climate change, which the United Nations has hailed as model legislation, now prevail. And the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into our development processes is now a national policy.

Yet much remains to be done to realize the benefits these laws ought to bring, especially to the poor and the vulnerable who are most in need of help and protection against disasters and most deserving of participation in resilience-building. The persons with disabilities are among them.

When typhoon *Pablo* ravaged several provinces in Mindanao in December 2012, about ten percent (10%) of the families affected had members with disabilities. In the town of Maragusan, Compostela Valley alone, 69 persons with disabilities suffered from the impact of the typhoon.

In Japan, the great earthquake and tsunami of 2011 killed tens of thousands of people, more than a thousand of them were persons with disabilities.

This neglected vulnerability conveys an important message to policy- and lawmakers like us: Our grand yearning for inclusive growth is meaningless when the humble yearning of the marginalized persons with disabilities remains unheard and unheeded.

This social exclusion that keeps the disabled person weak and vulnerable in times of disaster should come to an end.

We must reach out to them: In the Philippines, there are about one million Filipinos living with disability. All over the world, there are about a billion of them.

It is in this regard that the world observes this year’s International Day for Disaster Reduction on October 13, with the theme, “Living with Disability and Disasters.”

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The observance highlights the importance of involving persons with disabilities (PWDs) in the efforts to reduce risk and build resilient communities.

The recent survey by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) among persons with disabilities revealed that 86% of them have never participated in disaster risk reduction (DRR) planning; 73% do not have any personal disaster protection plan; while only 27.5% feel that their needs are addressed in local and community DRR plans.

In the same survey, some Filipino respondents shared that the national risk reduction plan is just for normal functioning individuals, that persons with disabilities are never invited to any consultations or initiatives pertaining to the issues they encounter during disasters and emergency situations, and that disaster risk reduction and management plans are prepared for the general public while there are no details on how to address the specific needs of persons with disabilities.

The persons with disabilities have spoken through this survey. We must continue to listen more and know more about their needs, about their challenges and about their abilities to cope with and to take part in disaster risk reduction efforts.

Although they are twice more likely to lose their lives or be injured than any other person, their disability does not mean inability. Actually, they can be and should be active partners in making communities safer and more resilient.

In the Philippines, the Handicap International helps local governments promote disaster risk management that is disability-inclusive. It has helped communities like Barangay Pagsangahan in San Miguel, Catanduanes, where barangay officials encourage persons with disabilities to take part in disaster preparedness programs. It also helped build an evacuation center that is accessible to persons with disabilities. We wish to see more of these good practices at the community level.

Advancing the cause for the disabled can be done more effectively. We have the laws that support the cause. These include:

- The Accessibility Law (R.A. 344), which requires that certain buildings, establishments and public utilities must be made accessible to PWDs;
- The Magna Carta for Disabled People (R.A. 7277), which ensures that PWDs enjoy the same rights as other citizens; and

- The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act (R.A. 10121), which mandates that vulnerable and marginalized groups, including persons with disabilities, should be capacitated to be able to avert, prepare for and respond to the effects of disasters.

Let us engage the persons with disabilities in reducing disaster risk. Let us engage them in assessing vulnerabilities, and in establishing effective early warning systems in the communities, together with civil society groups concerned.

I believe that good practices in reducing disaster risk and adapting to climate change abound in our country. They should be known and shared to other communities if we are to build a resilient society.

In this connection, I would also like to take this opportunity to announce the start of a year-long search for the first recipients of the Philippine Resilience Award — a joint undertaking of the UNISDR, the Senate Committee on Climate Change, and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council, that will recognize exemplary champions of disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation in the country. This includes individuals and local government units.

This recognition system shall showcase local best practices on DRR and CCA, including the successful and exemplary implementation by the LGUs of the various related laws like the Solid Waste Management Act, the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act, and the Climate Change Act. It is hoped that the award will inspire and encourage our local communities to strengthen further their resilience.

Through the UNISDR, I also wish to call on other nations to create their own resilience awards. Time is of the essence. We need to scale up our efforts in building our defenses against the effects of disasters and climate change. The Resilience Awards will be an effective tool to encourage national and local governments to take immediate action in reducing disaster risk.

In closing, I wish to re-emphasize that disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation are fundamental prerequisites of inclusive, resilient, and sustainable development that our nation strives for. Thus, they equally deserve our commitment.

To preserve our gains, to remain focused, and to advance the cause of building the resilience of communities is the only path forward.

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With faith in God and our people, we must take this path and face squarely the many challenges ahead for the benefit of our generation today and tomorrow.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)**

At the outset, Senator Cayetano (P) commended Senator Legarda for raising the issue of disaster risk management as it relates to the rights of the differently-abled sector. She said that it is the duty of the members of Congress who work on the budget to craft laws that ensure the best use of limited resources. She lamented, however, that Congress usually fails to consider the negative impact or the cost of not empowering the marginalized sectors, including women, differently-abled and senior citizens. In fact, she said, the differently-abled sector was never represented in the consultation process, as well as the youth and senior citizens which comprise majority of the victims. She suggested the inclusion of marginalized sectors in the training for disaster risk management that could save the government so much in costs. Senator Legarda acknowledged the proposal to include the differently-abled in the consultation process as she agreed that the indigenous people, the women and children, the poor and the marginalized are almost always the most vulnerable and most adversely affected during times of disasters and calamities.

Adding to the laws earlier presented by Senator Legarda, Senator Cayetano (P) sought to include other relevant laws concerning the differently-abled sector, namely, Republic Act No. 10070, which requires every LGU to have a person-with-disability (PWD) office. She presumed that each LGU should have its own PWD but under the supervision of the DILG.

Senator Legarda said that the DILG should be asked during the budget deliberations whether it has complied with the law and whether the law was being implemented. Senator Cayetano (P) concurred, stating that the law was passed following the request of various organizations. She explained that some LGUs must have a focal person, if not a PWD affairs office, depending on their size and class, as some LGUs, like the fourth- and fifth-class municipalities, could not afford to have one. Senator Legarda opined that a PWD focal person could be utilized so that the government can be reminded of their needs.

Senator Cayetano (P) also pointed out Section 5 of R.A. No. 7277 (Magna Carta of Disabled Persons) which mandates the DSWD, Department of Health, DepEd and other government agencies, offices or corporations to employ PWDs to comprise at least 5% of their staff, whether in casual, emergency or contractual capacity. She said that the law requires PWDs to be incorporated in the system, and if possible to give them the opportunity to be trained. She recalled having a lady intern who was hearing-impaired, and that dealing with her gave her staff members the opportunity to learn basic sign language in the span of three months. She said that she would file a bill seeking to adopt one of the international sign language systems and, hopefully, those involved in disaster risk management could also learn basic knowledge in coordinating and communicating properly with PWDs.

Replying thereto, Senator Legarda stated that the UNISDR recently launched its resilience campaign which included PWDs. She said that the reason for her privilege speech, in fact, was to help UNISDR in its campaign to include PWDs in policy-making and training in disaster risk reduction.

Senator Cayetano (P) expressed her commitment to support the initiative, while Senator Legarda proposed to work with Senator Binay, who chairs the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development to which the PWD sector belongs, and with Senator Cayetano (P), the author of the PWD law, in establishing a socially inclusive regime.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL**

Senator Pimentel also lauded Senator Legarda for the launching of the first ever Philippine Resilience Awards. Asked on the parameters needed to qualify for the awards, Senator Legarda replied that there would be a formal launching of the contest among the agencies concerned and that the criteria for the awards would fall under the 10 bullet points of the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA). She added that the award is meant for local communities, LGUs, individuals and people's organizations that have built their resilience through technology by making sure that their communities are prepared for disasters, for instance, the institution of an early warning device or the cleaning up of drainage and canals. She cited a recent newspaper article which reported zero-casualty in Batanes despite being hit



by a strong typhoon because the province has been very resilient. She also mentioned the municipality of San Francisco in Camotes Island that instituted a major *purok* system to implement DRR and solid waste management program.

At this juncture, Senator Legarda presented the 10-point essentials for making cities or communities resilient, to wit:

1. By putting in place organization and coordination, a basic understanding of what DRR is, and ensuring that all departments in their localities are prepared;
2. By putting an incentive system in the local level for those who have assigned a budget for DRR and for those who have incentives for people who abide by DRR;
3. Those who have updated data on their hazards, their vulnerabilities, those who have risk assessment and land use plans or Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPS);
4. Those who invest and maintain infrastructure that reduce risks; those who have built flood control, those who properly maintained their drainage and those that implemented solid waste management;
5. Those that assess the safety of their schools, their health facilities, their barangay halls;
6. Those who enforce risk-compliant building regulations and land use planning principles such as CLUPS; those who identify safe areas for their citizens to be resettled;
7. Those who have education programs and training on DRR;
8. Those who protect ecosystems, those who plant mangroves which are natural buffers to mitigate storm surges;
9. Those who install early warning systems and emergency management capacities; and
10. Those who are good in reconstruction and who have designed their homes into more disaster-resilient homes.

Senator Legarda assured that she would be working with the other agencies and with the UNISDR on how the entries can be ably judged.

Asked whether all the ten essentials bear the same weight in the judgment, Senator Legarda admitted that such has not been decided yet.

As regards the *Tagalog* translation of the word “resilience,” Senator Pimentel said that based on the research of Senator Sotto, resilience has the Spanish equivalent of the word “*elastiko*,” which translates to “*kabanatan*” in *Tagalog*. He believed that translating the concept is important for the people to understand and be familiar with it.

Regarding the prohibition of the use of plastic bags which is an initiative of the LGUs through their local ordinances, Senator Pimentel asked if it is about time to pursue the issue through a national law. Senator Legarda said that there is a pending bill, but she noted that even without such a law, it has been observed that there have been improvements in flood control in areas that segregated plastic wastes. She pointed out that there are various sectors to consider, and she agreed that the issue should be talked about and studies should be made if it could be done nationwide since more private establishments have started to use eco-bags or “no-plastic” system and there are innovations in reprocessing plastics into usable objects.

Senator Pimentel pointed out that the law does not necessarily have to totally prohibit the use of plastic since biodegradable plastic has already been developed. He said that the time will come when the technology would be available to the country at a reasonable price.

Asked if there is an international agency or body which ranks the preparedness of a country, Senator Legarda cited the UNISDR, as well as other agencies, which measures countries’ sense of preparedness and even vulnerabilities. She noted that the Philippines has been ranked as number one in terms of the number of deaths or losses due to natural hazards which became disasters in 2012. She noted that various agencies differ in the measurement of preparedness. She said that the country has been lauded in terms of policy-making, citing the Climate Change Act and the NDRRMC Law which have been regarded by the UN Assistant Secretary General as the two best laws in the world. However, she stated that there is a challenge in terms of implementation. Despite being good in disaster response, she admitted that the country needs to improve to increase the level of preparedness so that there are less disasters to respond to.

Senator Pimentel believed that the pursuit for disaster preparedness is a never-ending endeavor because the country faces different types of calamities in different areas. He commended Senator Legarda for frequently reminding and educating the Body about the subject matter by pointing out and celebrating some concepts and ideas like the International Day of Disaster Risk Reduction the previous day, and the Disaster Risk Awareness week last month.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR VILLAR**

At the outset, Senator Villar informed the Body that there is a waste plastic factory in Las Piñas City which produces school chairs out of plastic. She stated that a chair is produced out of 15 kilos of waste plastic, or two trucks of plastic for 15 chairs. She said that plastic need not be banned because it could be recycled and used for good purposes. She informed the Body that she learned the technology from a young man in Davao City from whom she bought the machineries that are being used in Las Piñas.

Senator Legarda asked Senator Villar to bring a sample product for the Members to see. She also suggested that the design center could help in designing the plastic chairs for commercial use.

Asked if the plastic wastes from other cities and municipalities could be gathered as well, Senator Villar replied that she built the factory so that the other LGUs could use it as their model and build something for themselves. She mentioned that the LLDA has agreed to build one for Laguna and Rizal.

Senator Legarda also lauded a project of Senator Villar – the making of recycled paper from hyacinth which is another form of water lily. Senator Villar said that she learned it from a cooperative in Misamis Oriental, the Salay Handmade Paper Factory.

Senator Legarda also mentioned that the Philippine Textile Research Institute recently gave her a fabric made of hyacinth with piña. She pointed out that hyacinth, which is considered a water pollutant, is being used to make recycled paper and fabric.

Senator Villar added that a livelihood project, jointly undertaken with the DSWD, is being conducted

for the women in the barangays along Laguna Lake to teach them how to make mats out of the hyacinth from the lake.

Senator Legarda noted that the city of Las Piñas could qualify or even win the Philippine Resilience Awards.

Regarding the training for disaster preparedness, Senator Villar said that it should not be limited to people with disabilities. She recalled that in one of her visits in an evacuation center in Muntinlupa in the aftermath of typhoon *Ondoy*, she was told that the evacuees have already been there two months prior to the calamity. She said that the children and senior citizens practically live in the evacuation center and only the able-bodied men are left in their area because it is flooded five months in a year. She suggested that apart from the disabled, the children and senior citizens should also be trained to be prepared for disasters since they are the most vulnerable among the population. Senator Legarda agreed and said that the disaster preparedness programs should be socially inclusive.

#### **REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE**

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

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

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

- Students from the Philippine Normal University headed by their class president, Joy Kathleen Guirindola;
- Students from Southeastern College, Pasay City headed by Ms. Marilou C. Banag; and
- Students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines headed by Mr. Elmer Soriano.

Senate President Drilon welcomed the guests to the Senate.

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## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

*It was 4:41 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

## PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 99

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 99, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING GRANDMASTER WESLEY SO FOR BRINGING HONOR AND DISTINCTION TO THE COUNTRY BY WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE MEN'S CHESS COMPETITION OF THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 27<sup>TH</sup> SUMMER UNIVERSIADE (WORLD UNIVERSITY GAMES) AT THE KAZAN EQUESTRIAN COMPLEX IN KAZAN, RUSSIE THIS JULY 2013.

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

WHEREAS, on 17 July 2013, the 27<sup>th</sup> Summer *Universiade* formally closed after twelve (12) days of competition in Kazan, Russia;

WHEREAS, the *Universiade*, also known as the World University Games, is an international biennial sports events organized for university athletes by the *Federation Internationale du Sport Universitaire* (FISU);

WHEREAS, during the recently concluded 17<sup>th</sup> Summer *Universiade*, which shall be remembered as the edition with the highest number of participants since its start in 1959 in Turin, Italy, and the second biggest sports competition in the world next only to the Olympic Games, the Philippines made history by bringing home its first-ever gold medal when Chess Grandmaster Wesley So won the Chess title by a triple tie-break;

WHEREAS, chess, which debuted in the 2011 Summer *Universiade* in Shenzhen as an

optional sports, was participated this year by veteran chess players from 46 countries;

WHEREAS, GM So outwitted former world junior champion Grandmaster Zaven Andriasian of Armenia; and beat 23 grandmasters and a string of university top chess players of the world;

WHEREAS, during the tournament, GM So tied with GM Andriasian and GM Li Chao of China in the first tiebreak but emerged with a higher Bucholz and performance score, such that outright, he could have copped the gold medal and claim the first-ever gold for the Philippines;

WHEREAS, however, Russian officials came up with a new rule to resolve the tie – the Armageddon style play-off – which would give time odds to whoever won the toss, and which GM So gallantly fought to soundly beat GM Andriasian and win the most coveted title;

WHEREAS, GM So was invited to represent the country by the Federation of School Sports Association of the Philippines (FESSAP), headed by President David Ong and Secretary-General Graham Lim;

WHEREAS, with GM So's gold medal, the Philippines becomes one of only 40 countries to win at least one gold medal; and finished in 40<sup>th</sup> place in the 12-day competition which attracted more than 10,000 university athletes from a record 162 countries, ahead of its Southeast Asian Games rivals Indonesia, which has only one silver, and Malaysia, which has three bronzes and other SEA countries – Vietnam, Singapore, Laos and Brunei – which failed to win medals;

WHEREAS, 19-year old GM So has brought honors to the country and hence, merits the government's acknowledgment and recognition;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *as it is hereby resolved*, That the Senate of the Philippines congratulate and commend Wesley So for bringing honor and distinction to the country by winning gold medal in the men's chess competition of the recently concluded 27<sup>th</sup> Summer *Universiade* at the Kazan Equestrian Complex in Kazan, Russia, this July 2013.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Trillanes for the sponsorship.

## SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR TRILLANES

Senator Trillanes presented to the Body Proposed Senate Resolution No. 99, congratulating and com-

mending Grandmaster Wesley So for winning the gold medal in the men's chess competition in the 17<sup>th</sup> Summer *Universiade* in Kazan, Russia.

*The full text of Senator Trillanes' sponsorship speech follows:*

The *Universiade* or the World University Games, the biggest sports competition in the world, next to the Olympic Games, was held last July of this year.

This year's event has been the most participated edition since its inception in 1959, along with this record-breaking participation of 462 countries in this competition.

The Philippines also made history by bringing home the first-ever gold medal won by our country when chess Grandmaster Wesley So won the men's chess title.

Grandmaster So, who is only 19 years old, managed to win the title against 46 countries that participated in the chess event. He outwitted former World Champion Grandmaster Zaven Andriasian of Armenia, and beat 23 grandmasters and a string of university top chess players of the world.

This unparalleled performance of GM So placed the Philippines as one of the 40 countries that won at least one gold medal in this year's *Universiade* ahead of other Southeast Asian rivals such as Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Laos and Brunei.

This success which showcases our world-class talent in sports and is a landmark in the history of Philippine sports warrants outmost recognition of our government.

GM So deserves the highest commendation for the honor, pride and recognition he has brought to our country and our people. He is a symbol of the untiring and indomitable spirit of the Filipino nation.

In view of the foregoing, I formally move for the consideration and adoption of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 99.

#### COAUTHORS

Upon his request, Senator Pimentel was made coauthor of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 99.

Senator Cayetano (A) manifested that all senators present be made coauthors of the resolution.

#### ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 99

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 99 was adopted by the Body.

#### PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 284

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (P), the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 284, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING SGT. FREDDIE DEMACOTAK, PRIVATE FIRST CLASS REYNANTE D. SOBREMONTTE, AND PRIVATE RANDY A. AYSON WHO WERE WOUNDED IN ACTION, AND 2LT. ROSTUM C. DELASA, SGT. FREDDIE G. DEMACOTAC, JR., CPL. NOLY T. CAPILLANO, PFC. CARLOS G. DALISAY, PFC. RAMIL G. LOPEZ, CPL. ISRAEL T. BRIGUERA, SSGT. ABELARDO P. PALOMERO, PFC. ROVRANDO R. ROMERO, PVT. MANUEL T. BUNAGAN, JR., CPL. ERWIN B. PILI, PFC. JOSEPH R. VILLANUEVA, PFC. REYNANTE D. SOBREMONTTE, PFC. PABLITO D. ENDAYA, JR., PVT. JEFFREY B. DOCTOLERO, AND PVT. RANDY P. AYSON, MEMBERS OF THE MARINE BATTALION LANDING TEAM-3 (MBLT3) OF THE PHILIPPINE MARINE CORPS FOR THEIR BRAVERY AND DEDICATION IN DEFENDING AND UPHOLDING THE PEACE SITUATION IN MINDANAO DURING THE ENCOUNTER OF THE GOVERNMENT FORCES WITH THE ABU SAYYAF IN INDANAN, SULU ON 16 MARCH 2009.

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

WHEREAS, on 22 April 2009, the Senate adopted Resolution No. 168, entitled "Resolution Honoring and Remembering Corporal Jo-Kris L. Fegura, Corporal Jeflor Q. Dela Torre and Private First Class Franklin B. Castillo, and the Nineteen Other Soldiers Wounded In Indanan, Sulu On 16 March 2009, All Members Of The Philippine

Marines, For Their Unparalleled Dedication To The Military Service And Extraordinary Bravery And Courage In The Call Of Duty”;

WHEREAS, said resolution recognized the dedication and bravery of the government forces against the Abu Sayyaf Group which resulted in the death of Corporal Jo-Kris L. Fegura, Corporal Jeflor Q. Dela Torre and Private First Class Franklin B. Castillo and the wounding of nineteen (19) other members of the military contingent, namely: Lieutenant Cademer D. Cabrera, Sergeant Leonardo B. Payba, Sergeant Cresinciano R. Desipeda, Corporal Reydinel T. Dagasgas, Corporal Winston D. Gupaal, Corporal Roland G. Ordanel, Corporal Jolly O. Espera, Corporal Philip O. Verzosa, Private First Class Charlie D. Rodriguez, Private First Class Rommel A. Cea, Private First Class Onofre Bolante, Private First Class Joel J. Bermejo, Private First Class Ian R. Reobilo, Private First Class Terejohn B. Cadosale, Private First Class Marcos A. Torres, Private Eric F. Habla, Private Arnel A. Balnao, Private First Class Ruel E. Talisio, and Private First Class Reymundo T. Olayra;

WHEREAS, aside from Corporal Jo-Kris L. Fegura, Corporal Jeflor Q. Dela Torre, and Private First Class Franklin B. Castillo, and the nineteen (19) other soldiers wounded during the encounter of the government forces with the Abu Sayyaf in Indanan, Sulu on 16 March 2009, three (3) other soldiers wounded in action (WIA) and fifteen (15) others fought valiantly in order to defend and uphold the peace and order situation in Mindanao;

WHEREAS, Sgt. Freddie Demacotak, Private First Class Reynante D. Sobremonte, and Private Randy A. Ayson who were wounded in action and 2Lt. Rostum C. Delasa, Sgt. Freddie G. Demacotac, Jr., Cpl. Noly T. Capillano, Pfc. Carlos G. Dalisay, Pfc. Ramil G. Lopez, Cpl. Israel T. Briguera, SSgt. Abelardo P. Palomero, Pfc. Rovrando R. Romero, Pvt. Manuel T. Bunagan, Jr., Cpl. Erwin B. Pili, Pfc. Joseph R. Villanueva, Pfc. Reynante D. Sobremonte, Pfc. Pablito D. Endaya, Jr., Pvt. Jeffrey B. Doctolero, and Pvt. Randy P. Ayson, were all members of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-3 (MBLT3) of the Philippine Marine Corps who were involved in the bloody encounter with the Abu Sayyaf Group;

WHEREAS, Sgt. Freddie Demacotak, Private First Class Reynante D. Sobremonte, and Private Randy A. Ayson who were wounded in action and 2Lt. Rostum C. Delasa, Sgt. Freddie G. Demacotac, Jr., Cpl. Noly T. Capillano, Pfc. Carlos G. Dalisay, Pfc. Ramil G. Lopez, Cpl. Israel

T. Briguera, SSgt. Abelardo P. Palomero, Pfc. Rovrando R. Romero, Pvt. Manuel T. Bunagan, Jr., Cpl. Erwin B. Pili, Pfc. Joseph R. Villanueva, Pfc. Reynante D. Sobremonte, Pfc. Pablito D. Endaya, Jr., Pvt. Jeffrey B. Doctolero, and Pvt. Randy P. Ayson, deserve to be honored for their bravery and dedication to the service together with the other members of the MBLT3 who were honored and recognized in Resolution 168;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved by the Philippine Senate to recognize and commend Sgt. Freddie Demacotak, Private First Class Reynante D. Sobremonte, and Private Randy A. Ayson who were wounded in action and 2Lt. Rostum C. Delasa, Sgt. Freddie G. Demacotac, Jr., Cpl. Noly T. Capillano, Pfc. Carlos G. Dalisay, Pfc. Ramil G. Lopez, Cpl. Israel T. Briguera, SSgt. Abelardo P. Palomero, Pfc. Rovrando R. Romero, Pvt. Manuel T. Bunagan, Jr., Cpl. Erwin B. Pili, Pfc. Joseph R. Villanueva, Pfc. Reynante D. Sobremonte, Pfc. Pablito D. Endaya, Jr., Pvt. Jeffrey B. Doctolero, and Pvt. Randy P. Ayson, members of the Marine Battalion Landing Team-3 (MBLT3) for their bravery and dedication in defending and upholding the peace situation in Mindanao during the encounter of the government forces with the Abu Sayyaf in Indanan, Sulu on 16 March 2009;

RESOLVED, FURTHER, to provide copies of this Resolution to the families of Sgt. Freddie Demacotak, Private First Class Reynante D. Sobremonte, and Private Randy A. Ayson who were wounded in action and 2Lt. Rostum C. Delasa, Sgt. Freddie G. Demacotac, Jr., Cpl. Noly T. Capillano, Pfc. Carlos G. Dalisay, Pfc. Ramil G. Lopez, Cpl. Israel T. Briguera, SSgt. Abelardo P. Palomero, Pfc. Rovrando R. Romero, Pvt. Manuel T. Bunagan, Jr., Cpl. Erwin B. Pili, Pfc. Joseph R. Villanueva, Pfc. Reynante D. Sobremonte, Pfc. Pablito D. Endaya, Jr., Pvt. Jeffrey B. Doctolero, and Pvt. Randy P. Ayson, and the Armed Forces of the Philippines, to guarantee its wide dissemination so that the public may know about their bravery and unparalleled dedication to the military service.

#### **SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR TRILLANES**

Senator Trillanes presented to the Body Proposed Senate Resolution No. 284, recognizing and commending the 15 members of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 3 of the Philippine Marine Corps for their bravery and dedication in defending and upholding the peace in Mindanao.

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*The full text of Senator Trillanes' sponsorship speech follows:*

On April 22, 2009, the Senate adopted Resolution No. 168 to honor and remember three members of the Philippine Marines who died and 19 other soldiers who were wounded in their bloody encounter with the Abu Sayyaf Group, which kidnapped Swiss national Andreas Notter, Italian Eugenio Vagni and Filipina Mary Lacaba, all members of the International Committee of the Red Cross. They were recognized for their valiant efforts and bravery to defend and uphold the peace and order situation in Mindanao.

Said resolution, however, failed to include three other soldiers who were wounded in action, namely:

1. Sgt. Freddie Demacotak;
2. Private First Class Reynante D. Sobremonte; and
3. Private Randy A. Ayson,

and 12 other soldiers who also fought valiantly in the same incident, namely:

1. 2Lt. Rostum C. Delasa;
2. Cpl. Noly T. Capillano;
3. Pfc. Carlos G. Dalisay;
4. Pfc. Ramil G. Lopez;
5. Cpl. Israel T. Briguera;
6. SSgt. Abelardo P. Palomero;
7. Pfc. Rovrando R. Romero;
8. Pvt. Manuel T. Bunagan, Jr.;
9. Cpl. Erwin B. Pili;
10. Pfc. Joseph R. Villanueva;
11. Pfc. Pablito D. Endaya, Jr.;
12. Pvt. Jeffrey B. Doctolero.

Needless to say, these soldiers also deserve to be honored and recognized for their bravery and dedication to the service, together with other members of the Marine Battalion Landing Team 3 who were earlier honored and recognized through Resolution No. 168.

This resolution is but a small token that the government can offer when compared to the unparalleled dedication and incalculable sacrifices they have displayed in their service to our country and our people. It is my fervent hope that this resolution can now be acted upon by this august Chamber.

In this light, I formally move for the consideration and adoption of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 284.

## **ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 284**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 284 was adopted by the Body, subject to style.

## **COAUTHORS**

Senator Cayetano (A) manifested that all senators present be made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 284.

## **ANNOUNCEMENT OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)**

Senator Cayetano (A) announced that in consultation with the Members of the Body and as announced by the Chair, there would be an all-senators' caucus on Wednesday, October 16, 2013, to discuss the following: the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill, the resolution abolishing the pork barrel, and matters regarding the Blue Ribbon Committee Investigation.

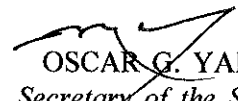

Senator Cayetano (A) said that there would be no session the next day in observance of *Eidul Adha*.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, October 16, 2013.

*It was 5:04 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

  
OSCAR G. YABES  
Secretary of the Senate  


Approved on October 16, 2013