



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 29
Monday, October 21, 2013

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 29
Monday, October 21, 2013

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:02 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

PRAYER

The Body observed a minute of silent prayer.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Senate President Drilon stated that the Senate Choir would lead the singing of the national anthem and in celebration of the 97th anniversary of the Senate, sing the Senate hymn, entitled "*Senadong Marangal*," which was composed by National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Director Felipe de Leon Jr., son of the famous Filipino composer and national artist, Felipe de Leon, whom the Senate honored the previous year with Senate Resolution No. 88, and grandson of the first Secretary of the Senate after the war in 1945, Mr. Jose Mendoza. He added that the lyrics of the Senate hymn was written by national artist Virgilio Almario.

Thereafter, the Senate Choir led the singing of the national anthem, followed by the Senate hymn, entitled "*Senadong Marangal*."

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.	Estrada, J.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Honasan, G. B.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, P. S.	Osmeña III, S. R.
Drilon, F. M.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Recto, R. G.
Enrile, J. P.	Sotto III, V. C.
Escudero, F. J. G.	

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

Senators Poe and Trillanes arrived after the roll call.

Senator Villar was on official mission abroad.

Senator Guingona was likewise on official mission.

Senators Defensor Santiago and Marcos were on sick leave.

Senator Revilla 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. 28 (October 16, 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. 1735, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE COMMUNICATION BY PROHIBITING CENSORSHIP IN ALL FORMS OF MEDIA THAT INTERFERES WITH THE RIGHTS OF FREE SPEECH, FREE PRESS, AND FREE EXPRESSION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 1736, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH AND OF ASSOCIATION OF STUDENTS ATTENDING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1737, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THERAPEUTIC EQUIVALENCE REQUIREMENTS FOR GENERIC DRUGS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1738, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING GRANDPARENTS VISITATION RIGHTS OVER THEIR GRANDCHILDREN

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Senate Bill No. 1739, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING CERTAIN CONDUCT RELATING TO THE USE OF HORSES FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 1740, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A PROGRAM PROVIDING FOR THE ORGANIZATION OF HOUSING BENEFICIARIES INTO MANUFACTURING COOPERATIVES FOR THE FABRICATION OF HOUSING MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THEIR HOUSES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1741, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT SECURITY PROCEDURES TO REDUCE THE POSSIBILITY OF INFANT PATIENT ABDUCTION AND BABY SWITCHING

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Health and Demography

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Senate Bill No. 1742, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PENAL CODE, ARTICLE 310, TO INCREASE THE PENALTIES IN CERTAIN INSTANCES OF QUALIFIED THEFT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1743, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PENAL CODE, ARTICLES 171 AND 172, IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THE FALSIFICATION OF TORRENS CERTIFICATES OF TITLE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1744, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE IMMEDIATE RETURN OF CARNAPPED VEHICLES TO THE LAWFUL OWNERS THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6539, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-CARNAPPING ACT OF 1972

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Senate Bill No. 1745, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN DISCLOSURES RELATING TO MATERIALLY ALTERED FILMS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Public Information

and Mass Media; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 1746, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING WHO ARE INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS AND PENALIZING THEIR MALTREATMENT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1747, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING INTERNET GAMBLING

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports

Senate Bill No. 1748, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN LAND ADMINISTRATION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1749, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR START-UP COSTS OF COMMUNITY PROGRAMS TO PREVENT RESIDENTIAL LEAD-BASED POISONING IN CHILDREN

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1750, entitled

AN ACT TO PREVENT EXCESSIVE

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LEAD CONTENT IN FOOD
CONTAINERS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1751, entitled

AN ACT ALLOWING MARRIED OR LEGALLY SEPARATED WOMEN TO USE THEIR MAIDEN NAME AND SURNAME, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, ALSO KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, ARTICLES 370 AND 372, AND EXECUTIVE ORDER 209, SERIES OF 1987, ALSO KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, ARTICLE 63

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Senate Bill No. 1752, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR LOCAL AUTONOMY IN THE DETERMINATION OF STATE POLICY ON GAMBLING, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, SECTIONS 2 AND 133 (O)

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Local Government; and Games, Amusement and Sports

Senate Bill No. 1753, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING LABELING REQUIREMENTS FOR FOODS WHICH CONTAINS SATURATED FAT AND CHOLESTEROL

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1754, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A JOB TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MATURE WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1755, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MEDICAL PAROLE TO QUALIFIED PRISONERS AND SETTING RULES ON THE GRANT THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1756, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING GRANTS TO BUSINESS AND EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING AND OPERATING MODEL HIGH SCHOOLS OF SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 1757, entitled

AN ACT CREATING PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED MOTHERS AND THEIR CHILDREN

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1758, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO REGISTER ALL OFFENDERS CONVICTED OF ANY ACT INVOLVING CHILD ABUSE WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1759, entitled

AN ACT TO PREVENT LUXURIOUS CONDITIONS IN PRISONS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 1760, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF OVER-THE-COUNTER WEIGHT LOSS SUPPLEMENTS TO MINORS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1761, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A "PARENTS AS PARTNERS IN LEARNING" PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1762, entitled

AN ACT SUPPORTING EFFECTIVE PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO PARENTS WHO WANT TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN BECOME SUCCESSFUL READERS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1763, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING CERTAIN TYPES OF MEDICAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN A HEALTH CARE PROVIDER AND A PATIENT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1764, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE PROPER LABELING OF PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS WHICH ACT ON THE BRAIN AND CENTRAL NERVOUS SYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1765, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR RESEARCH AND REHABILITATION ACTIVITIES RELATING TO PARALYSIS AND OTHER PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1766, entitled

AN ACT TO ENHANCE CITIZEN ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT INFORMATION AND SERVICES BY ESTABLISHING THAT GOVERNMENT DOCUMENTS ISSUED TO THE PUBLIC MUST BE WRITTEN CLEARLY AND IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1767, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE FOR POISON PREVENTION AND TO ESTABLISH POISON CONTROL CENTERS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1768, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF A SURCHARGE, EXTRA CHARGE OR ADDITIONAL CHARGE IN THE USE OF CREDIT CARDS, DEBIT CARDS, AND AUTOMATED TELLER MACHINE (ATM) CARDS, FOR PAYMENT OF PURCHASES OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS OR SERVICES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 1769, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING SWIFT AND CERTAIN PUNISHMENT FOR CRIMINALS IN ORDER TO DETER VIOLENT CRIME

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1770, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURAL WEATHER OFFICE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Science and Technology; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1771, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLES 333 AND 344, AND REPEALING ARTICLE 334, OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PENAL CODE, ELIMINATING GENDER BIAS IN ADULTERY AND CONCUBINAGE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Senate Bill No. 1772, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM REQUIRING GENERAL HOSPITALS WITH NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNITS TO OFFER VACCINES AGAINST INFLUENZA VIRUS TO CERTAIN PERSONS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1773, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING SENATE CONCURRENCE FOR THE VALIDITY AND EFFECTIVITY OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Foreign Relations

Senate Bill No. 1774, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING NOTIFICATION OF PESTICIDE USE ON GOLF COURSES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1775, entitled

AN ACT TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO REGULATE WORKER EXPOSURE TO DIACETYL

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 1776, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING FREE TERTIARY EDUCATION TO THE TOP FIVE PERCENT (5%) GRADUATES OF PUBLIC SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOLS PURSUING A DEGREE IN THE FIELD OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, MATHEMATICS AND ENGINEERING

Introduced by Senator Recto

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

Senate Bill No. 1777, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BANAY-BANAY 1.0, SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS TO BE KNOWN AS BANAY-BANAY 1.0 ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Rules

Senate Bill No. 1778, entitled

AN ACT TO KEEP LEAD WITHIN MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE LEVELS IN CANDY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1779, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF RESEARCH ON WOMEN'S HEALTH

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1780, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR THE IDENTITY OF MILK AND REQUIRING THE LABELING THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1781, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 245 OF THE PENAL CODE, ENTITLED "ABUSE AGAINST CHASTITY", BY RENAMING THE FELONY TO "SEXUAL HARASSMENT BY PUBLIC OFFICERS" AND ADDING ANOTHER PARAGRAPH TO BE CITED AS PARAGRAPH THREE (3) DEALING WITH CASES NOT FALLING WITHIN THE COVERAGE OF PARAGRAPHS ONE (1) AND TWO (2) OF THE SAME ARTICLE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1782, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ADVERTISEMENTS OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO BEAR HEALTH WARNINGS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1783, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SCIENCE START GRANT PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1784, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA RESOURCES, TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT, TRAINING, AND IMPROVEMENT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1785, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING SCHOOL BUS SAFETY STANDARDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Public Services; and Education, Arts and Culture

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 271, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND INVESTIGATIONS (BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE) TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION INTO ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION AND EMBEZZLEMENT OF THE 2009 MALAMPAYA FUNDS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR), INITIALLY REPORTEDLY AMOUNTING TO NINE HUNDRED MILLION

PESOS (P900,000,000), WHICH WERE APPROPRIATED TO HELP FARMERS IN NINETY-SEVEN (97) TOWNS DAMAGED BY TROPICAL CYCLONES BUT WERE SIPHONED OFF TO SPURIOUS NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, MOST OF WHICH ARE ASSOCIATED WITH JANET LIM NAPOLES

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (A. P.)

To the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 275, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NECESSITY OF PROCURING FIREARMS AND PROTECTIVE GEAR FOR AGENTS OF THE OPTICAL MEDIA BOARD

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 276, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED CONTINUED SALE OF BANNED INSECTICIDE PRODUCTS IN THE MARKET

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 277, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION OF A 15-MEGA-

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**WATT COAL-FIRED POWER PLANT
IN PALAWAN**

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 278, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER
SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGIS-
LATION, ON THE SERIES OF
AIRCRAFT CRASHES INVOLVING
NON-SCHEDULED COMMERCIAL
AIRLINES, CHARTER AIRLINES,
AND PILOT TRAINING SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 279, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON A NATIONAL
ECONOMIC POLICY, TAKING
INTO CAREFUL CONSIDERATION
THE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE
BY THE WORLD BANK IN ITS
PHILIPPINE DEVELOPMENT
REPORT 2013

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Economic Affairs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 280, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER
SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGIS-
LATION, ON THE REPORTED
BILLIONS OF PESOS' DEBTS OF
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Energy; and
Cooperatives**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 283, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIP-
PINES AND THE PHILIPPINE
NATIONAL POLICE FOR THE
HEROIC PERFORMANCE OF THEIR
SWORN CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY
AS PROTECTORS OF THE PEOPLE
AND THE STATE, AND AS SENTINELS
OF PEACE AND ORDER IN THE
ZAMBOANGA CRISIS

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committee on Rules

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 3, submitted jointly by the
Committees on National Defense and Security;
and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 480, introduced
by Senator Trillanes IV, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE QUARTERS
ALLOWANCE OF OFFICERS AND
ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE
ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIP-
PINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Trillanes IV

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 4, submitted jointly by the
Committees on National Defense and Security;
Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and
Finance, on Senate Joint Resolution. No. 2,
introduced by Senators Trillanes IV and Sonny
Angara, entitled

JOINT RESOLUTION INCREASING THE
SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE OF ALL
OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PER-
SONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES
OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) AND
OF ALL COMMISSIONED AND
NON-COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL
OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL
POLICE (PNP) FROM NINETY PESOS
(P90.00) TO ONE HUNDRED AND
FIFTY PESOS (P150.00) PER DAY,

recommending its approval with amendments, taking into consideration Senate Bill No. 1267.

Sponsor: Senator Trillanes IV

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 286, entitled

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE COMPOSITION OF COMMERCIALY-USED "BIODEGRADABLE" OR OXO-DEGRADABLE PLASTIC BAGS, SACKS, AND PACKAGING FOR REPORTEDLY CONTAINING CHEMICAL ADDITIVES THAT MAY BE HARMFUL TO OUR ENVIRONMENT

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 287, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE 2011 DISBURSEMENT ACCELERATION PROGRAM OF THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION IMPLEMENTED FROM THE YEAR 2011 UP TO YEAR 2013 WITH THE END VIEW OF FORMULATING LAWS, POLICIES AND REGULATIONS WITH REGARD TO THE USE OF SAVINGS AND PROPER BUDGET AUGMENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 288, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED 3,000 UNREGISTERED AND UNDOCUMENTED CHINESE NATIONALS WORKING IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 289, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED INADEQUACIES IN THE REGULATION OF STEM CELL THERAPY IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 290, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE UNITED NATION'S CALL ON GOVERNMENTS TO HARNESS TECHNOLOGY AS A MEANS TO FACILITATE ACCESS TO FINANCIAL SERVICES FOR THE POOR

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Science and Technology

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 291, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER

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SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON REPORTS THAT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES WERE ALLEGEDLY COMMITTED BY CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES DURING THE RECENT ZAMBOANGA CITY ARMED CONFLICT

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and National Defense and Security

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 292, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO GIVE FULL SUPPORT TO THE GLOBAL GOAL OF ELIMINATING THE USE OF LEAD PAINT IN THE COUNTRY, AND TO URGE THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL LEAD POISONING PREVENTION WEEK OF ACTION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 293, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY SIX MILLION PESOS (PHP286,000,000.00) BONUS GIVEN TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND EMPLOYEES WITH THE END VIEW OF REFORMULATING POLICIES, STANDARDS, AND GUIDELINES WITH REGARD TO GRANTING PERFORMANCE-BASED BONUS FOR GOVERNMENT-OWNED OR CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 294, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT CORPORATIONS AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MANDATE, POWERS, AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PHILIPPINE RECLAMATION AUTHORITY (PRA) UNDER ITS CHARTER, RULES AND REGULATIONS, AND OTHER ISSUANCES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INTRODUCING REFORMS, REVISIONS, AND AMENDMENTS IF NECESSARY, TO ENSURE THAT THE PRA POWERS AND FUNCTIONS ARE BEING EXERCISED CONSISTENT WITH PUBLIC INTEREST

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 295, entitled

RESOLUTION EXTENDING HEART-FELT SYMPATHY AND CONCERN TO OUR COUNTRYMEN WHO LOST LOVED ONES, SUFFERED INJURIES, OR INCURRED DAMAGE TO PROPERTY AS A RESULT OF THE 7.2 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE THAT HIT BOHOL, CEBU, AND NUMEROUS OTHER AREAS IN VISAYAS AND MINDANAO AT 8:12 IN THE MORNING OF 15 OCTOBER 2013

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 296, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF

LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF EARTHQUAKE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSIVENESS IN LIGHT OF THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY THE 7.2 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE THAT HIT BOHOL, CEBU AND NUMEROUS OTHER AREAS IN VISAYAS AND MINDANAO ON 15 OCTOBER 2013

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on National Defense and Security

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 297, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A P10 BILLION SPECIAL FUND FOR THE IMMEDIATE REBUILD, RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF BOHOL AND CEBU AND TO HELP THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THE 7.2 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE THAT JOLTED CENTRAL VISAYAS

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 298, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT; PEACE, UNIFICATION AND RECONCILIATION; AND ECONOMIC AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT'S DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR MINDANAO, ESPECIALLY ITS CONFLICT-AFFECTED AREAS, TO ENSURE THE MINDANAOANS' AND THE REGION'S COMPREHENSIVE INCLUSION IN THE PATH OF ACCELERATED GROWTH PURSUED BY THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committees on Economic Affairs; and Local Government

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 299, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EFFECTS OF BIR REVENUE REGULATION NO. 13-2013 ON THE SUGAR INDUSTRY

Introduced by Senator Guingona III

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 300, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO INVESTIGATE, INQUIRE AND LOOK INTO, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE TRUE CAUSE OF THE ATTACK IN ZAMBOANGA CITY BY THE MORO NATIONAL LIBERATION FRONT (MNLF) WHICH TRIGGERED A CRISIS RESULTING TO THE LOSS OF HUNDREDS OF LIVES AND THE DESTRUCTION OF, AND/OR DAMAGE TO, HOMES, ESTABLISHMENTS AND PROPERTIES AND THE DISPLACEMENT OF MORE THAN A HUNDRED TWENTY THOUSAND (120,000) PEOPLE WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION TO PREVENT THE RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS IN THE FUTURE

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committee on National Defense and Security

COMMUNICATION

Letter from Governor Edgar M. Chatto, *et al.* of the Province of Bohol, dated 20 October 2013, proposing to the Senate that the presently

impounded Priority Development Assistance Fund or the PDAF of senators be considered as an immediate source of rehabilitation funds to get Bohol started on getting back on its feet.

To the Committee on Finance

**SECOND ADDITIONAL
REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

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

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 301, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF PHILIPPINES SPORTS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF FORMULATING A LONG-TERM STAKEHOLDER-DRIVEN AND SUSTAINABLE SPORTS PROGRAM FOR THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 302, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE FOR THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT TO REALIGN THE REMAINING 2013 SENATE PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND TO THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT FUND

Introduced by Senator Drilon

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 303, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE OF THE PHILIP-

PINES TO ABOLISH THE PRIORITY DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FUND IN THE GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT OF 2014

Introduced by Senator Drilon

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 304, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT ALL MAJOR SOURCES OF NATIONAL REVENUES, ESPECIALLY THE FUNDS FROM MALAMPAYA, PCSO AND PAGCOR, SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE BUDGET OF EXPENDITURES AND SOURCES OF FINANCING (BESF) REPORT SUBMITTED ANNUALLY BY THE PRESIDENT TO CONGRESS; AND REFERRING THIS RESOLUTION TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND REVISION OF CODES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Rules

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (A) acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the student leaders from the Isabela State University and the Cagayan State University.

The Senate President welcomed the guests to the Senate.

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)**

In celebration of the Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Senator Cayetano (P) delivered the following speech:

BEATING BREAST CANCER

Man, woman, and child – what do they all have in common? All are affected by breast cancer, as a patient, a husband, a daughter, a son, a sibling, a parent, or friend.

It is a tragic fact that countless Filipinos know the pain of losing someone they love to cancer. The past decades have seen a significant increase in the incidence of cancer, with more Filipino families carrying the burden of losing a loved one, or facing the difficulties of battling this disease head-on.

In the Philippines and in many countries all over the world, October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. The pink ribbon is a global icon for breast cancer awareness, and a symbol of support for breast cancer patients, survivors, and their families, as well as the brave warriors who have fought and succumbed to this disease.

I would like to ask my colleagues to join me, the women in the Senate, and the Senate President, in wearing the pink ribbon. I would like to ask for a minute of suspension to express our solidarity and will ask survivors of breast cancer to come to the floor and pin pink ribbons on our colleagues.

The session was suspended to allow breast cancer survivors to pin pink ribbons on Members of the Senate. The session was resumed shortly thereafter.

So that the men in the Senate not forget, I have also provided them with choco-yema cupcakes with a pink ribbon on it. They say the way to a man's heart is through his stomach, among others.

Today, I rise on a matter of personal and collective privilege to emphasize the significance of an aggressive local battle against breast cancer.

According to the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology, the Philippines has the highest incidence of breast cancer in Asia. It has overtaken lung cancer as the leading cancer site for both sexes in the Philippines, and it is the number one cancer killer among Filipino women.

For breast cancer, "the best protection is early detection." Indeed, early diagnosis and prompt treatment in its early stages have yielded excellent cure and recovery rates. Widespread awareness about breast cancer and its early detection can truly save lives. It is thus very important that women, especially those from poor communities, have access to useful information about breast cancer, as well as breast examinations, screenings, and early detection services.

In fact, United Nations humanitarian Angelina Jolie has become vocal about seeking out information, especially for women who have a family history of breast cancer. She recently revealed that she underwent a preventive double mastectomy because of her high genetic risk for breast cancer. This revelation has triggered the mindset that women can become proactive about finding out their risk for breast cancer, and that they have options to cancer care.

Breast cancer can be treated successfully if detection is made early on. The success rate is not only high but treatment is fairly affordable.

In fact, our collective efforts to improve women's health services, specifically the passage of 1) Cheaper Medicines Act; 2) Reproductive Health Law; and 3) the amendments to the PhilHealth Law, address key public health issues particular to Filipino women. Under the Cheaper Medicines Law, a number of cancer medicines have become as much as 50% cheaper. The RH Law expressly states that the treatment of breast and reproductive tract cancers and other gynecological conditions and disorders is an important element of reproductive health care. Further, Section 12 of the RH Law states that:

"All serious and life threatening reproductive health conditions such as HIV and AIDS, breast and reproductive tract cancers, and obstetric complications, and menopausal and post-menopausal-related conditions shall be given the maximum benefits, xxx, as provided in the guidelines set by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PHIC)."

Furthermore, PhilHealth now offers "Package Z," which provides free medical examination and treatment for women with detected breast cancer from zero to Stage III-A. This puts breast cancer treatment within reach for majority of Filipinos, unlike in the past where only those who have the means can afford such services. However, whether rich or poor, the very first step in stopping breast cancer on its track is still awareness about its prevention, early detection, and cure.

Present here today are advocates of early detection and awareness about breast cancer. The breast cancer survivors of Fuego Filipinas, a dragon boat rowing team with powerhouse members from the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation and Philippine Canoe Kayak Foundation, prove that, indeed, life goes on. These amazing women have lived through the disease and survived it to emerge stronger and

tougher. They are warriors who form part of an international community of survivor rowers, competing and supporting each other, as well as raising awareness about the disease they conquered.

Also present today are members of the ICanServe Foundation, a non-profit organization founded by breast cancer survivors who saw the need to empower women with breast cancer and provide women with cancer-related information so they can take an active role in their health care. Their flagship program, *Ating Dibdibin*, is a community-based breast screening program that they seek to introduce to as many cities as possible.

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (P) asked the named guests from the gallery to be recognized.

There are also a lot of LGU initiatives, but I would like to point out that in our hometown in the City of Taguig, they now have a breast cancer screening and treatment facility and it is the first city to provide mammogram and ultrasound for the needs of the women in the city. Breast cancer can be treated successfully if detection is, in fact, made early.

These women are living proof that there is still so much to learn, share, and achieve, despite the life-threatening illness. Breast cancer did not prevent them from living their life to the fullest. Our inspiring survivors have shown that there is life after breast cancer, and it is a remarkable one, drawn from courage and strength.

I stand before you with a simple request: tie a pink ribbon and help raise awareness about breast cancer—that like the members of the Senate, I ask our people to wear a pink ribbon and help raise awareness about breast cancer.

There will be more survivors when we acknowledge that breast cancer is not only a health issue, but also a women's issue. For many years, women's health issues have largely been ignored and relegated to the backseat of national policy. These issues need to be addressed by specific and well-formulated programs, which can only be achieved through responsible policy-making and budget planning. Let us remember that the way we handle women's issues echoes how we, as a nation, look upon and treat our women. It is high time for us to shift the national perspective towards true gender equity.

Today, we in the Senate have shown that we are united in fighting breast cancer.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR LEGARDA

At the outset, Senator Legarda said that she shares the advocacy and sentiment of Senator Cayetano (P) for bringing breast cancer to national awareness once again considering that October is recognized as the Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Noting the many pending bills for the establishment of breast cancer centers in various public hospitals, Senator Legarda asked whether their establishment is included in the priorities of the Committee on Health and Demography so that public hospitals in the regions would be equipped with at least one mammogram machine. She informed the Body that the Philippine General Hospital has been the recipient of a mammogram machine which she funded through her PDAF. She said that the machine will be made available for free to the ICanServe Foundation with whom she has worked many times in the past, and to other breast cancer support groups.

Senator Cayetano (P) noted that the mammogram machine would complement the cryotherapy machine that she has also provided the PGH which is used for the early detection of cervical cancer. She stated that the cryotherapy machine is so technologically advanced that immediately upon examination, it could detect abnormal cells which could be treated through a laser procedure. She explained that the cryotherapy machine is a an equipment used for the treatment of women who were found in visual inspection to be positive with abnormal cells using the acetic acid wash procedure. She added that consequent to the pap smear procedure, further test is conducted with the use of the cryotherapy machine.

Senator Cayetano (P) said that she was glad that in recognizing the totality of women's issues, both she and Senator Legarda have tried to better equip PGH. She likewise agreed that the machines should be made available to the public for free.

As regards the establishment of breast cancer centers, Senator Cayetano (P) affirmed that their establishment is consistent with the mandate of the Reproductive Health Law and the Magna Carta of Women. She pointed out that it is the duty of Congress to provide funding for the establishment of these centers at least in regional hospitals or in the key areas of Cebu, Davao, Legaspi or Naga, Cagayan De Oro and Iloilo, among other places.

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (P) appealed to the Body to support her advocacy on breast cancer awareness, an issue that primarily affects women but also puts a small percentage of men at risk.

Senator Legarda suggested that in coordination with Senators Cayetano (P), Binay, Defensor Santiago and Poe, the women senators could introduce an amendment in the GAA for the provision of mammogram machines to certain regional hospitals. She believed that the project is doable and that if the Chairman of the Committee on Finance would allow it, the matter of costing could be discussed. She also mentioned the huge allocations for health that are included in the Sin Tax law and she expressed hope that the women senators could work collectively with the Committee on Finance on the matter.

Noting the large number of breast cancer cases in the Philippines, Senator Legarda asked whether the disease has anything to do with nutrition, diet, environment, air, or water quality. Senator Cayetano (P) replied that based on the hearings conducted and from her readings, breast cancer is a product of nutrition and environment. She cited a study in Japan, known for its healthy diet of vegetables and high fiber, where it was found that when people migrate to more urbanized countries and cities where fastfoods are a big part of the diet, the incidence of breast cancer also increases. She said that in the Philippines, the poor receive very low quality of nutrition leading to a high incidence of malnutrition and obesity within the same household. She pointed out that obesity is not necessarily caused by overeating but largely by unhealthy food intake.

Senator Cayetano (P) also pointed to numerous studies linking poor nutrition and poor environmental conditions to poor health and even to cancer, and she informed the Body that many fastfoods in the United States offer salads and low-fat yoghurts in their conscious effort to respond to the demand for healthier alternatives. But she lamented that the prohibitive cost of healthy food in the Philippines makes the transition to healthy food rather slow when compared to other countries. She said that going back to the basics, which means eating what one can grow, is a better option.

Senator Legarda agreed, stating that since the Philippines is an archipelago that is surrounded by rivers and oceans with bountiful harvest, and has a big land area where vegetables could be planted,

there is no reason why people could not rely on nutritious food that are free from preservatives and chemicals. She said that at the proper time and during the budget deliberations, the proper committees should ensure that the National Nutrition Council would do its job of providing more information on the kind of food to eat and to avoid in order to prevent all types of cancer. She agreed with Senator Cayetano (P) that early detection is the key towards avoiding breast cancer.

In response, Senator Cayetano (P) said that a healthy lifestyle is also a key, as she quoted a statement from *USA Today* that “exercise and weight control reduces the risk of breast cancer, and that at least about 25% of all breast cancer cases in women of all ages could be avoided by maintaining a healthy body weight and doing regular physical activity.” She said that the women members of the rowing team present in the gallery could attest to the said statement, as she surmised that they must have been advised by health professionals that engaging in rowing and any other form of physical exercise is paramount to maintaining a healthy life and to battling breast cancer.

Senator Cayetano (P) added that the article in *USA Today* further stated that “as little as 1.25 to 2.5 hours per week of brisk walking reduces a woman’s risk by 18%.” Thus, she said that walking an hour and 15 minutes a week and about 25 minutes three times a week would be beneficial to one’s health.

Senator Legarda commended Senator Cayetano (P) for bringing to the Body’s attention the importance of breast cancer awareness, a concern that is personally close to her heart as her mother died at the age of 61 due to breast cancer. She said that being the eldest and the only girl among siblings, she was warned that she would have a bigger chance of having breast cancer, compelling her to be more vigilant and to make sure that she has herself checked up in October of every year.

Senator Cayetano (P) lauded Senator Legarda for her courage in talking about her personal experience, saying that it is through people like her that awareness could actually be raised.

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (P) called on the male members of the Chamber to take the initiative to remind their wives about breast cancer, believing that men could play a vital role in ensuring

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that the health concerns of their partners are promptly addressed.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ESTRADA

Asked by Senator Estrada on the number of women presently suffering from breast cancer in the country, Senator Cayetano (P) replied that based on available data, three out of 100 Filipino women would contract the disease, or about 11,524 breast cancer incidence for every 100,000 women populations. She believed though that many other such incidents have remained unreported as the information gathered by the Philippine Cancer Society were based solely from health centers.

Asked whether the incidence of breast cancer is higher in Metro Manila or in the provinces, Senator Cayetano (P) explained that while such a distinction has not been made in the Philippines, there nevertheless appeared to be a clear link between the environment, lifestyle and eating habits and the incidence of breast cancer. For instance, she noted that although rural areas in other countries which practice healthy eating habits have recorded a lower incidence of the disease, the migration of their residents to urban centers resulted in a higher incidence of breast cancer.

As regards the number of men suffering from the disease, Senator Cayetano (P) replied that less than 1% of the male population has been found to have suffered from the disease.

At this juncture, the Chair disclosed that a male member of the House of Representatives has been reported to have breast cancer.

Asked for the symptoms of breast cancer, Senator Cayetano (P) replied that a breast lump is the first normal indication of a possible occurrence of the disease and that symptoms like experiencing headache or weakness occur in the later stage of the illness.

Asked who usually discovers the presence of these lumps, Senator Cayetano (P) explained that while the woman who is diligent in conducting her monthly breast examinations would usually be the first to discover this symptom, health professionals could detect these lumps as well, and that she has received reports that a large percentage of these cancer victims have had their disease unintentionally discovered by their male partners.

As regards Senator Estrada's concern that the lump that was discovered by his spouse has been identified by her physician as a cystic lump, Senator Cayetano (P) explained that these lumps are nodules that contain only water and are different from hard lumps which may or may not be cancerous. Aside from regularly monitoring their growth, she suggested that a biopsy be made on these lumps to determine what these are.

To the information that Senator Estrada's wife has been experiencing pain in both of her breasts, Senator Cayetano (P) said that her resource person – a physician – has informed her that there are painful tumors which are not cancerous while those that are not painful might be those that indicate otherwise. However, she advised Senator Estrada against simply taking her word on the matter since she might be giving erroneous advice.

At this juncture, Senator Estrada asked whether the congressman who has been diagnosed with breast cancer was still alive. The Chair answered in the affirmative but clarified he has just finished his term as a member of the House of Representatives.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ANGARA

Adverting to a report on the correlation between air quality and the rate of cancer, Senator Angara asked whether a similar investigation has been made with regard to the rising incidence of breast cancer in the country particularly since the Philippines happens to have the worst incidence of this disease in Southeast Asia as well as the worst air quality in the region. In reply, Senator Cayetano (P) expressed willingness to inquire and encourage research on the matter particularly since the output of research conducted by state colleges and universities is a factor being considered in their world rankings. She believed that the government has to invest more funds in science, technology and research on women's and other health issues.

Senator Angara suggested that studies could also be made into the possibility that low-lying areas which are more prone to pollution would likely have a higher incidence of the disease. He pointed out that a study conducted by the Philippine General Hospital in 2009 revealed that breast cancer incidence in seven cities in Metro Manila – Manila, Quezon City, San Juan, Mandaluyong, Makati, Pasig and Parañaque — was much higher compared to that of other cities

and municipalities, including Rizal. Senator Cayetano (P) welcomed the proposal and gave assurance that she would inform the government agencies involved regarding the matter.

In closing, Senator Angara lauded the report that the PhilHealth has allocated a P100,000 coverage for breast cancer under its "Z" package. He stressed the importance of disseminating information and raising awareness regarding the disease. Senator Cayetano (P) thanked the Members for supporting her advocacy. She added that a pink ribbon has been placed outside the session hall to further raise awareness of this issue and support initiatives in addressing it.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR CAYETANO (A)

Preliminarily, Senator Cayetano (A) stated that citizens in countries like Thailand enjoy free healthcare, but he noted that even though the sin tax bill which was approved by Congress the previous year was supposed to be used to subsidize the primary, secondary and tertiary healthcare of Filipinos, the PhilHealth has even doubled the premium contribution of its members to P2,400 in 2014. As such, he asked whether the P100,000 package offered by PhilHealth could fully cover mammogram for breast cancer victims. Senator Cayetano (P) replied that the amount does not cover mammogram test but it covers the cardiopulmonary clearance in surgery as well as necessary chemotherapy and radiation sessions. She underscored the importance of detecting the disease in the early stage not only to spare oneself from the emotional trauma of discovering it later on but also to avail of easier and cheaper treatment. She noted that a cancer patient undergoing a chemotherapy session in the early stage of the disease may only pay a total of P30,000 for six sessions which is within the P100,000 limit including surgery. However, she said that a patient being treated for the disease in the later stage would have to undergo more treatments or take various and more expensive medications.

Senator Cayetano (A) believed that it would be more advantageous to a patient if her illness is detected and treated during its early stage because it will be cheaper and less life-threatening. He lamented that although many Filipinos are given PhilHealth cards, the indigent, which are most vulnerable to such diseases, still have to shell out a large amount

for their treatment unlike the rich who can afford to pay the counterpart cost. For instance, he said that a poor patient who needs to have an appendectomy costing P30,000, would not be able to go under surgery since he would not be able to pay P20,000 balance that would not be shouldered by the PhilHealth. He clarified that he was not opposed to having an agency like the PhilHealth, but he proposed that the government follow Thailand's example and have funds for healthcare made directly available to anyone who needs medical assistance. He said that he just wanted to make sure that everyone who is sick should be covered by PhilHealth, including diagnostics. He cited the case of teachers, recalling that every year he has been reminding the DepEd to provide them free x-rays.

Senator Cayetano (A) agreed with Senator Cayetano (P) that early detection is the key as he thanked Senator Legarda for pushing for the provision of necessary equipment in all hospitals and health centers. He opined, however, that what is more important is that people should know that they can use these equipment in the hospitals or health centers for free, if not at a minimal cost. He said that an average mother would put other expenses, such as food, tuition fees, school allowances for her children over her own needs like her breast cancer checkup. He said that this is the reason why women would discover that they have diseases when it was already in the late stages.

Senator Cayetano (A) stated that he could not understand how the PhilHealth can double their premium payments but not provide for 100% coverage for its members especially the poor and the underprivileged. He said that for ordinary people, it was enough that they have the PhilHealth card even though they do not get to use it because the hospitals would not have the medicine they need or they have to pay for items like alcohol or even cotton balls. He stated that the government must empower these breast cancer victims, and together fight the disease. He said that it was unfortunate that the institution is adopting a more business-like model rather than a more public service model. He said that he hoped to see PhilHealth improve its services.

For her part, Senator Cayetano (P) said that last Congress, the bill strengthening and improving the PhilHealth was passed into law and she said that what needs to be done now is to call a hearing to see how the PhilHealth is implementing the changes.

In closing, Senator Cayetano (A) said that he would like to put on record the name of former Health Secretary Alberto “Quasi” Romualdez, who recently passed away. He said that Secretary Romualdez has been known for fighting, volunteering and spending his own money for his advocacies like universal health care and breast cancer, and the *other health bills discussed in the Chamber*. He said that Secretary Romualdez’ physical health may have failed but he is spiritually alive and enjoying the retirement that he deserved.

Senator Cayetano (P) agreed and noted that Secretary Romualdez deserves to be acknowledged and honored separately for his efforts and contribution towards more awareness on breast cancer and for the other health issues that he pioneered. She acknowledged Secretary Romualdez for being instrumental in not just crafting the bills but also in improving and helping defend bills that eventually became the Cheaper Medicines law, the Reproductive Health law and the amendments to the PhilHealth law. She said that people owed a lot to him and the country lost a great person in health care.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Cayetano (P) and the interpellations thereon, primarily to the Committee on Health and Demography, and, secondarily to the Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Legarda delivered the following speech:

CHILD CYBER PORNOGRAPHY

More than a month ago, police authorities in Cebu carried out a complex sting operation to rescue victims of child labor. It was not the typical kind of labor one would think of, nor were the perpetrators any ordinary.

The victims were sisters, but only three were rescued — ages 2, 9 and 11.

The kind of work they were made to do: endure the sexual abuse being done against them in exchange for the money their family will earn.

The perpetrators: the children’s own mother and father.

Earlier this year, the case was referred to the Regional Anti-Human Trafficking Task Force in Cebu by the United States Homeland Security and Investigations. Police authorities planned the operation with the International Justice Mission (IJM) and carried out the plan with the help of social workers.

The team found out that the siblings were being sexually exploited by their own parents in their home. The acts were done in front of a webcam for foreign pedophiles to watch real time.

What could be more painful and traumatic than being exposed to strangers while being sexually exploited by one’s own parents at the very place they supposedly call home?

According to IJM, one of the girls disclosed to them that she has told her parents to stop what they were doing even though they were poor.

But poverty can never justify the actions of this couple to subject their children — one of them still a toddler — to such exploitation.

The Philippine National Police (PNP) and the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI), in partnership with the IJM and with the support of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), have been undertaking covert operations to rescue other victims of cyber pornography.

On September 6, two days after saving the three siblings from their parents, rescue operations commenced in Cebu to save 13 minors — with ages between 8 and 17 years old — from the nightmare of sexual exploitation.

Other recent operations in coordination with IJM against online pornography include saving a 13-year old girl and her cousin from her parents in Cebu and rescuing six girls in a cybersex den in Pampanga.

In many parts of the country, more children are hoping that soon they will be rescued from slavery and be able to tread on a new path for a much brighter future.

Amid the political issues our country is facing and amid the work we need to do to help communities affected by recent disasters, we must not lose sight of our responsibility to protect our children from forced labor, slavery, sexual exploitation and other forms of trafficking.

We ensured the passage of the Expanded Anti-Trafficking in Persons Act to strengthen our legal defense against individuals and syndicates involved in the illegal human trade. The strict implementation of this law as well as other related pieces of legislation is the greater challenge.

IJM, through its Project Lantern, has successfully demonstrated how through law enforcement we can effectively reduce the occurrence of sex trafficking.

The IJM conducted Project Lantern from 2007 to 2010 in Metro Cebu. They partnered with the PNP and provided special anti-trafficking training to law enforcers. They also provided assistance on investigation and prosecution of trafficking cases.

The IJM also entered into a partnership with DSWD for aftercare assistance such as immediate crisis counseling and support. They worked closely with aftercare providers to provide secure facilities and effective rehabilitation program for victims.

With IJM's intervention, police authorities in Metro Cebu rescued 259 sex trafficking victims from January 1, 2007 to September 30, 2010. In the three years prior to Project Lantern, the police rescued only 27 victims. The project also proved to be successful in preventing sex trafficking as it resulted in a 79% decrease in the availability of children for sex in Metro Cebu from 2007 to 2010.

These results prove that our laws are effective if we know how to make them work.

The stricter provisions of the strengthened anti-trafficking laws should be matched with its effective implementation. Our government agencies should partner with concerned organizations, such as the IJM, and our police force should undergo continuous training because human traffickers have become more innovative in their actions.

We must be circumspect as criminals use technology to their advantage, which is why cyber pornography is becoming rampant.

In relation to this, I have filed Senate Bill No. 532, the Anti-Computer Pornography Act. We realize that with advancements in the internet and other technological media allowing communication to cross geographic and national borders in a matter of seconds, everything has now become reachable with the click of a button. Most of these technological advancements have been utilized by unscrupulous individuals for

illegal activities such as the cases that were uncovered by the IJM.

Through this proposed measure, we aim to protect minors from indecent and immoral material transmitted through electronic mail and other electronic media.

We must keep in mind that human trafficking, and the related problems of illegal sex trade, forced labor, and other forms of slavery, is a complex web. Battling it requires a concerted effort from all sectors of society.

We must not lose sight of the fact that traffickers target the most vulnerable sectors of society, especially the youth, and this is the injustice that we must act against.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:31 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:32 p.m., the session was resumed.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Legarda, primarily to the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, and secondarily, to the Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality.

SPECIAL ORDERS

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of the following from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders:

1. Committee Report No. 3 on Senate Bill No. 480; and
2. Committee Report No. 4 on Senate Joint Resolution No. 2.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 3 ON SENATE BILL NO. 480

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there

being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Committee Report No. 3 on Senate Bill No. 480, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE QUARTERS ALLOWANCE OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), only the title of the bill was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

Thereupon the Chair recognized Senator Trillanes, sponsor of the measure.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR TRILLANES

Senator Trillanes, on behalf of the Committee on National Defense and Security, together with the Committee on Finance, presented to the Body Senate Bill No. 480, entitled "An Act Increasing the Quarters Allowance of Officer and Enlisted Personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines", under Committee Report No. 3.

The full text of Senator Trillanes' sponsorship speech follows:

Consistent with our aim to promote the welfare of the members of the Armed Forces and to boost their morale, this bill seeks to increase their quarters allowance. Although our Constitution requires professionalism from all the members of the Armed Forces and mandates the provision of adequate remuneration and benefits to its members, the current rate of their quarters allowance has become obsolete and inadequate to provide them decent quarters in the light of the present rate of house rental.

Enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines are currently receiving quarters allowance that ranges from P400 – P525 depending on the rank. On the other hand, the quarters allowance of officers ranges from P600 in the case of a 2nd lieutenant to P1,500 in the case of a general.

Under this proposed measure, the quarters allowance of all members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines will be substantially increased to

a reasonable level, befitting their rank and commensurate to their position. Enlisted personnel will be receiving P5,000, while officers from 2nd lieutenant to colonel will be receiving P10,000, while generals will receive P15,000.

Upon the advice and with guidance of the representatives of the DBM and the Department of Finance during the hearing and technical working group (TWG) meetings for the measure, we have identified the following sources of funds in support of this measure:

- a. Fifty percent (50%) of the net government share in the proceeds of Service Contract No. 38 authorized under Section 8 of Presidential Decree 910;
- b. Twenty percent (20%) of the annual share of the AFP Modernization Program on the income derived from the leases, joint ventures and other similar transactions on properties in Metro Manila entered into by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority as mandated under Executive Order 309;
- c. Annual saving of the Department of National Defense and the Armed Forces of the Philippines; and
- d. The Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Funds (MPBS).

We demand so much from the members of the AFP. During times of calamity and crisis, we expect them to be at the front lines in the rescue, relief and rehabilitation efforts.

In case of external threats, we expect them to defend our country and our people despite their rudimentary, inadequate and antiquated equipment.

Even in the case of internal security threats, we require them to be at the forefront and to preserve the peace, together with members of the Philippine National Police (PNP). We saw this in the case of the recent crisis in Zamboanga City, where a number of young and promising officers and enlisted personnel of the AFP laid down their lives and scores of soldiers and PNP personnel were wounded in action, all in defense of our country and our people.

It is only fair and reasonable that we should look after their welfare and well-being in exchange for the great sacrifices we require of them.

This is one of the measures that we hope to pass as a way of recognizing the sacrifices of the military personnel for this country, and also as a way of instituting reforms. With decent pay and

adequate benefits, we believe that we will be able to further motivate the officers and enlisted personnel of the AFP to continue their faithful, loyal and dedicated service to the country.

In this light, I urge our colleagues to support the immediate passage of this measure.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:40 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:41 p.m., the session was resumed.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 480

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

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 4 ON SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Joint Resolution No. 2 (Committee Report No. 4), entitled

JOINT RESOLUTION INCREASING THE SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE OF ALL OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) AND OF ALL COMMISSIONED AND NON-COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) FROM NINETY PESOS (P90.00) TO ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PESOS (P150.00) PER DAY.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Trillanes, sponsor of the joint resolution.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR TRILLANES

Senator Trillanes, on behalf of the Committee on National Defense and Security, together with the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Finance, presented to the Body Senate Joint Resolution No. 2, entitled "Joint Resolution increasing the subsistence allowance of all officers, enlisted personnel, candidate soldiers, probationary second lieutenants, cadets and civilian active auxiliaries of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and of all commissioned and non-commissioned personnel of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Philippine National Police Academy cadets from Ninety Pesos to One Hundred and Fifty Pesos," under Committee Report No. 4.

The full text of Senator Trillanes' sponsorship speech follows:

Our Constitution recognizes the vital role of the military and the uniformed personnel of the Department of the Interior and Local Government in protecting the people and the State, including members of the Philippine National Police, Bureau of Fire Protection, Bureau of Jail Management and Penology and the cadets of the Philippine National Police Academy in maintaining peace and order in the country.

However, despite of their vital, indispensable and invaluable contribution to the country, they remain among the lowest paid public servants – they receive measly salaries, inadequate allowances and insufficient benefits.

In fact, members of the uniformed services are currently receiving a measly subsistence allowance of P90.00 per day, which is very low by any standard. Needless to state, the same is clearly inadequate for the purpose it is intended.

In order to illustrate, allow me to relate to you a story that I know to be true, having been a former soldier myself. Soldiers, policemen and other uniformed personnel are normally assigned to distant places, far away from home and from their families. They usually leave their ATM cards with their families. Their salaries and other benefits go directly into said ATM cards; it is this P90-subistence allowance that is left to the soldier, policeman or uniformed personnel to pay for his or her daily subsistence and sustenance. In short, our soldiers, policemen and uniformed personnel have to learn to live and survive on this paltry sum so they can provide for their families.

It is the intention of this measure to uplift the morale of our soldiers, policemen and uniformed personnel of the DILG and the cadets of the PNPA by providing a modest increase in their subsistence allowance. Under this resolution, the subsistence allowance of our military and uniformed personnel will be increased to P150.00 per day effective July 1, 2014.

The funds for the initial year of the implementation of the increase in subsistence allowance shall be drawn against the savings of the Department of National Defense and the DILG for 2014 and from the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund (MPBF) in case of any shortfall. Thereafter, the National Government shall appropriate funds for the increased subsistence allowance annually, and the same shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

In view of the foregoing, I urge our colleagues to support the immediate passage of this measure.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Senator Legarda registered her support for "Joint Resolution Increasing the Subsistence Allowance of All Officers and Enlisted Personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and of all Commissioned and Non-Commissioned Personnel of the Philippine National Police from Ninety Pesos (P90.00) to One Hundred and Fifty Pesos (P150.00) per day."

The full text of Senator Legarda's cosponsorship speech follows:

Tasked to protect the people from various threats and dangers, we cannot overemphasize the value of the arduous mission our soldiers and policemen have to undertake.

They are frontliners in defending our country. They are given the duty to protect the people and the State from lawlessness, violence, rebellion, terrorist acts and other activities that might affect public safety and bring harm to the independence of our nation.

The hard reality is that our uniformed personnel remain among the lowest paid public servants despite the enormity of their tasks.

While our soldiers and policemen perform their noble duty to protect our nation and ensure that our people are safe, we must also fulfill our part to protect their life and their future by addressing their most basic and pressing needs.

And so it is high time that we addressed the long-standing concerns of these public servants who always put their lives on the line.

It is in this context that I extend my support to this measure and hope for the Senate's positive action.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 2

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

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1733 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1733 (Committee Report No. 2), entitled

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE'S
RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND
THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES
OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE
AND HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC
SERVICE AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES.**

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Trillanes for his cosponsorship speech.

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR TRILLANES

At the outset, Senator Trillanes lauded Senator Poe for her efforts on the Freedom of Information Bill and assured her of the support of half of the Senate for the passage of the measure.

In cosponsoring Senate Bill No. 1733, Senator Trillanes delivered the following speech:

The Constitution is our covenant and contract with our people. The 1987 Constitution was borne out of our people's struggle and embodies their collective dreams and aspirations. It enshrines provisions that are intended to empower the people to hold government accountable – this is the essence of a free and democratic society. Indeed, the intention of the framers of the Constitution is to enable our

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people to exercise "people power" without resorting to extra-constitutional means.

The right of the people to information in matters of public concern is among the preferred rights embodied in and guaranteed by our Constitution.

However, the people's right and power to access information seem to have been crippled due to lack of reasonable remedies to ensure proper disclosure of information on government actions, transactions and decisions even if the same involve public interest.

Senate Bill No. 1733 or the People's Freedom of Information Act is the embodiment of the government's obligation and commitment to be transparent and accountable to the citizens. *Through this measure, we hope to afford our people improved and speedy access to public records relating to matters of public concern without cost. This proposed piece of legislation hopes to promote a culture of openness and transparency among our public servants and our public institutions. This is essential and indispensable in curbing the systemic corruption that has been plaguing our government.*

Although this bill is not a panacea for outright eradication of corruption, this is a relevant measure towards this ultimate end and purpose. Through this piece of legislation, we shall be giving our people the power to review government actions as well as to give them the opportunity to participate better in different levels of decision-making.

Since my first term, I have been supporting this measure. In fact, during the Fifteenth Congress, I was even the principal author of the FOI bill. In the current Congress, I also filed my version of the FOI bill. My understanding is that no less than eight of our colleagues have also filed their own versions of this bill.

There is a clamor by the people for us to pass the FOI bill. As senators of the Republic and elected representatives of the people, we should listen to the people's clamor.

To paraphrase former Sen. Benigno "Ninoy" S. Aquino Jr., "We are senators of the people, in the public hire, voicing their bitter complaints as well as their poignant hopes, their pleas as well as their anger."

Indeed, as senators of the people, it is our duty and obligation to ensure the passage of *The Freedom of Information Act*.

It is in this light that I urge all of our colleagues in this august Chamber to ensure the passage of this measure.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1733

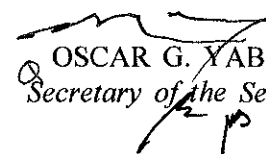
Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

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 4:55 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on October 22, 2013