



**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

# **Journal**

**SESSION NO. 31**  
Wednesday, October 23, 2013

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

**SESSION NO. 31**  
Wednesday, October 23, 2013

/

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:09 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

Sen. Joseph Victor G. Ejercito led the prayer, to wit:

*Mahal naming Panginoon, kami ay muling nagtitipun-tipon sa haponing ito upang gampanan ang mga tungkuling Iyong ipinagkaloob sa amin. Walang sawa kaming nagpapasalamat sa Inyong patuloy na paggabay.*

*Sa kabila ng mga suliranin at kalamidad na dinaranas ng aming bansa, patuloy po kaming nagtitiwala sa Inyo. Muli naming itinataas sa Inyo, Panginoon, ang mga kababayan naming biktima ng lindol sa Bohol at Cebu. Nawa ay patuloy nilang panghawakan ang kanilang pananampalataya sa Inyo at maunawaan nang lubos ang Inyong kalooban.*

*Panginoon, ipagkaloob Mo po sa amin ang kabutihan ng Inyong puso sa lahat ng aming mga gagawin.*

*Ang lahat ng ito ay ibinabalik namin sa Inyo, Panginoon.*

*Amen.*

**ROLL CALL**

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

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

With 16 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Aquino, Marcos, Pimentel and Poe arrived after the roll call.

Senator Villar was on official mission abroad.

Senators Guingona and Lapid were likewise on official mission.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

**BIRTHDAY GREETINGS**

On behalf of the Senate, the Senate President greeted Senator Lapid on the occasion of his birthday

P

on October 25, and Senator Cayetano (A) on October 28, 2013.

### **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. 30 (October 22, 2013) and considered it approved.

### **REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

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

#### **MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Letter of His Excellency, President Benigno S. Aquino III, certifying to the necessity of the immediate enactment of House Bill No. 2630, entitled

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND FOURTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

in order to address the need to maintain continuous government operations following the end of the current fiscal year, to expedite the funding of various programs, projects and activities for FY 2014, and to ensure budgetary preparedness that will enable the government to effectively perform its Constitutional mandate.

**To the Committee on Rules**

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 22 October 2013, the House of Representatives passed House Bill No. 2630, entitled

AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE

TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND FOURTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate.

**To the Committee on Finance**

#### **BILLS ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 1836, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING COMMISSION, STRENGTHENING THE COUNTRY'S COMPETITIVENESS IN BOXING AND ENSURING THE WELFARE OF FILIPINO BOXERS THEREBY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 1837, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING TITLE II, CHAPTER 1 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; Education, Arts and Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1838, entitled

AN ACT REMOVING THE CAP ON THE AMOUNT OF THIRTEENTH MONTH PAY AND OTHER BENEFITS TO BE EXCLUDED FROM GROSS INCOME, AMENDING FOR SUCH PURPOSE SECTION 32(B)(7)(e), CHAPTER VI OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997

Introduced by Senator Lapid

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1839, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PERSONS ON ACCOUNT OF ETHNIC ORIGIN AND/OR RELIGIOUS BELIEF

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

**To the Committees on Cultural Communities; and Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development**

Senate Bill No. 1840, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS TO FURTHER PROTECT AND DEVELOP THE NURSING PROFESSION, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED NINETY-ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTY-THREE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE NURSING ACT OF 2002

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

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

### RESOLUTIONS

Senate Joint Resolution No. 4, entitled

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE IMPERATIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT 9242, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE USE OF THE PHILIPPINE TROPICAL FABRICS FOR THE UNIFORMS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 307, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT

AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PROLIFERATION OF TOYS LADEN WITH HIGH LEVELS OF LEAD AND OTHER TOXIC HEAVY METALS IN METRO MANILA

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 308, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE LEPTOSPIROSIS OUTBREAK IN AND AROUND THE NORTHERN CITY OF OLONGAPO

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 309, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION VIS-À-VIS THE GOVERNMENT'S LONG TERM STRATEGY IN ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Climate Change; and Environment and Natural Resources**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 310, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NEED TO ENACT MEASURES TO PREVENT THE OUTBREAK OF HAND, FOOT, AND MOUTH DISEASE IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 311, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION FOR THE OUTSTANDING, THOROUGH, AND SPEEDY RESOLUTION OF THE CRIMINAL INVESTIGATION OF THE SLAYING OF KRISTELLE "KAE" DAVANTES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 312, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING FILIPINO FILMMAKERS, BRILLANTE MENDOZA, LAV DIAZ, THE LATE LINO BROCKA AND GYM LUMBERA, WHOSE RESPECTIVE FILMS "THY WOMB," "NORTE – THE END OF HISTORY," "MAYNILA: SA MGA KUKO NG LIWANAG," AND "ANAK ARAW" HAVE BEEN SELECTED AND FEATURED AT THE 57<sup>TH</sup> BRITISH FILM INSTITUTE LONDON FILM FESTIVAL HELD IN OCTOBER 2013

Introduced by Senator Legarda

**To the Committee on Rules**

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

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

**BILLS ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 1841, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE CREATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF ANIMAL CRUSH VIDEOS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Agriculture and Food**

Senate Bill No. 1842, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 212 AND 214 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Local Government; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1843, entitled

AN ACT RATIONALIZING RELIEFS FROM THE EXECUTION OF FINAL DECISIONS AND AWARDS OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION AND THE LABOR ARBITERS, THEREBY AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE ARTICLES 223 AND 224 OF THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development**

Senate Bill No. 1844, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE APPROPRIATION, ENCROACHMENT, REGISTRATION AND TITLING OF CREEKS, ESTEROS, STREAMS, CANALS, RIVER BANKS AND OTHER PUBLIC WATERWAYS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1845, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING TANNING FACILITIES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 1846, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF NATUROPATHIC MEDICINE OR NATUROPATHY IN THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 1847, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE OF MEDIUM DENSITY FIBERBOARDS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 1848, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE REGIONAL COURT OF LABOR RELATIONS (RCLR) UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE SUPREME COURT, THEREBY ABOLISHING THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION (NLRC)

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1849, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE APPOINTMENT OF ELECTIVE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WITHIN ONE YEAR FROM RESIGNATION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1850, entitled

AN ACT LIMITING THE PRACTICE OF COSMETIC DERMATOLOGY TO LICENSED AND QUALIFIED PHYSICIANS WITH RESIDENCY TRAINING IN DERMATOLOGY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 1851, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING CORD BLOOD STORAGE FACILITIES IN ALL HOSPITALS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 1852, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE REGULATORY POWERS OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7653, ENTITLED "THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1853, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE BARANGAY PENSION FUND TO PROVIDE PENSION BENEFITS TO ALL BARANGAY OFFICIALS

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Local Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1854, entitled

AN ACT TO EXPEDITE THE PROCESS

OF REPATRIATION OF FILIPINO  
MIGRANT WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Foreign Relations;  
and Labor, Employment and Human Resources  
Development**

Senate Bill No. 1855, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT UNITS FROM  
APPLYING FOR LOANS TO  
FINANCE INFRASTRUCTURE  
PROJECTS AND LENDING  
INSTITUTIONS FROM APPROVING  
IT OR RELEASING THE PROCEEDS  
ONE YEAR BEFORE ELECTIONS

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Local Government;  
and Electoral Reforms and People's Partici-  
pation**

Senate Bill No. 1856, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING RADIO STATIONS  
TO BROADCAST A MINIMUM OF  
THREE ORIGINAL FILIPINO MUSIC  
COMPOSITIONS EVERY HOUR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Public Information and  
Mass Media; and Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 1857, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 352  
AND 513, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committee on Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 1858, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING AN ASSISTANCE

PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO  
WORKERS IN DISTRESS, AND  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment  
and Human Resources Development; Foreign  
Relations; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1859, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FULL  
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE USE  
OF ELECTRONIC DOCUMENTS  
AND SIGNATURES IN GOVERN-  
MENT TRANSACTIONS, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 8792, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE ELECTRONIC COMMERCE  
ACT OF 2000

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Civil Service and  
Government Reorganization; and Local Govern-  
ment**

Senate Bill No. 1860, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SINGLE  
TRAFFIC TICKETING SYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committee on Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 1861, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA  
CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment  
and Human Resources Development; and  
Foreign Relations**

Senate Bill No. 1862, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE INTER-  
AGENCY COUNCIL FOR THE  
CREATION OF JOBS, DEFINING ITS

POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos Jr.

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; Economic Affairs; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1863, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE PRACTICE OF RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, INNS, CANTEENS, STEAKHOUSES, EATERIES AND THE LIKE FROM REFUSING TO SERVE ORDER OF RICE FROM A CUSTOMER IF IT BE LESS THAN ONE (1) CUP, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1864, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL BUDGETING PROCESS, CREATING INTERNAL CONTROL SYSTEMS OR PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND MONITORING OFFICES IN ALL IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES AND OFFICES, STRENGTHENING THE RECOVERY AUDIT PROCESS OF THE GOVERNMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos Jr.

**To the Committee on Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1865, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SEVENTY-SIX HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THREE ENTITLED "THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Drilon

**To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1866, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PROLIFERATION OF STRATEGIC AND DUAL-USE GOODS AND SERVICES, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR THEIR VIOLATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

**To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; National Defense and Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1867, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ADEQUATE TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1868, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ON PEDIATRIC RARE DISEASES AND CONDITIONS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1869, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION CAMPAIGN TO RAISE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF WOMEN'S PREVENTIVE HEALTH



Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; Public Information and Mass Media; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1870, entitled

AN ACT BANNING THE MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, STORAGE, DISTRIBUTION, SALE, USE, AND DISPOSAL OF MONOCROTOPHOS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1871, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551, ALSO KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE REFORM AND REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1998," TO CREATE LGBT PROTECTION DESKS IN ALL POLICE STATIONS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality**

Senate Bill No. 1872, entitled

AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TEN BILLION PESOS FOR THE AID, RELIEF, RESETTLEMENT, REHABILITATION AND LIVELIHOOD SERVICES AS WELL AS INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN CENTRAL VISAYAS, CREATING THE CENTRAL VISAYAS ASSISTANCE, RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Enrile

**To the Committee on Finance**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 313, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PRESERVATION AND RETROFITTING OF HISTORICAL LANDMARKS AND BUILDINGS TO PROTECT THEM FROM NATURAL DISASTERS SUCH AS EARTHQUAKES AND TYPHOONS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Public Works**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 314, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INTENSIFY ITS PROGRAMS ON DISASTER PREPAREDNESS, MITIGATION, AND RESPONSE, AS WELL AS STRENGTHEN ITS DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT PLANS IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT 7.2-MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE IN VISAYAS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 315, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

ps

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 316, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO RACING DRIVER MICHELE MARIE BUMGARNER FOR PULLING OFF A TOP TEN (10) FINISH AND FOR BAGGING THE STAUBLI AWARD AND THE QUARTER MASTER HARD CHARGER AWARD IN THE 2013 PRO MAZDA CHAMPIONSHIP OPEN-WHEEL SERIES ON 5-6 OCTOBER 2013 AT THE RELIANT PARK STREET CIRCUIT IN HOUSTON, TEXAS

Introduced by Senator Lapid

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 317, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF POLICIES INVOLVING RESTORATION, RECONSTRUCTION, PRESERVATION, AND DISASTER-PROOFING WORKS THAT MAY BE UNDERTAKEN ON THE COUNTRY'S CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL LANDMARKS

Introduced by Senator Lapid

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Public Works**

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA**

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Legarda delivered the following speech as the nation celebrated October as the National Indigenous Peoples' Month:

The month of October is celebrated in the Philippines as the National Indigenous Peoples' Month and this year, we are invited by the

National Commission on Indigenous People (NCIP) for a *Collective Celebration of the Culture of Indigenous Cultural Communities*.

We are a historically plural and multi-ethnic society with 110 IP groups, each community possessing its own traditional knowledge and practices, which have shaped our story as a Filipino people.

We should take pride in our cultural rootedness and recognize the people whose lives take us through many centuries of struggle to protect the land we live in, preserve the virtues we uphold, and bring us back to who we are.

Chairperson Felipe de Leon, Jr. of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), in his speech during the inauguration of the expanded permanent textile gallery at the National Museum, said that the excellence of our indigenous peoples is incomparable because their works are of the highest standards as they do it for their families and communities—labors of love as we may aptly call them.

For the *T'bolis* of Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, weaving, embroidery, beadwork and belt-making are important skills in keeping the *T'boli* tradition alive because every item they make is an important part of their life.

The *t'nalak* is a cloth made of abaca that is usually used by the *T'bolis* during significant occasions like birth, marriage and death; the *hilets*, or belts with brass small bells, are believed to drive away bad spirits; while the embroidery they use to accentuate their traditional blouses narrate the story of their relationship with nature and the spirits.

In Paracelis, Mountain Province, the *Ga'dang* community practices weaving that involves an intricate beadwork, which makes their garments unique from the others.

The process of both the actual weaving and incorporating beadwork is too tedious and takes a lot of time. A belt alone is made in more than a week's time.

*Ga'dang* elders strive to pass on this traditional *Ga'dang* cloth weaving to their children to unleash the creativity of the youth while incorporating in them the values of hard work, patience and love of culture.

Meanwhile, the *Panay Bukidnon* community in Calinog, Iloilo employs intricate handiwork and a unique dyeing system in the creation of their traditional wear. Embroiderers intricately work on their craft to emphasize the elaborate

symbol pictography of the *Panay Bukidnon*, which is usually inspired by their natural surroundings.

The *Hanunuo Mangyan* community in Bulalacao, Oriental Mindoro, continues to practice *burungan* to produce thread from cotton, which they use to weave *ramit* that they wear as skirt.

The process of making cotton thread starts with the harvest of cotton and removing of seeds, which is already a tedious process. Using *birikan*, a bowl acting as a plinth, and the *binuyo*, a spool formed from the betel nut tree, cotton thread is spun as it is pulled from the wool of wild cotton. The dye extracted from the *tagum* leaf is used to infuse color into the thread. The *Hanunuo Mangyans* weave *ramit*, which have various designs, using backstrap loom.

These traditional practices are but a few of the many weaving traditions around the country and weaving is just one part of a very rich culture.

In an effort to preserve and promote these weaving traditions as well as our tropical fabrics, we have recently inaugurated the expanded *Hibla ng Lahing Pilipino: The Artistry of Philippine Textiles*. The gallery, which is the first permanent textile gallery in the country, has become bigger, better and with more items in display.

We also inaugurated the *Baybayin Gallery*, which showcases the ancient and traditional scripts of the Philippines. It features and promotes awareness of the writing systems used by ancient Filipinos.

On display in the gallery are famous artifacts such as the Calatagan Pot, the Intramuros Potsherd, the Monreal Stones, and the 10<sup>th</sup> century Laguna Copperplate, one of the earliest written documents found in the Philippines.

But one museum cannot hold a nation's overflowing cultural richness. In fact, when I visited the Ethnological Museum in Berlin, I discovered that Dr. Jose Rizal was also fond of Philippine tropical fabrics. The museum in Berlin has kept Rizal's textile collection and we hope that we can have this on loan for display at the National Museum.

In a related matter, the Quai Branly Museum in Paris, France featured Philippine pre-colonial artwork and artifacts through the exhibition "*Philippines: An Archipelago of Exchange*" from April 9 to July 14, 2013. Among the items that were displayed in the museum are the Maitum burial jars from Sarangani, wooden

images of rice gods from Northern Luzon, gold ornaments, and costumes and weapons of ancient warriors.

A similar exhibition here in the Philippines would be beautiful. It would be good for our people if we can replicate these kinds of projects in our communities to ensure that future generations would still be able to witness these cultural treasures and traditions.

It is in this light that I filed Senate Bill No. 105, which seeks to preserve the country's traditional folk arts through the regional museums of the National Museum.

These regional museums will display traditional folk arts collection, archeological finds, objects of art, and other local cultural treasures as part of efforts on conservation, preservation and promotion of the cultural heritage of the schools of living traditions (SLTs) found within their localities.

With these regional museums showcasing traditional folk arts, we hope to start a cultural revolution through an immersion in the Philippine art from the ordinary folks of old.

I have also proposed the creation of a Department of Culture and the Arts under Senate Bill No. 1391 to reorganize the existing NCCA and ensure its place in the priorities of the government.

Proposed measures for the benefit of our IPs have been filed as well:

- Senate Bill No. 669 seeks to safeguard the traditional property rights of IPs;
- Senate Bill No. 515 will ensure equal employment opportunities to IPs;
- Senate Bill No. 534 will include ethnic origin in the national survey conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO); and,
- Senate Bill No. 1357 seeks to prohibit profiling, violence and all forms of intolerance against persons based on ethnicity, race, religion or belief, language, disability or other status.

The ways and means of our indigenous peoples may be ancient as to the standards of modern society, but everything that we have now is not a product borne out of the minds of people from this generation alone, but a reflection of the creativity, resourcefulness and passion of those people who have lived long ago creating their own identity, building a sustainable community, forming unique practices, surviving with their own rich culture, passing it

on to their children, and generously sharing it with others.

To all of us who have gained so much from this ingenuity, perhaps, it would not be too much to give the fitting recognition long overdue to our IPs and to allow them to benefit from the very knowledge that had rooted from their communities. Let our common vision and values weave us together as we seek to empower those who have given meaning to our being Filipino.

Senator Legarda stated that some of the statements in her speech have been footnoted, thus, there were parts which were not original in form.

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

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Legarda to the Committee on Cultural Communities.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), the session was suspended to allow the Members to go into caucus.

*It was 3:35 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 5:23 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### **SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

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

#### **MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Letter from the Speaker of the House of Representatives, designating Representatives Biazon, Belmonte (J.C.), Acedillo, Deloso-Montalla, Angara-Castillo and Go as House Members to the Congressional Oversight Committee on the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management System.

**To the Committee on Rules**

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 318, entitled

**RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE  
TERM OF THE SPECIAL OVER-  
SIGHT COMMITTEE ON ECONO-  
MIC AFFAIRS UNTIL OTHER-  
WISE TERMINATED BY THE  
CHAMBER**

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 319, entitled

**RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE  
COMMITTEES ON NATIONAL  
DEFENSE AND SECURITY, AND  
PUBLIC SERVICES, TO CONDUCT  
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGIS-  
LATION, ON THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF A NATIONAL DONATION  
TRANSFER MECHANISM, WHICH  
INSTITUTIONALIZES A PERMANENT  
SYSTEM OF ENABLING FILIPINOS  
TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSIST-  
ANCE DURING DISASTERS, INCLUD-  
ING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, DONA-  
TIONS AND MONEY TRANSFERS  
THROUGH SHORT MESSAGING  
SERVICE (SMS), OTHER TELE-  
COMMUNICATIONS VALUE-  
ADDED SERVICES, NOW OR  
HEREINAFTER MADE AVAIL-  
ABLE, AND OTHER AVAILABLE  
TECHNOLOGIES**

Introduced by Senator Cayetano (A.P)

**To the Committees on National Defense  
and Security; and Public Services**

#### **REPORT ON THE 129<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Report on the 129th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Geneva, Switzerland, from October 4 to 10, 2013, was deemed read into the Records of the Senate.

*rs*

*Following is the full text of the report:*

The 129<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) was held at the Conference International Center of Geneva (CICG) in Geneva, Switzerland, from 3 to 10 October 2013. The Philippine delegation was headed by the Senate President, Franklin M. Drilon, together with Sen. Pia S. Cayetano, Sen. Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. and Cong. Raul V. Del Mar, chairman of the House Committee on the Inter-Parliamentary Relations and Diplomacy. For the Meeting of the Association of Secretaries-General of Parliaments (ASGP), we were ably represented by our Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Oscar G. Yabes. To complement and assist the congressional delegation were officials from the Philippine Mission to the United Nations and other international organizations headed by Ambassador Denis Y. Lepatan.

On October 4, 5 and 8, Senate President Drilon participated in the IPU Executive Committee Meeting as its vice president representing the Asia-Pacific Group. One of the notable topics raised was the dissolution of the Egyptian Parliament in light of the political turmoil in the said country. The Committee decided to suspend the affiliation of Egypt as an IPU member until a new parliament has been established in their country.

The Executive Committee also discussed the developments regarding the financial situation of the IPU, particularly the concern of several member-countries over the high membership contributions. The Committee recommended that a systematic review of the IPU budget be undertaken with a focus on the application of fiscal austerity within the organization as well as a reassessment of membership dues. It was therefore decided that its Subcommittee on Finance promptly study and provide recommendations on the matter for the next assembly.

The Committee discussed as well its future endeavors relating to its standing cooperation with the United Nations (UN). After considering a legal opinion on the IPU-UN Cooperation Agreement, it was decided that the IPU maintain its current standing agreement with the UN. However, a Subcommittee on IPU-UN Cooperation was also created to further enhance the cooperation between the two organizations and clarify the legal status and personality of the IPU.

Another significant issue raised during the Executive Committee Meeting was concerning the election of a new Secretary-General for the IPU on March 2014. The selection process is

ongoing and we have a number of good and promising candidates.

Senate President Drilon also presided over the Gender-Partnership Group Meeting in his capacity as its president. The Group examined the involvement of women in IPU bodies and noted that their participation has remained steady at 30%. The Group also noted with satisfaction the progress on the situation of women representation in parliaments and observed that single-sex parliaments are decreasing.

Furthermore, the Group met with the delegation from Saudi Arabia and congratulated their government for appointing 30 women to parliament, the first time ever in their history. Special appreciation was conveyed to the King of Saudi Arabia for the decision to appoint women in their parliament.

Finally, the Governing Council adopted the Gender-Mainstreaming Strategic Plan for the IPU.

On 6 October, Senate President Drilon and Senator Marcos Jr. attended the meetings of the ASEAN + 3 Group as well as the Asia-Pacific Group to represent the Philippines. In the said meetings, Senate President Drilon delivered his report on the outcome of the Executive Committee meetings. He also particularly sought the recommendations and opinions of the member-countries of the group on how to streamline the IPU budget and reduce the organization's cost base.

On 7 October, Senate President Drilon, Senators Pia Cayetano and Marcos and Congressman Del Mar actively participated in the IPU's Governing Council Meeting as well as the opening of the IPU Assembly.

During the Assembly, the IPU community officially welcomed the entry of the parliaments of Bhutan and Somalia as members. The IPU also issued a statement on the present situation in Egypt and expressed its solidarity with the Egyptian people in the desire for a more democratic society.

In addition, the IPU relayed its objective to work closely with the United Nations in charting a post-2015 Development Agenda which will guide states along the development path beyond their progress on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

One of the more important items discussed during the Assembly was the selection of the debate on the emergency item. The Philippine delegation entered its affirmative vote and along with the majority, decided to discuss "the role of

*pm*

parliaments in supervising the ban on the use and the destruction of chemical weapons.”

Congressman Del Mar, for his part, later on the same day, participated in a panel discussion, entitled, *Towards Risk-Resilient Development: Taking into Consideration Demographic Trends and Natural Constraints*. He as well attended a session on the *Implications of and Action on the Recently Adopted Arms Trade Treaty*.

On 8 October, Senators Cayetano, Marcos and Congressman Del Mar once more attended the general debate on the emergency item which focused on parliaments’ supervisory role in banning the use of chemical weapons.

#### ***Bilateral Meetings***

On the sides of the Assembly, the Philippine delegation had the opportunity to meet with two parliamentary delegations, Australia and Pakistan.

The Philippine delegation was invited by the parliamentary delegation from Australia headed by their Senate President, Hon. John Hogg, to a bilateral meeting. The two delegations discussed the extent of influence of political parties in parliamentary decision-making as well as issues that touched on the prevailing situation in the Asia-Pacific region, including the West Philippine Sea as well as concerns relating to the ratification of the Status of Visiting Forces Agreement (SOVFA) between the two countries.

Both delegations also noted the exchange of parliamentary delegations to each country and looked forward to reviving these reciprocal visits.

Senate President Drilon was also invited to meet with the Speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, Hon. Sardar Ayaz Sadiq. In their meeting, the two parliament leaders underscored the commonalities of both countries, particularly on the adherence to democratic governance as well as a peaceful transition from military rule to a civilian democratic system. In light of growing cooperation between Pakistan and the Philippines, Speaker Sadiq declared that he will be appointing a convenor to spearhead the formation of a Pakistan-Philippines Parliamentary Friendship Group. For his part, Senate President Drilon said that he looks forward to the initiative of Speaker Sadiq and will likewise encourage his colleagues to form a counterpart friendship organization.

#### ***Acknowledgement***

The Philippine delegation expresses its sincere appreciation to the Philippine Mission to

the United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva, Switzerland, headed by Ambassador Denis Y. Lepatan, for its tireless assistance in facilitating the requirements of the delegation.

The Ambassador, together with his senior ministers, provided key substantive inputs on issues relating to the topics discussed in the IPU as well as during the bilateral meetings of the delegation at the sidelines of the Assembly.

The delegation would also like to express its appreciation to the officials and staff of the Mission for their warm hospitality and generosity, especially for going out of their way to ensure the comfort and safety of the delegation all throughout the conference.

#### **QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR SOTTO**

Rising on a question of personal and collective privilege, Senator Sotto expressed alarm over a report from his staff in Cebu that on October 16, 2013, Judge Hermes Montero of RTC Branch 59 issued a *writ of injunction* prohibiting the implementation of the LTO Memo removing the drug testing as a requirement for a driver’s license. He said that the *writ of injunction* served to LTO Regional Office No. 7 was forwarded to the LTO Head Office in Manila which, in turn, advised the office to follow the order of the judge to continue with the drug test in Cebu.

Senator Sotto questioned the wisdom and propriety of the court order considering that Republic Act No. 10586, or the “Anti-Drunk and Drugged Driving Act,” already repealed the mandatory drug testing provision of the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. He recalled that the Land Transport-ation Office initially expressed apprehension over the removal of the mandatory drug testing but later accepted that the law was supreme and the IRR would apply only to alcohol and mandatory drug tests for other substances in cases of drivers involved in an accident. He suggested that the LTO be made to explain why it succumbed to the order of the judge.

Senator Sotto also questioned the date of the issuance of the *writ of injunction*, October 16, 2013, considering that an earthquake hit Cebu on October 15, and there was no work the following day. He suspected that big interest groups were behind the issuance of the injunction as he recalled that when

Congress was deliberating on the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, some people tried to bribe him so that a certain group could be included in the list of drug-testing groups. This, he said, prompted him to ask the oversight committee in one of its meetings to ban this group. He lamented that seemingly, this same group is again operating.

Senator Sotto pointed out that after more than 10 years, the mandatory drug testing for driver's license had not served its purpose, adding that the Philippines was the only country doing it then, which was why the provision was repealed.

Finally, Senator Sotto appealed to Senate President Drilon to look into the matter, particularly if a judge could issue a TRO against the implementation of a law in a particular province of the country. He hoped that the Senate would do something to stop the LTO from following the court order.

#### **DIRECTIVE OF THE CHAIR**

Senate President Drilon directed the Secretary to refer Senator Sotto's query to the Senate Legal Counsel for an initial study and to submit a report when the session resumes on November 18. He requested Senator Sotto to provide the Secretariat with the docket number of the case.

#### **PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 318**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 318, entitled

RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE TERM  
OF THE SPECIAL OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
AFFAIRS UNTIL OTHERWISE  
TERMINATED BY THE CHAMBER.

With the permission of the Body, only the title of the resolution was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

#### **ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 318**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 318 was adopted by the Body.

#### **OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS**

Senator Cayetano (A) placed on record that the Senate President has designated the following senators to constitute the oversight committees hereunder indicated:

*Congressional Oversight Committee  
on Philippine Disaster Risk  
Reduction and Management*

Vice Chair: Legarda  
Members: Villar  
Marcos

*Special Oversight Committee  
on Economic Affairs*

Members: Pimentel  
Marcos  
Angara  
Osmeña

Upon nomination of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the following senators were elected as members of the *Congressional Oversight Committee on Agrarian Reform*: Senators Marcos, Poe and Ejercito.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

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

*It was 5:34 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

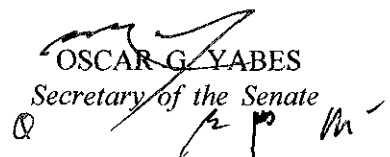
At 5:35 p.m., the session was resumed

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

In accordance with the legislative calendar, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, November 18, 2013.

*It was 5:35 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

OSCAR G. YABES  
Secretary of the Senate  


Approved on November 18, 2013