



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 21
Wednesday, September 14, 2016

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 21
Wednesday, September 14, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:14 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino “Koko” L. Pimentel III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Joel Villanueva led the prayer, to wit:

Let us put ourselves in the presence of the Lord.

Almighty God, the Creator of heavens and the earth, we come before You humbling ourselves knowing that without You we can do nothing; but with You we can do anything and just about everything—through You who gives us strength.

Thank You for Your Word that if there are two or three gathering together in Your Name, You are in our midst.

Thank You for Your presence in this place; thank You Lord for You said in Your Word that those who honor You, You will

honor, but those who despise You, they shall be disdained.

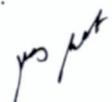
We are honoring You, we are exalting Your Holy Name in our midst and today as we open our session, we ask for the forgiveness of our sins; continue to cleanse our hearts, our minds, our entire being with Your most precious blood that was shed in Calvary.

We ask for Your treasury of wisdom to be upon each and every one of us. Help us, help this august Chamber to be a channel of blessing to millions of our people all over the country and all over the world.

We ask that You continue to bless this august Chamber, bless all the senators, bless the entire Congress, bless the entire Judiciary and the Executive. Bless also our President and Vice President.

Into Your hands we commend everything as we carefully give back to You all the glory, all the honor and all the praise in the Name that is above every Name, in the Name of Jesus Christ, we pray.

Amen.



ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Lutgardo B. Barbo, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Hontiveros, R.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Lacson, P. M.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Pacquiao, E. M. D.
Drilon, F. M.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Recto, R. G.
Gatchalian, W.	Sotto III, V. C.
Gordon, R. J.	Villanueva, E. J.
Honasan, G. B.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

With 20 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Trillanes arrived after the roll call.

Senator Poe, who was on official mission, also arrived after the roll call.

Senator Villar was on official mission abroad.

Senator De Lima was "on sick leave" as indicated in the September 14, 2016 letter of the Senator's chief of staff.

DEFERMENT OF THE APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body deferred the consideration and approval of the Journal of Session No. 20 (September 13, 2016) to a later date.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests:

- BA Marketing Management students from the Polytechnic University of the Philippines headed by Professor Elmer M. Soriano;
- BA in Broadcast Production students from the University of Makati headed by Professor Riparip; and

- Barangay officials from San Juan, La Union headed by its barangay chair Jesus Aquino, guests of Senator Zubiri.

Senate President Pimentel welcomed the guests to the Senate.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR DRILON

Senator Drilon asked why the Journal of the 20th session was not presented for approval. Senator Sotto replied that the deferment was due to the length of debates in the previous day's session, adding that the Journal would be approved by Monday, September 19, 2016.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read the following Senate bills and resolutions which the Chair referred to the committees hereunder indicated:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1134, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING A NATIONAL EMERGENCY AGAINST ILLEGAL DRUGS AND TERRORISM AND ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL POLICY TO AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION, TO EXERCISE NECESSARY AND PROPER POWERS TO ADDRESS SUCH EMERGENCY

Introduced by Senator Richard J. Gordon

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

Senate Bill No. 1135, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF WORKERS, ENTERPRISES AND ORGANIZATIONS IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY, INSTITUTIONALIZING MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe



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

Senate Bill No. 1136, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING ALL FORMS OF CORPORAL AND HUMILIATING OR DEGRADING PUNISHMENT OF CHILDREN, AND PROMOTING POSITIVE DISCIPLINE OF CHILDREN

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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

Senate Bill No. 1137, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING AND PROHIBITING POLITICAL DYNASTIES, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 134, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STATE OF THE CHILDREN AFFECTED BY THE RECENT MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST THE ABU SAYYAF GROUP IN BASILAN, SULU AND OTHER CONFLICT-AREAS TOWARDS THE END VIEW OF ENSURING THEIR PROTECTION, SAFETY AND WELL-BEING

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and National Defense and Security

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 136, entitled

RESOLUTION CALLING ON CONGRESS, DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS FOR URGENT AND COORDINATED ACTION AGAINST THE SPREAD OF ZIKA VIRUS

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 139, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO BOXER JOHNRIEL CASIMERO FOR SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDING HIS IBF FLYWEIGHT TITLE WITH A 10TH ROUND TECHNICAL KNOCK-OUT OVER BRITISH BOXER CHARLIE EDWARDS AT THE O2 ARENA IN LONDON, ENGLAND

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 140, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILIPINO FILMMAKER LAV DIAZ FOR WINNING THE GOLDEN LION AWARD, THE HIGHEST HONOR GIVEN AT THE VENICE FILM FESTIVAL, FOR HIS MOVIE ANG BABAENG HUMAYO

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 141, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING, COMMENDING, AND HONORING LAV DIAZ, AND ALL THOSE INVOLVED IN THE SUCCESS OF

“ANG BABAENG HUMAYO,” FOR WINNING THE 2016 VENICE FILM FESTIVAL GOLDEN LION AWARD

Introduced by Senator Sonny Grace Poe

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 142, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED DELAY OF PASSPORT PROCESSING RESULTING IN MISSED OPPORTUNITIES FOR FILIPINOS WHO NEED TO TRAVEL OVERSEAS IMMEDIATELY

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

To the Committee on Foreign Relations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 143, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED NEED TO SUPPORT THE LIFTING OF QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON RICE TO BETTER ATTAIN NATIONAL FOOD SECURITY AND TO REVIEW FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8178, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE AGRICULTURAL TARIFFICATION ACT OF 1996

Introduced by Senator Grace Poe

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 144, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE CAST AND PRODUCTION CREW OF THE FILM “ANG BABAENG HUMAYO” (THE WOMAN WHO LEFT) LED BY ITS DIRECTOR, INDEPENDENT FILMMAKER LAV DIAZ, AND MAIN

ACTOR, MS. CHARO SANTOS-CONCIO, FOR WINNING THE GOLDEN LION FOR BEST FILM AWARD IN THE 73RD VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committee on Rules

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA**

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Villanueva delivered the following speech to express his concern on the prevalence of job-skills mismatch in the country.

Following is the full text of his speech:

The gap between education and available jobs is not a new issue. When I was in TESDA, it was one of our major concerns. Earlier this year, the International Labor Organization stated that job-skills mismatch remains a constraining factor for the growth of the Philippine economy.

Kalimitan, hindi po tugma ang training at edukasyon ng ating mga kababayan sa hinahap na kwalipikasyon ng mga employers.

Just look at the classified ads every Sunday in the *Manila Bulletin* or visit *Phil-JobNet* and you will find that job opportunities abound. Not to mention are the job orders listed in the POEA website.

Even the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) reported that out of the 4,239,392 domestic and international job vacancies offered in job fairs nationwide in 2014 to 2015, only 391,088 among 1,286,073 applicants were hired on the spot.

According to the report, mismatch is strongly felt in manufacturing, electronics, and semiconductor and tourism — these are the sectors which are key employment generators based on the Philippine Development Plan.

Samakatuwid, hindi po trabaho ang kulang; kulang ang mga graduates na swak sa trabaho.

Job-skills mismatch is one of the causes of youth unemployment in the Philippines. Recent surveys reveal that Filipino youth suffers the highest rate of unemployment among age groups. The International Labor Organization estimates



that unemployment rate among Filipino youth aged 15-24 averaged at 16.5% from 2010 to 2015.

However, youth unemployment brought about by mismatch between workers' skills and labor market requirements is felt in many parts of the world. Employers complain about the difficulty of getting workers who are fit for the job. In a recent survey cited by the World Economic Forum, 34% of those who participated in the survey attributed this to lack of technical competencies.

In the 2014 report of the Global Agenda Council on Employment, different forms of skills mismatch were identified, such as:

- (1) *Skills shortage*, which means that the demand for a particular type of skill exceeds the supply of people with that skill at equilibrium rates of pay;
- (2) *Qualification mismatch*, which means that the level of qualification and/or the field of qualification is different from that required to perform the job adequately; and
- (3) *Skill gap*, which means that the type of skills is different from that required to perform the job adequately.

Lahat po ng mga nabanggit kong uri ng skills mismatch ay nararamdaman at nakikita pa rin dito sa Pilipinas—noon at hanggang ngayon. Bagamat marami na po tayong programa at mga batas na tumutugon dito, tila kulang pa rin o marami pa rin pong kailangang pagtuunan ng pansin. Malaki po ang magagawa natin lalo na dito sa Senado para tugunan ang problema ng job-skills mismatch sa bansa.

It is for this reason that I filed Proposed Senate Resolution No. 129, directing the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development and other appropriate committees to inquire and review, in aid of legislation, the state of job skills mismatch in the Philippines.

I believe we can address this issue by

- (1) partnering with industry associations;
- (2) strengthening our enterprise-based training;
- (3) strengthening/expanding our technical-vocational education and training; and (4) institutionalizing the Philippine Qualifications framework or PQF.

First, there is a need for greater industry partnerships.

Noon pong tayo ay nasa TESDA, nagdaos po tayo ng maraming industry forum. Kaunahang pagkakataon nga iyong ilang mga nagawa po natin kung saan tinawag natin ang

mga industriya at nalaman natin ang kanilang mga pananaw at saloobin kung ano ba ang dapat gawin para tuluyang i-address and problema ng job-skills mismatch.

The forum was successful and it assisted us in providing and improving our services in order to ensure a good match between skills acquired in education and on the job, and those required in the labor market. The forum, with the participation of various sectors, was a great contribution to help us bridge the gap between the programs being offered by TESDA and the demand of the market. In addition, we partnered with various industry associations to provide job opportunities to out-of-school youth and unemployed youth to train them in various qualifications.

Aligning our educational curricula with the needs of the market will really help address job-skills mismatch. The 2014 study of the Global Agenda Council on Employment concludes that "*qualification mismatches are reflections of a misalignment between people's educational choices and labour market needs.*"

As such, policy interventions should be geared towards improving the communication flows between education and training and the labor market. For example, if a certain region is a known hub for manufacturing plants, maybe we should ask universities, training institutions or teaching centers in that region to offer courses that are meant to supply the demand of the job market in that particular area.

Pinag-aralan din po natin noon sa TESDA kung paano nga ba tayo magkakaroon ng tinatawag na Information System Strategic Plan o ISSP para sa mga negosyante at mga kababayan natin na naghahanap ng trabaho. Halimbawa, iyon pong mga negosyante na gustong mag-invest sa Bulacan man o sa Cebu, pupuwede na nilang i-check online ang availability ng mga skilled workers doon tulad ng mga welders, barista, bartenders, tour guides, at iba pa. Puwede ring i-check ng mga Bulakenyo o Cebuano kung anong mga kumpanya ang naghahanap ng mga empleyado at ano naman ang mga kwalipikasyon na hinahanap nila.

In 2010, a World Bank study concluded that the low certifications of students in technologically-advanced areas are contributing to the job-skills mismatch in the Philippines. DOLE's Labor Market Information Report for 2013 to 2020 has identified 275 key occupations as in-demand while 102 occupations have been identified as hard-to-fill from among key and emerging industries.

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Our schools must use these data in preparing the courses that they will offer since they do not operate in a vacuum. We need to establish better linkages between our institutions to ensure that after our workers graduate from their courses, they will have suitable jobs.

A mismatch between skills acquired in education and on the job and those required in the labor market comes with a great economic and social cost if we are unable to address this issue. Overqualified workers are not satisfied with their jobs resulting in a higher turnover rate. Underqualified workers, in the meantime, are a constant source of headache to employers which affects their productivity.

Second, we also need to strengthen our enterprise-based training.

I believe that the employers' participation in tech-voc is necessary for the success of skills development activities through on-the-job training.

Hence, I filed Senate Bill No. 208, or the "Enterprise-Based Education and Training Act" to help meet the demand of the country for well-trained manpower and to ensure that the trainees will acquire the right competencies required for the job. However, enrolment in enterprise-based training is only 408,882 or 4.11% of the total TVET outputs from 2010-2015. *Napakaliit po, 4.11% lamang.*

The government's partnerships with industry associations in the last six years prove that skills development activities can be a nexus where the pursuit of public and private needs intersect. Engaging the business community in education and training will help us reach out to as many people, especially the youth, who are seeking for jobs and other opportunities.

Third, we need to strengthen and expand our technical vocational education and training (TVET).

A recent ILO survey reveals that 31% of youth in low-income countries had no education qualifications at all. This Representation believes that a technical education geared towards middle-level manpower is one of the possible solutions to improve this number.

Based on available data, technical-vocational graduates have an employment rate of 65.4%, definitely higher than the graduates from higher education. For the past six years, there are 10.5 million tech-voc graduates. From 2010 to 2016, a total of 1.2 million graduates received technical-vocational education training

scholarships. The employment rate of those who graduated under the Training for Work Scholarship Program or TWSP is at 72% but when it comes to the IT-BPM industry, TESDA graduates had an employment rate of 70.9% while the electronics and semiconductor program recorded a whopping 91.4% employment rate.

Ito po ay malinaw na ebidensiya na may trabahong naghihintay sa mga tech-voc graduates. Napatunayan naming ito sa TESDA noon. Lalo na po siguro kung palalawakin pa natin ang mga programang ito sa tulong ng bawat isa sa atin dito sa Senado.

As I have already mentioned, the Filipino youth suffers the highest rate of unemployment among age groups. The large number of unemployed youth implies a large market for technical-vocational education. This Representation believes that "technical-vocational education and training (TVET) will play a central role in the new education model that prepares students for tertiary education, middle-skills development, employment and entrepreneurship."

Kaya't ako po ay natutuwa na sa mahigit isang milyong kabataang pumasok sa Senior High School ngayong taon, 40% po sa kanila ang pumili sa tech-voc track. Sa kabilang banda, kailangan ding kontrolin ng CHED ang bilang ng mga kabataang nag-e-enrol sa mga popular but oversubscribed courses tulad ng nursing at HRM.

Improving our technical-vocational education will also be in accord with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted in 2015 which provides that "by 2030, increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship."

Fourth, and lastly, we need to institutionalize the Philippine Qualifications Framework:

The Philippine Qualifications Framework embodied under Senate Bill No. 211, or "An Act institutionalizing the Philippine Qualifications Framework, and Establishing the National Coordinating Council for Education" seeks to institutionalize the PQF articulated under Executive Order No. 83, series of 2012, issued by President Benigno Aquino III.

The PQF harmonizes basic education, technical-vocational education and training, and tertiary education into a nationwide schedule of skills and competencies that incorporates an 8-level Qualifications Descriptors defined in terms of knowledge, skills and values, application and degree of independence. With the PQF, students

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can gain a clearer picture of the competencies they need for their job interests while employers are able to easily identify the basic work skills their employees must possess.

The PQF seeks to improve the competitiveness of Filipino workers by ensuring that education, training and certificates and licenses issued in the Philippines are also recognized by other jurisdictions such as ASEAN-member countries and other countries through Mutual Recognition Arrangements (MRAs). However, the scope of MRAs should also encompass low- and medium-skilled workers such as construction, garment, fishing and other sectors. In short, *marami pa pong pupuwedeng gawin at dapat gawin.*

Kung mapagtutugma lang natin ang edukasyon sa mga eskwelahan at ang mga pangangailangang kwalipikasyon ng mga industriya, makakalikha po tayo ng maraming trabaho. Tiyak po ang asenso ng bawat pamilyang Pilipino.

Napatunayan ko po ito noon sa TESDA. At kahit saan po ako pumunta, bitbit ko ang ilang kuwento ng tagumpay ng ating mga graduates mula sa milyun-milyong Pilipinong nabago ang buhay dahil sa akma at de-kalidad na kasanayan.

To name a few: *Naalala ko po si Reynaldo Caseres. Graduate po siya ng Automotive Servicing NC II. Pagkatapos po niyang kumuha ng kursong iyan ay nag-apply po siya sa abroad at ngayon siya ay truck mechanic sa Automotive Holdings Group sa Perth, Australia. Mekaniko pa rin po siya, iyon lamang, mas malaki na ang suweldo niya kaysa Presidente ng Republika ng Pilipinas.*

Noon po, pa-sideline-sideline lamang sa pagkakarapintero si Ryan Cordova ng Davao City. Kumuha po siya ng kursong Automation and Mechatronics NC III. Ngayon po ay senior automation engineer na siya sa Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. At kahit hindi naman po siya engineer, si Ryan ay tinatawag na "Sir Engineer" doon sa kanyang pinagtatrabahuhan sa Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

Si Mark Escora, isang polio victim at jeepney barker na hindi po pinalampas ang TESDA scholarship program para sa Finishing Course for Call Center Agents. Si Mar Escora, dating jeepney barker, ngayon po, Escalation Supervisor na sa Pan-Asiatic Solutions, isang BPO Company doon sa Bacolod City.

These stories show how the Filipino workers benefit from abundant opportunities through relevant skills. As I have mentioned, we can ease

job-skills mismatch in the country by considering: how can we better involve our industries in the provision of skills, especially through apprenticeship or enterprise-based training programs, to what extent are we willing to expand tech-voc and how can we fast-track the implementation for the Philippine Qualifications framework.

Magwawakas po ako sa isang kuwento na narinig ko roon po sa amin sa Bocaue, Bulacan.

May mag-amang nag-uusap at nais subukin ng ama ang kaniyang anak kung may natutunan ba siya. Ang sabi po ng ama sa kanyang anak, "Anak, gusto kong malaman kung ikaw ay may natututunan sa klase. May dalawa kang puwedeng ligawan: isang mayamang-mayaman pero okey lang; isa namang ubod ng ganda pero walang-wala. Sino ang liligawan mo?" Ang sabi ng anak, "Itay, siyempre roon ako sa maganda at ipakikilala ko pa sa aking mga barkada."

Ang sabi po ng tatay, "Anak, sabi ko na nga ba wala kang natutunan at tumatanda ka ng paurong." Sinubok po ng anak ang tatay at sabi niya, "Itay, ikaw naman ang susubukan ko. Habang tumatawid ka sa kalye at nakakita ka ng P500 at P1000, ano ang pupulutin mo?" Ang sabi ng tatay, "Siyempre anak, P1,000 ang pupulutin ko. Hindi na tinatanong iyan." Ang sabi ng anak, "Itay, ikaw ang tumatanda ng paurong, puwede mo namang pulutin pareho."

My dear colleagues, if our people have relevant skills, they will have more choices. They will be right for the job. The pursuit of happiness can be real for them.

Sama-sama po tayo sa paglikha ng mga batas para tuldukan na ang job-skills mismatch sa bansa at palawakin pa natin ang choices ng mga manggagawang Pilipino.

Maraming salamat po at pagpalain tayong lahat ng ating Panginoon.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR EJERCITO

Noting that the enterprise-based training system has been around for sometime, Senator Ejercito asked why there was a very low participation among employers in this program. Senator Villanueva explained that the enterprise-based training programs involve several modalities such as learnership, on-the-job training, work appreciation, dual training system and internship programs. He pointed out that enrollment in these schemes – such as the dual training program system where students attend classes

while having a bigger part of their training in the industries — lags behind at only 408,882 or 4.11% of the total technical vocational education training outputs from 2010 to 2015. He believed that these programs should be further promoted to make them attractive to the private sector. As an example, he suggested that the various tax incentives provided by law for enterprises in the dual training system ought to be presented and marketed to potential participants. He recalled how investors and entrepreneurs who were oriented about these systems were encouraged to take part in the undertaking since they are not only able to help train students to become skilled workers but also reap the economic benefits of the program in their own businesses.

On whether the proposal to expand technical-vocational education training would require additional funding and the setting up of more training centers, Senator Villanueva recalled that during his time at the helm of the TESDA, the budget for the Training-for-Work Program had, for many years, been pegged at P700 million which was eventually raised to P2.2 billion after much lobbying in both Houses of Congress. He expressed hope that despite the challenges, the program would continue to receive more funds so that it could further expand and benefit more students. He likewise underscored the need to develop capacity-building measures for training institutions and ensure that the MOAs with their industry partners are carried out. He believed that such partnerships helped in improving the recent unemployment rate which fell to 5.6% from the April 2016 record of 6.1%. He stressed the need to sustain this positive momentum.

Asked how the training institutions would be used in the tech-voc programs considering that the K-12 law has expanded technical-vocational programs through their integration into the specialization tracks, Senator Villanueva replied that the integration of TVET in the K-12 program provides an opportunity for TESDA and training institutions to focus on Level 5 qualifications. He explained that while TESDA offers National Certificate Levels 1, 2, 3 and 4, the higher qualifications provided by TVET will avoid duplication of programs already being offered in senior high school.

Moreover, Senator Villanueva explained that developing higher technology qualifications in technological-vocational programs takes into account the need to address creativity and develop the holistic skills of the students. This, he said, would mean that

a TVET high school graduate could continue to take other courses available at the TESDA and other tech-voc institutions.

Asked for the job prospects of employment-ready graduates under the K-12 program, Senator Villanueva replied that the recent employment figures, showing an increase of 72% from the previous 28% in the employment rate proves the effectiveness of the tech-voc program which gives graduates the right level of qualification and skills to easily land jobs. He explained that this is precisely the reason why DepEd's partners with business community and industry associations, including the Business Processing Association of the Philippines, Chamber of Commerce of the Philippine Islands, Employers Confederation of the Philippines, Makati Business Club, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Semiconductor and Electronics Industries in the Philippines Foundation, Inc. (SEIPI) and the Joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines, as well as nongovernment organizations, have promised to employ graduates of the K-12 program.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ANGARA

At the outset, Senator Angara congratulated Senator Villanueva for speaking on an important topic at an auspicious time as latest unemployment figures would show that the country has been making progress against the long-standing problem of unemployment. He noted that Senator Villanueva tackled a lot of angles regarding the job-skills mismatch in his comprehensive speech, including the progress of the K-to-12 program which TESDA, along with CHED and the other agencies, is implementing.

Asked by Senator Angara how the tech-voc track is proceeding under the K-to-12 program, in particular, among the senior high school students, Senator Villanueva recalled that during the committee hearing of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture chaired by Senator Aquino, the DepEd reported that of those who proceeded to Grade 11, 400,000 students took the technical-vocational track. He explained that the tech-voc track has four specialization clusters — 1) agri-fishery arts with 23 courses; 2) home economics with 25 courses; 3) industrial arts with 26 courses; 4) information communications and technology (ICT) with 12 courses.

Asked which among the four clusters is the most popular, Senator Villanueva said that it would depend on particular areas. For instance, he said that those

in the areas of tourism zones are geared towards a tourism course and agri-fishery arts, while those in the NCR would be more interested in ICT courses. Relative thereto, he informed the Body that in the area of IT-BPM (Info-Tech/Business Process Management), from the call centers alone, about 130,000 call center agents are needed every year but only about 35,000 to 40,000 call center agents could be provided to the industry. He said that it is an area that needs to be focused on because there are a lot of jobs waiting for qualified personnel. He said that with the right training program, the industry could provide decent jobs and ensure a bright future for a lot of Filipinos.

Asked how many institutions provide tech-voc education and training, Senator Villanueva said that there are about 4,315 technical-vocational education and training providers in the country. He recalled that when he was Director General of TESDA, there were 3,886 private and 429 public institutions, 125 of which are directly being supervised by TESDA. He said that TESDA was able to produce 10.5 million graduates in a span of six years, many of whom graduated from private institutions and are now employed in decent jobs.

Senator Angara said that he has witnessed in Aurora how TESDA has helped people of modest means and educational attainments provide for their families through better livelihood because of the training they received.

Asked about the average course length of a TESDA course, Senator Villanueva said that there are courses which run from two to three weeks and there are courses that could be as long as two years.

Asked whether the shorter courses are more popular than the longer ones, Senator Villanueva affirmed that the shorter courses are more popular because they lead the graduates sooner to decent jobs. He said that based on his experience and statistics from the Department of Labor and Employment, the key employment sectors are agriculture, IT-BPM, tourism and construction sectors. For instance, he said that in the area of construction, a three-to-four-month course on Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) and a certification from TESDA could take that TESDA-certified SMAW graduate to employment especially in some countries in the Middle East.

Asked by Senator Angara on the employment rate for TVET graduates from TESDA, Senator

Villanueva replied that the employment rate for TVET is 65.4% in the past six years and 72% for the Training-for-Work Scholarship Program.

As regards the Philippine Qualifications Framework (PQF), Senator Angara inquired on the benefits of a legislated PQF coming together as an economic unit with developments in the region. Senator Villanueva said that the PQF, which took 20 years to be developed in Australia, would benefit the country a lot as it would integrate a nationwide schedule of skills and competencies which incorporate eight-level qualification descriptors defined in terms of knowledge, skills, values, applications, and degree of independence. He said that the PQF could provide students with a clearer picture of the competencies required of the job they desire and, on the other hand, would enable employers to easily identify the type of worker or employee they would need based on the eight-level descriptors of the PQF.

Further explaining the PQF, Senator Villanueva cited as an example the case of a tricycle driver who took a course on small engine repair and, upon graduation, got himself certified and eventually established his own mechanic shop; after six years, the former tricycle driver realized he wanted to go back to school and to study mechanical engineering. With the PQF, he said that it would be easy for the educational institutions, such as colleges and universities, to credit the person's TESDA certification and work experience to his baccalaureate education. He said that another aspect of the PQF would be the recognition of the TESDA certification and work experience in countries abroad where the Philippines would have mutual recognition agreements, and the PQF would make it easier to push workers' mobility.

Senator Villanueva acknowledged that finally there is the initiative to transform the country's educational system into a world-class educational system.

To Senator Angara's query as to what happened to the PQF as contained in an executive order issued by the previous administration, Senator Villanueva said that Executive Order No. 83 signed by former President Aquino in 2012 brought about the institutionalization of the Philippine Qualifications Framework through the establishment of the Philippine Qualifications Framework National Coordinating Council which is composed of various government

agencies, such as TESDA, DepEd, CHED, DOLE, DTI and PRC. He said that while there was already an executive order, having a law would institutionalize the PQF and fast-track its implementation as well as ensure funding for the PQF National Coordinating Council.

Senator Villanueva recalled that when he was Director General of TESDA, he took the responsibility of establishing a qualifications registry where all qualifications were listed according to the standards agreed upon by and with the industries, including the service providers. He said that while the task seems to be daunting, the PQF is an important tool in addressing the educational system in view of the implementation of the K-to-12 program.

Senator Angara observed that there would seem to be a greater impetus towards the PQF because of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC). Asked on the impact of having the PQF on the competitiveness of the Filipino worker, Senator Villanueva said that the PQF gives the students a clearer picture of the competencies that they need for their job interest by ensuring that education, training, certificates and licenses issued in the Philippines are also recognized by ASEAN member-countries through mutual recognition arrangements. He said that the ASEAN Integration opens up the Philippines to a wider labor market because of job mobility among ASEAN member-states. He said that through the PQF, Filipino workers become more qualified to enter into more jobs across the ASEAN region. He added that the AEC would be the gateway for Filipino workers to improve their human capital by gaining knowledge across ASEAN countries and, hopefully, allow them to share such acquired skills when they go back to the country and improve the quality of the Filipino workers.

Senator Angara noted that Senator Villanueva mentioned enterprise-based training in his speech. He asked whether the six-month limit provided in the Labor Code is a limiting factor for producing better employees.

Stating that he was open to suggestions, Senator Villanueva informed the Body that he filed a bill which seeks to strengthen and expand the enterprise-based training program which would offer different modalities from which one could choose, including learnership, practicum, dual training system and internship. He agreed with Senator Angara that the

training program should not be abused as he assured that safeguards would be provided. He pointed to the tripartite arrangement being practiced by the government where the DOLE, the industries and the labor unions could look into the enterprise-training programs and decide which industries could have six-months to one-year training programs and which ones need to have longer periods of training to ensure that the workers would be ready and well equipped for the industries they are employed in and whether the skills, talents and knowledge are enough for them to be regular workers in that particular industry.

Senator Angara said that another date could be set to debate on possible amendments to the Labor Code regarding the length of training. However, he stressed that the world economy has changed to such an extent that six months is not sufficient a time to train skilled workers. He said that in Germany, those who work in the automotive industry are considered apprentices or trainees for two to three years before they can actually enter a certain level of employment. He said that once these workers do the apprenticeship, there is a career track that is almost guaranteed to them because of the presence of the industries and because of the equivalence of the qualifications framework, where given a certain amount or certain time of training, including the work experience and the in-classroom experience, that person or that apprentice is guaranteed a certain level or compensation which is actually institutionalized in their version of the qualifications framework.

Senator Angara expressed hope that the country could adopt similar practices in its laws to adjust to the world of work and to protect the workers and ensure that those who sacrifice time, training and apprenticeships would not be taken advantage of and would be guaranteed a certain position and a certain level of compensation. He said that it would be a win-win situation which benefits both the enterprise and the apprentice or trainee.

In the course of Senator Angara's interpellation, Senate President Pimentel relinquished the Chair to Senate President Pro Tempore Drilon.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEES

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Villanueva and the interpellations thereon primarily to

the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development, and secondarily to the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following:

- Guests of Senator Pacquiao – Vice Governor Elmer T. De Peralta of Sarangani Province and Mayor Vic Paul Salarda of Alabel, Sarangani; and
- Guests of Senator Gatchalian – Mayor Edwin Pangilinan and the Council of Famy, Laguna.

Senate President Pro Tempore Drilon welcomed the guests to the Senate.

ADDITIONAL 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. 1138, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE QUARTERS ALLOWANCE OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 1139, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DEFINING ITS MANDATES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

To the Committees on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1140, entitled

AN ACT BANNING THE SALE, DISTRIBUTION, AND USE OF FIRECRACKERS AND OTHER PYROTECHNIC DEVICES, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

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

Senate Bill No. 1141, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A FOREIGN POLICY ADVISORY BOARD AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Foreign Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1142, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND PENALIZING THE ACTS OF ARBITRARY INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1143, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO SET AND APPROVE THE BED CAPACITY OF ITS RETAINED HOSPITALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros



To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1144, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT POLICY, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1145, entitled

AN ACT FOR SCALING UP NUTRITION DURING THE FIRST 1000 DAYS OF LIFE, ESTABLISHING A MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CARE PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

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

RESOLUTIONS

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3, entitled

JOINT RESOLUTION TO INCREASE THE COMBAT DUTY PAY OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) FROM A MINIMUM OF FIVE PER CENTUM (5%) TO A MAXIMUM OF TWENTY-FIVE PER CENTUM (25%) OF THE BASE PAY OF A PRIVATE AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 3, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROPOSING THE AMENDMENT OF SECTION 16, ARTICLE VII OF THE 1987 PHILIPPINE CONSTITUTION IN ORDER TO LIMIT THE CONFIRMATION PROCESS OF THE COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENT FOR MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) TO THE POSITIONS OF CHIEF-OF-STAFF OF THE AFP AND SERVICE COMMANDERS OF THE ARMY, AIR FORCE, AND NAVY ONLY

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 145, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING ACCLAIMED FILIPINO INDEPENDENT DIRECTOR LAVRENTE I. DIAZ FOR BRINGING GLORY AND HONOR TO THE PHILIPPINES BY RECEIVING THE GOLDEN LION AWARD IN THE 73RD VENICE FILM FESTIVAL FOR HIS MOVIE ANG BABAENG HUMAYO (THE WOMAN WHO LEFT)

Introduced by Senator Joel Villanueva

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 146, entitled

A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPOSED RESCISSION OF THE QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON RICE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENSURING ACCESSIBLE RICE SUPPLY IN THE COUNTRY AND PROTECTING THE INTERESTS AND

WELFARE OF FILIPINO RICE FARMERS

Introduced by Senator Recto

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 13 September 2016, the House of Representatives passed House Bill No. 3504, entitled

AN ACT POSTPONING THE OCTOBER 2016 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, PRESCRIBING ADDITIONAL RULES GOVERNING THE CONDUCT OF BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate.

To the Committee on Rules

CHANGE IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Senator Gatchalian was elected member of the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development in lieu of Senator Poe.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, September 19, 2016.

It was 4:21 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

Handwritten signature of Atty. Lutgardo B. Barbo, Secretary of the Senate, with the printed name and title below it.

Approved on September 19, 2016