



**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**S e n a t e**

**Pasay City**

# **Journal**

**SESSION NO. 5**

Tuesday, July 31, 2007

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**SESSION NO. 5**  
Tuesday, July 31, 2007

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:57 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Manny Villar, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

Sen. Edgardo J. Angara led the prayer, to wit:

Almighty God, we pray for Your guidance and divine inspiration to make us Filipino politicians be seen as part of the solution rather than the problem.

Inspire us especially to aspire to be worthy Members of the Senate, a grand institution of the Republic.

We are grateful for the honor of becoming a senator, an honor rarely won, but teach us as well that the honor is empty if the occupant does not earn the respect and admiration of our people. And respect and prestige accrue to the incumbent not on the basis of title alone but because of hard work, honest service and good performance.

Finally, Lord, help us get down to work and immediately. Our people are expecting all of us to buckle down to work.

Amen.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate, Emma Lirio-Reyes, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, E. J.	Cayetano, A. P. S.
Aquino III, B. S. C.	Cayetano, C. P. S.
Arroyo, J. P.	Defensor Santiago, M.

Ejercito Estrada, J.	Madrigal, M. A.
Enrile, J. P.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Pimentel Jr., A. Q.
Gordon, R. J.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Honasan, G. B.	Roxas, M.
Lacson, P. M.	Villar, M.
Lapid, M. L. M.	Zubiri, J. M. F.
Legarda, L.	

With 21 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Trillanes was unable to attend the session.

Senator Biazon was absent.

**APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 4 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. 151, entitled

AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00) PER ANNUM FOR EVERY BARANGAY FOR SIX CONSECUTIVE YEARS TO CONSTITUTE A FUND KNOWN AS THE RURAL LIVELIHOOD AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

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Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committee on Rules**

Senate Bill No. 152, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 287 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, BY PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO EMPLOYEES WHO REACHED THE AGE OF SIXTY-FIVE BUT ARE NOT ENTITLED TO ANY RETIREMENT PAY

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 153, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE GOAT AND SHEEP CENTER

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 154, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995, FURTHER IMPROVING THE HIGHER STANDARDS OF PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF THE WELFARE OF MIGRANT WORKERS, THEIR FAMILIES AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS IN DISTRESS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 155, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR RELIEF FROM AND EXECUTION OF FINAL DECISIONS AND AWARDS OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION AND THE LABOR ARBITERS THEREBY AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLES 223 AND 224 OF P.D. 442, AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 156, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4670, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE *MAGNA CARTA* FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 157, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PROTECTION TO THE HOUSEHELPERS THEREBY AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLES 141, 142, 143, 148 AND 151 OF CHAPTER III OF P.D. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 158, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AS THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY *AK*

*to*

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 159, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NEW LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 160, entitled

AN ACT REVISING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136 ENTITLED AN ACT ORDAINING REFORMS IN THE ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN LAWS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Energy; Public Services; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 161, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND STRENGTHENING OF THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 162, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE COMPENSATION, REIMBURSEMENT FOR HOSPITAL-

IZATION EXPENSES, AND OTHER BENEFITS, TO CIVILIANS CAUGHT IN THE CROSSFIRE BETWEEN REBELS AND THE MILITARY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 163, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE TAX ON IDLE LANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 236 OF R.A. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 164, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 165, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 53, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT TO EXEMPT THE PUBLISHER, EDITOR OR REPORTER OF ANY PUBLICATION FROM REVEALING THE SOURCE OF PUBLISHED NEWS OR INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CONFIDENCE BY, INCLUDING WITHIN ITS COVERAGE, JOURNALISTS FROM

BROADCAST, NEWS AGENCIES  
AND INTERNET PUBLICATIONS

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong"  
Revilla Jr.

**To the Committee on Public Information  
and Mass Media**

Senate Bill No 166, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL  
BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO  
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AMEND-  
ING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC  
ACT NO. 4670, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS "THE MAGNA CARTA FOR  
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS," AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong"  
Revilla Jr.

**To the Committee on Education, Arts and  
Culture**

Senate Bill No. 167, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
SUMMARY TITLING OF REAL  
PROPERTIES USED AS SITES FOR  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND APPRO-  
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong"  
Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 168, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROGRAM  
FOR THE ACQUISITION OF SCHOOL  
SITES AND THE CONSTRUCTION,  
MAINTENANCE, REHABILITA-  
TION, AND REPAIR OF SCHOOL  
BUILDINGS IN THE PUBLIC  
ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
SCHOOLS NATIONWIDE, APPRO-  
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong"  
Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 169, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE ENTREPRE-  
NEURSHIP BY STRENGTHENING  
DEVELOPMENT AND ASSISTANCE  
PROGRAMS TO MICRO, SMALL  
AND MEDIUM SCALE ENTER-  
PRISES, AMENDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6977,  
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA  
FOR SMALL ENTERPRISES AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong"  
Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Economic Affairs;  
Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies;  
and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 170, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE TEACHING  
OF DISASTER AWARENESS AND  
DISASTER MITIGATION AS PART OF  
THE CURRICULUM OF ALL PRIMARY  
AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS, AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong"  
Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 171, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TUBBA-  
TAHA REEF NATIONAL MARINE  
PARK IN THE PROVINCE OF  
PALAWAN AS A NATURAL PARK  
UNDER THE NIPAS ACT (R.A. 7586)  
AND SEP LAW (R.A. 7611), PROVID-  
ING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 172, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE ISLANDS OF SIARGAO AND BUCAS GRANDE AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 173, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE MT. BALATUKAN RANGE LOCATED IN THE CITY OF GINGOOG AND IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CLAVERIA, MEDINA AND BALINGASAG, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, AS A PROTECTED AREA AND ITS PERIPHERAL AREAS AS BUFFER ZONE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 174, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE MOUNTAINS OF BANAHAW AND SAN CRISTOBAL IN THE PROVINCES OF LAGUNA AND QUEZON AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 175, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE BALINSASAYAO TWIN LAKES LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SIBULAN AND SAN JOSE, PROVINCE OF NEGROS ORIENTAL AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF NATURAL PARK AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 176, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE AGUSAN MARSH IN THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR AS A PROTECTED AREA AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 177, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING APO REEF IN SABLAYAN, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO AS A PROTECTED AREA AND ITS PERIPHERAL WATERS AS BUFFER ZONES, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, FUNDS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 178, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE MALAMPAYA SOUND SITUATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF TAYTAY AND SAN VICENTE, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AS A PROTECTED AREA PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586 (NIPAS) <sup>AS</sup>

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ACT OF 1992) PROVIDING FOR ITS  
MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

**To the Committees on Environment and  
Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 179, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 287 OF  
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442,  
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE  
PHILIPPINES, BY PROVIDING AN  
EARLIER AGE OF RETIREMENT  
FOR CERTAIN CLASSES OF  
EMPLOYEES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito  
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 180, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 287 OF  
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442,  
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE  
PHILIPPINES, BY REQUIRING  
EMPLOYERS TO RELEASE THE  
RETIREMENT PAY OF EMPLOYEES  
WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS FROM  
SUBMISSION OF COMPLETE  
DOCUMENTARY REQUIREMENTS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito  
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 181, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE VISION AND  
POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT IN THE  
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOP-  
MENT SECTOR, CREATING THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DEFINING

ITS MANDATE, POWERS AND  
FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Biazon

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

Senate Bill No. 182, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING THE MAGNA  
CARTA FOR HOMEOWNERS'  
ASSOCIATIONS AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Biazon

**To the Committee on Urban Planning,  
Housing and Resettlement**

Senate Bill No. 183, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE AGRICULTURE INDUSTRY, STABILIZE PRICES OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND ENHANCE FOOD SECURITY THROUGH THE EFFECTIVE PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, RATIONALIZING AND RESTRUCTURING FOR THE PURPOSE, ALL EXISTING GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, DISTRIBUTION, MARKETING AND OTHER SUPPORT PROGRAMS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Biazon

**To the Committees on Agriculture and Food;  
and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 184, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 6938, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
THE COOPERATIVE CODE OF  
PHILIPPINES

As

to

Introduced by Senator Biazon

**To the Committees on Cooperatives; and  
Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 185, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROTECTION TO BUYERS OF REAL ESTATE ON INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS BY REQUIRING SUBDIVISION OR REAL ESTATE OWNERS TO HAVE AN INDIVIDUAL TITLE ON EVERY LOT AVAILABLE FIRST BEFORE OFFERING THE SAME FOR SALE, PROHIBITING ANY MORTGAGE, LIEN OR ENCUMBRANCE ON THE SAME, MAKING THE ANNOTATION ON THE TITLE OF THE CONTRACT TO SELL OR SALE MANDATORY, MAKING IT COMPULSORY FOR THE EXECUTION OF A DEED OF ABSOLUTE SALE AND THE DELIVERY OF THE TITLE TO THE BUYER UPON COMPLETION OF INSTALLMENT PAYMENTS, AND PROVIDING OTHER PROTECTIVE MEASURES, INCLUDING THE IMPOSITION OF PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Biazon

**To the Committee on Urban Planning,  
Housing and Resettlement**

Senate Bill No. 186, entitled

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD TO THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE AS A SEPARATE AND DISTINCT SERVICE UNDER THE PHILIPPINE NAVY, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5173, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Biazon

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

Senate Bill No. 187, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY, STRENGTHENING ITS IMPLEMENTING MECHANISM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Biazon

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

Senate Bill No. 188, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DISPOSAL AND/OR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF CERTAIN MILITARY CAMPS AND RESERVATIONS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE MILITARY REAL ESTATE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Biazon

**To the Committees on Government  
Corporations and Public Enterprises; National  
Defense and Security; Ways and Means; and  
Finance**

Senate Bill No. 189, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1638, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ESTABLISHING A NEW SYSTEM OF RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Biazon

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

Senate Bill No. 190, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948 OTHERWISE

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KNOWN AS "AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS" AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Biazon

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

Senate Bill No. 191, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE SALE OF PRE-PAID SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE (SIM) CARDS, PROVIDING PENALTY FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To the Committee on Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 192, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT INVESTORS BY IMPROVING THE ACCURACY AND RELIABILITY OF CORPORATE FINANCIAL REPORTING AND DISCLOSURES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

Senate Bill No. 193, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN LAND ADMINISTRATION

Introduced by Senator Lacson

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

Senate Bill No. 194, entitled

AN ACT TO INCLUDE THE TEACHING OF COMPUTER AS PART OF THE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOL

CURRICULA BOTH IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 195, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6963, ENTITLED AN ACT GRANTING SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS TO THE FAMILY OR BENEFICIARY OF ANY POLICE OR MILITARY PERSONNEL OR FIREMAN KILLED OR PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF HIS DUTY OR BY REASON OF HIS OFFICE OR POSITION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

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

Senate Bill No. 196, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL REFERENCE CARD SYSTEM AND CREATING THEREFOR THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION COORDINATING COMMISSION

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 197, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THAT EDUCATIONAL CURRICULUM AND THE CONSEQUENT PREPARATION OF TEXTBOOKS AND RELATED MATERIALS SHOULD HAVE CONTINUITY AND STABILITY, AND THAT THE SAME SHOULD NOT BE AFFECTED FOR A PERIOD

195

OF AT LEAST SIX (6) YEARS,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
R.A. NO. 8047, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE BOOK PUBLISHING  
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACT

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To the Committee on Education, Arts and  
Culture**

Senate Bill No. 198, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL  
INSURANCE BENEFITS TO BARA-  
NGAY CAPTAINS, PROVIDING  
FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF ITS  
PREMIUMS, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To the Committees on Government  
Corporations and Public Enterprises; Local  
Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 199, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE BENEFITS  
AND INCENTIVES OF BARANGAY  
TANOD MEMBERS WHO HAVE  
RENDERED AT LEAST ONE YEAR  
OF SERVICE IN THE BARANGAY  
GOVERNMENT

Introduced by Senator Lacson

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

Senate Bill No. 200, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE MONTHLY  
SALARY OF CONTRACTUAL  
WORKERS BY FIFTY PERCENT  
(50%) OF THEIR MONTHLY AND/  
OR DAILY COMPENSATION AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

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

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

**MESSAGE FROM THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of  
Representatives, informing the Senate that on 23  
July 2007, the House of Representatives  
concurred with Senate Concurrent Resolution  
No. 1, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION CREATING  
A JOINT COMMITTEE OF THE  
SENATE AND THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES TO NOTIFY  
THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIP-  
PINES THAT CONGRESS, NOW  
CONVENED FOR ITS FIRST  
REGULAR SESSION OF THE  
FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE  
PHILIPPINES, IS READY TO HEAR  
HER STATE OF THE NATION  
ADDRESS IN A JOINT SESSION OF  
BOTH HOUSES

To the Archives

**RESOLUTIONS**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 43, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPRO-  
PRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES  
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN  
AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE  
DISAPPEARANCE OF JONAS  
BURGOS AND OTHER CASES OF  
MISSING PERSONS

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 44, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPRO-  
PRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO  
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID  
OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE  
PROPOSED INCREASE IN THE FEES  
COLLECTED BY GOVERNMENT  
LINE AGENCIES

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Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

**To the Committees on Finance; and Ways and Means**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 45, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE STATE OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP)

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

**To the Committee on Agrarian Reform**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 46, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE ALLEGED ILLEGAL INVESTMENT SYNDICATE INVOLVING THE PERFORMANCE INVESTMENT PRODUCTS CORPORATION (PIPC) WHICH HAS CAUSED LOSSES OF MILLIONS OF DOLLARS WORTH OF INVESTMENTS IN FOREIGN EXCHANGE TRADE, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF RECOMMENDING IMMEDIATE REMEDIAL MEASURES TO PROTECT THE INVESTING PUBLIC

Introduced by Senator Enrile

**To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 47, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY IN THE EXERCISE OF ITS OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY INTO THE ALLEGED IMMINENT POWER CRISIS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF EXAMINING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF

PERTINENT LAWS AND ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES IF NECESSARY TO ADDRESS THE SAME

Introduced by Senator Escudero

**To the Committees on Energy; and Environment and Natural Resources**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 48, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE CRITICAL CONDITIONS OF OUR WATER SUPPLY AND POWER GENERATION AS A RESULT OF DRY SPELL OR DROUGHT PREVALENT IN THE COUNTRY ALLEGEDLY DUE TO GLOBAL WARMING, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE AND COMMUNITY-BASED APPROACH TO CALAMITY AND VULNERABILITY, BY STRENGTHENING THE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY OF THE COUNTRY AND FURTHER ENSURING AND ENHANCING THE ALLOCATION, SUFFICIENCY AND UTILIZATION OF APPROPRIATE RESOURCES FOR THIS PURPOSE

Introduced by Senator Honasan

**To the Committees on Energy; and Environment and Natural Resources**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 49, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND DEMOGRAPHY, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DEMOGRAPHIC, SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND MARKET FACTORS WHICH MAKE THE PRICES OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS AND MEDICINES IN THE PHILIPPINES AMONG THE HIGHEST IN ASIA, WITH THE END

IN VIEW OF PROVIDING A COMPREHENSIVE AND HOLISTIC HEALTH POLICY INTERVENTION THAT WOULD LOWER THE COST OF ESSENTIAL DRUGS AND MEDICINES IN THE COUNTRY

Introduced by Senator Manual "Lito" M. Lapid

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

### COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from President and General Manager Winston F. Garcia of the Government Service Insurance System, dated 21 June 2007, submitting to the Senate the report on the GSIS Investments Portfolio as of 31 December 2006, in compliance with Section 36 of Republic Act No. 8291.

**To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises**

Letters from Assistant Governor and General Counsel Juan de Zuñiga Jr. of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, dated 28 and 29 June 2007, respectively, furnishing the Senate with certified copies of BSP Circular Nos. 571 and 572, series of 2007; Memorandum No. M-2007-019, series of 2007, all dated 21 June 2007; and BSP Circular No. 573, series of 2007, dated 22 June 2007, in compliance with Section 15(a) of Republic Act No. 7653.

**To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

Letter from Ms. Clarissa L. Aquino, Executive Secretary of the Office of Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., dated 10 July 2007, submitting to the Senate a copy of the Senator's report to the Senate regarding the Seminar on Federalism in Fribourg University in Switzerland on 2 June 2007.

**To the Committee on Local Government**

Letter from Executive Secretary Eduardo R. Ermita of the Office of the President of the Philippines, dated 17 July 2007, transmitting to the Senate a copy of Republic Act No. 9491, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAGA IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF NAGA,

which lapsed into law on 15 July 2007, without the signature of the President, pursuant to the provisions of Section 27(1), Article VI of the Constitution.

**To The Archives**

Letters from Assistant Governor and General Counsel Juan de Zuñiga Jr. of the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, dated 18 and 20 July 2007, respectively, furnishing the Senate a copy of BSP Circular Nos. 574 and 575, series of 2007, dated 10 and 17 July 2007, in compliance with Section 15 (a) of Republic Act No. 7653.

**To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

### REQUEST OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

At this juncture, Senator Pimentel noted that the report he submitted to the Secretariat regarding the seminar on federalism he attended in Fribourg University in Geneva was referred to the Committee on Local Government. He suggested that the report be simply archived considering that he did not ask for any action on the report because it was merely a communication for the information of all the senators.

Acting on Senator Pimentel's request, the Chair sent the Senator's report to the Archives.

### SECOND ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read Proposed Senate Resolution No. 50, which the Chair referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO INQUIRE WITH THE HOUSE OF COUNCILORS OF JAPAN (THE DIET OF JAPAN) THE STATUS OF THE LEGISLATION PROMOTING THE RESOLUTION OF ISSUES CONCERNING VICTIMS OF WARTIME SEXUAL COERCION.

*Handwritten initials and a mark.*

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Pangilinan acknowledged the presence of Mayor Sylvia Adame, Vice-Mayor Danilo Gibinca, and other elected officials of the Municipality of Dimiao, Province of Bohol.

## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR ROXAS

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Roxas brought to the attention of the Body the hearing undertaken by the Committee on Oversight and Government Reforms of the U.S. House of Representatives, chaired by Representative Henry Waxman of California, on allegations of waste, fraud and abuse at the new American embassy in Iraq.

He stated that in that committee hearing, Mr. Rory Mayberry, a contractor of First Kuwaiti Trading and Contracting Company (FKTCC), one of the companies contracted to build the U.S. Embassy in Iraq, testified that he accompanied 51 Filipinos to Baghdad who thought that they were going to Dubai since their contracts stipulated so, only to be told later of their true destination. He added that Mr. Mayberry had also testified that these Filipinos worked under terrible conditions without proper gears like gloves, safety harnesses and shoes.

Senator Roxas stated that in the course of his research on the matter, he came across a statement from the U.S. State Department denying the mistreatment of foreign workers during the construction of the U.S. Embassy in Iraq; and another statement from Ambassador Ricardo Endaya that in 2004, when he was charge d'affaires in Baghdad, he investigated complaints of overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) against the FKTCC regarding salary, overtime pay and accommodations.

Senator Roxas pointed out that Philippine passports precisely bear the notation "Not Valid for Travel to Iraq" to safeguard OFWs, bearing in mind the experience of Angelo dela Cruz. Therefore, he stressed, bringing those Filipino workers to Baghdad was a clear violation of said policy.

Senator Roxas said that he brought the matter to the attention of the Members so that the Senate could inquire into the status of the 51 Filipinos who joined about 10,000 other OFWs who have slipped back into Iraq to seek employment. He expressed

concern for the OFWs who are being tricked by unscrupulous contractors and whose safety was being jeopardized simply because they could not find work in the Philippines.

Senator Roxas said that he has filed a resolution asking the appropriate agencies of government to look into the matter, the result of which he would report to the Body. As regards the resolution, he expressed hope that it would be referred to the appropriate committee as soon as it is organized.

## QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

Rising to a question of personal and collective privilege, as Minority Leader, Senator Pimentel stated that the solid eight opposition senators stand for principled cooperation with all agencies of government and they would not be obstructionists in the Senate. Nonetheless, he said, the opposition senators would continue to denounce corruption and extrajudicial killings, and espouse that the rule of law be upheld.

In this regard, Senator Pimentel took note of the use of vehicles and equipment of the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) to widen the roads in Bacoor, Cavite which is not part of Metro Manila, allegedly upon orders of the President of the Philippines, to ease the traffic in the area. In this instance, he said, while the intention was good, the President misused her power anew. He stated that it was time the Senate stood up to the President and say that it would not tolerate such abuse.

He clarified that he was not picking a fight with the MMDA chairman who, he believed, has done a lot of good for Metro Manila in the course of which he sometimes clashed with local officials. Nonetheless, he maintained that not even the President can order a government agency like the MMDA to do things outside of its area of jurisdiction. He expressed hope that the proper Senate committee would look into the matter.

On another matter, Senator Pimentel expressed his appreciation that Senator Angara has made a report on his trip to Spain. However, he expressed concern that Senator Angara entered into a parliamentary cooperation agreement with Spain in the name of the Senate. In view of this development, he believed it was time the Body took note that any senator acting for and in behalf of the Senate must

106

properly authorized to do so. He expressed hope that Senator Angara had been duly authorized to enter into the agreement.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

*It was 4:34 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 4:42 p.m., the session was resumed.

**REMARKS OF SENATOR ANGARA**

Senator Angara expressed appreciation to Senator Pimentel for praising the Senate delegation's report. Even the Spaniards, he said, hailed the cooperation agreement as a landmark, the first of its kind signed by the Senate of Spain. He assured the Body that he had been authorized by the Senate President to negotiate, conclude, and execute the agreement.

The Senate President confirmed that he did authorize Senator Angara.

**REFERRAL OF QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE TO COMMITTEE**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair referred Senator Pimentel's

question of privilege, with respect to the MMDA, to the Committee on Local Government.

**SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

*It was 4:44 p.m.*

**RESUMPTION OF SESSION**


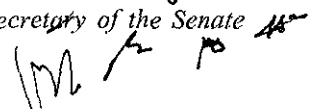
At 5:16 p.m., the session was resumed.

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of the following day.

*It was 5:16 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

  
 EMMA LIRIO-REYES  
 Secretary of the Senate  


Approved on August 1, 2007