

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

S e n a t e

Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 10

Tuesday, August 14, 2007

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

SESSION NO. 10
Tuesday, August 14, 2007

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:12 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Manny Villar, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Francis Joseph G. Escudero led the prayer, to wit:

*Sa kabila ng digmaan,
dalangin namin ay kapayapaan.
Sa kabila ng kahirapan,
dalangin namin ay kasaganaan.
Sa kabila ng hidwaan,
dalangin namin ay pagkakaisa.
Hiling Po namin, gawin Ninyong
kasangkapan ang bawat isa sa
amin dito upang makamtan ang
mga dalangin at mithiing ito.
At kasabay n'yan, hiling din namin,
nawa'y bigyan Ninyo Po ang bawat
isa sa amin ng kapayapaan sa
aming pag-iisip, na matanggap
ang hindi na namin kayang
baguhin sa mundong ito.
Hiling din namin na sana ay bigyan
Ninyo kami ng tapang at lakas na
baguhin ang kaya at dapat naming
baguhin sa buhay na ito.
At higit sa lahat, hiling Po namin
na sana bigyan Ninyo kami ng
pang-unawa na makita ang
pagkakaiba ng dalawang iyan.
Nawa ay sa bawat hamon at pagsubok
na ibato sa bawat isa sa atin ng
tadhana, sabay-sabay nating
malampasan ito.
Ito ay hiling namin sa ating
Panginoon, hindi lamang
sa hapong ito, hindi lamang
sa araw na ito, kung hindi*

*sa mga darating na linggo,
buwan at taon, habang tayo
ay sabay-sabay na naninilbihan
para sa mas nakatataas na interes
ng ating mga kababayan.*

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:

Aquino III, B. S. C.	Honasan, G. B.
Arroyo, J. P.	Lacson, P. M.
Biazon, R. G.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Madrigal, M. A.
Cayetano, C. P. S.	Pangilinan, F. N.
Defensor Santiago, M.	Pimentel Jr., A. Q.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Enrile, J. P.	Roxas, M.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Villar, M.
Gordon, R. J.	

With 19 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Legarda and Zubiri arrived after the roll call.

Senator Angara was on official mission.

Senator Trillanes was unable to attend the session.

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. 9 and considered it approved.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Pangilinan acknowledged the presence of Mayor Constantino "Bolly" Navarro IV of Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte; Mayor Carlos Asuncion of Sta. Catalina, Ilocos Sur; Mayor Alden Avestroz of Barugo, Leyte; and Mayor Melchor Petracorta of Limasawa, Southern Leyte.

COAUTHOR

Upon her request, Senator Logarda was made coauthor of Senate Bill No. 314.

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. 401, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PLAN FOR TUBERCULOSIS PREVENTION, TREATMENT AND CONTROL AND PROVIDING RELIABLE DRUGS SUPPLY AND FREE LABORATORY MONITORING SERVICE TO TB PATIENTS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 402, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITALS TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DIALYSIS WARD OR UNIT IN THEIR RESPECTIVE HOSPITAL AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO INDIGENT PATIENTS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 403, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING WHO ARE INSTITUTIONALIZED PERSONS AND PENALIZING THEIR MALTREATMENT

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 404, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 405, entitled

AN ACT ACCREDITING THE PHILIPPINE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION AS THE INTEGRATED MEDICAL PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 406, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BUREAU ON HAZARDOUS WASTES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SPILLS AND DISEASE REGISTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 407, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING STRICTER PENALTIES ON THE CRIME OF DELIVERING PRISONERS FROM JAIL AND INFIDELITY IN THE CUSTODY OF PRISONERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 156, 223 AND 224 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 408, entitled

AN ACT TO COMBAT ABUSE AND ENHANCE PENALTIES FOR CRIMES AGAINST SENIORS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 409, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING STANDARDS FOR THE LABELING OF MILK

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 410, entitled

AN ACT TO PUNISH TRANSMISSION OF INDECENT MATERIAL BY COMPUTER TO MINORS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 411, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A YOUTH CENTER IN THE FIFTEEN (15) REGIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 412, entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE CERTAIN DISCLOSURES IN CONNECTION WITH ANY INTERNATIONAL MONEY TRANSFER AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Senate Bill No. 413, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE PROTECTION FROM PERSONAL INTRUSION FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 414, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 415, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN OFFICE ON WOMEN'S HEALTH WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 416, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR INDIGENT PRE-KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 417, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AND ESTABLISHING THE CENTER FOR STUDIES ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Cultural Communities; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 418, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE USE OF MOBILE UNITS SERVING MEDICAL, DIAGNOSTIC, AND TREATMENT SERVICES, IN ORDER

TO ENSURE THE AVAILABILITY OF QUALITY HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR PATIENTS WHO RECEIVE CARE IN REMOTE OR RURAL AREAS AND FOR PATIENTS WHO NEED SPECIALIZED TYPE OF MEDICAL CARE PROVIDED IN A COST-EFFECTIVE WAY

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 419, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING TAX EXEMPTION ON THE EDUCATIONAL EXPENSES INCURRED BY A TAXPAYER, AMENDING SECTION 35 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 420, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR REASONABLE COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS FOR THE LOSS OF LIVES, INJURIES AND DAMAGES TO PROPERTY SUFFERED BY NON-COMBATANT INDIVIDUALS IN THE COURSE OF OPERATIONS BY THE MILITARY, POLICE AND/OR OTHER LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 421, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL HOSPITAL FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO

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WORKERS (OFWs) AND THEIR
DEPENDENTS, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 422, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A SOCIAL-
IZED AND LOW-COST HOUSING
LOAN RESTRUCTURING PROGRAM,
PROVIDING THE MECHANISMS
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 423, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GOVERN-
MENT AND PRIVATE HOSPITALS,
MEDICAL CENTERS, CLINICS,
INFIRMARIES, AND PUERICULTURE
CENTERS TO GIVE FREE MEDICAL
AND DENTAL ASSISTANCE TO
INDIGENT CHILDREN

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural
Development; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 424, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL DENTISTS
TO GIVE FREE DENTAL SERVICES
IN RURAL AREAS, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 4419,
ALSO KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE
DENTAL ACT OF 1965," AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 425, entitled

AN ACT FIXING THE MINIMUM
STANDARD FOR DEATH BENEFITS
TO FILIPINO SEAFARERS EMPLOYED
OVERSEAS AND ESTABLISHING A
MECHANISM AT THE PHILIPPINE
OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINIS-
TRATION FOR ITS REGULAR
REVIEW AND REALIGNMENT TO
PREVAILING INTERNATIONAL
STANDARDS AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No 426, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SPECIAL
POLLING PLACE FOR THE DIS-
ABLED AND THE ELDERLY

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Constitutional Amend-
ments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Social
Justice, Welfare and Rural Development**

Senate Bill No. 427, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FREE AND
SUITABLE PUBLIC EDUCATION
FOR HANDICAPPED CHILDREN
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; Youth, Women and Family Relations;
and Finance** *AF*

Senate Bill No. 428, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE AND ENCOURAGE THE ORGANIZATION AND SUSTAINED DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVES AS INSTRUMENTS FOR THE FULFILLMENT OF THE BASIC NEED OF HOUSING FOR THE HOMELESS AND UNDER-PRIVILEGED AND AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6938, THE COOPERATIVE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To The Committees on Cooperatives; and Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Senate Bill No. 429, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A COMMISSION ON MISSING PERSONS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 430, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 180 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE (ACT NO. 3815), AS AMENDED BY INCREASING THE PENALTY PROVIDED THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 431, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND

FARMERS ORGANIZATION IN THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY COUNCIL AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1770, AS AMENDED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 432, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR EDUCATIONAL BENEFITS FOR THE MINOR CHILDREN OF SOLDIERS AND POLICEMEN WHO ARE KILLED BY INSURGENTS OR SLAIN IN THE LINE OF DUTY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 433, entitled

AN ACT EMPOWERING WOMEN BY PROVIDING THEM WITH FINANCIAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND INFORMATION ASSISTANCE IN ORDER FOR THEM TO EXCEL IN COMMERCE AND TRADE

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; Trade and Commerce; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 434, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BARANGAY DRUGSTORES, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "BOTICA SA BARANGAY," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 435, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER ENSURING THE USE OF THE GENERIC NAMES IN THE MANUFACTURE, PRESCRIPTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF DRUGS AND MEDICINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED 6675, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GENERIC ACT OF 1988" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 436, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING MOVIE, TELEVISION, AND RADIO PRODUCERS, INCLUDING PROMOTION AND ADVERTISING AGENCIES, AND OTHER LIKE ENTITIES, EMPLOYING UNEMANCIPATED MINORS TO DEPOSIT THEIR TALENT FEES OR INCOME IN A TRUST FUND, IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 437, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8048 ENTITLED, AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION OF THE CUTTING OF COCONUT TREES,

ITS REPLENISHMENT PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Senate Bill No. 438, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF RESERVATION AREAS FOR THE PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION OF THE CORAL REEFS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 439, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULLY-EQUIPPED SCIENCE LABORATORIES IN EVERY PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Science and Technology; Education, Arts and Culture; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 440, entitled

AN ACT PROFESSIONALIZING THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING SERVICE TO SERVE AS A TOOL FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT RESOURCES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANCY OFFICE UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 441, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AND BENEFITS TO THE FAMILY OR BENEFICIARY OF ANY BARANGAY OFFICER, BARANGAY TANOD OR VOLUNTEER AND MEMBERS OF THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN COUNCIL KILLED OR PERMANENTLY INCAPACITATED WHILE ON DUTY OR BY REASON OF HIS OR HER OFFICE OR POSITION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Local Government; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 442, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING A NATIONAL PEACE POLICY THEREBY CREATING A COMMISSION ON PEACE

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 443, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE OFFENSE OF ILLEGAL LOGGING IN WATERSHEDS AND OTHER PROTECTED AREAS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 444, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE STRUCTURE, CAPABILITY FOR EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION AND ORGANIZATIONAL MANAGEMENT, AND ALIGN THE DIRECTION OF EXISTING AND FUTURE COOPERATIVES TOWARDS PEOPLE EMPOWERMENT AND BALANCED SUSTAINED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF ALL COOPERATIVES, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 6938, THE COOPERATIVE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

The Committees on Cooperatives; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 445, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING TAX INCENTIVES TO DEVELOPERS AND BUILDERS OF RESIDENTIAL BUILDING AND/OR HOUSING PROJECTS BY EXEMPTING THEM FROM THE PAYMENT OF REAL ESTATE TAXES, DEFINING THE CONDITION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Ways and Means; and Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Senate Bill No. 446, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR FREE MEDICINE AND OTHER BASIC MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO ANY PRIVATE PERSON OR INDIVIDUAL INJURED OR WOUNDED DURING A MILITARY OR GOVERNMENT OPERATION

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Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 447, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS WORKERS BANK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 448, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE ALLOWABLE PERSONAL EXEMPTIONS OF INDIVIDUAL TAXPAYERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 35 (A) AND (B) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1987, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 449, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVOLUTION OF THE CONTROL, MANAGEMENT AND OPERATION OF MUNICIPAL OR TERTIARY PORTS FROM THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Services; and Local Government

Senate Bill No. 450, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DEMONSTRATION, PERFORMANCE OR

EXHIBITION IN PUBLIC OF CERTAIN SEXUAL ACTS, AND THE PRODUCTION, IMPORTATION, SALE OR DISTRIBUTION, OR PUBLIC SHOWING OR DISPLAY OF PORNOGRAPHIC MATERIALS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Justice and Human Rights

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 451, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE OPEN LEARNING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 452, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING WORK ARRANGEMENTS BASED ON SECURITY OF TENURE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE, ARTICLES 156, 157, 158, 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, 164 AND 165 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED FORTY TWO (PD 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. 453, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE EXCEPTIONS FROM THE NIGHT WORK PROHIBITION OF WOMEN EMPLOYEES, THEREBY AMENDING ARTICLE 131 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBER FOUR HUNDRED FORTY TWO (PD 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. 454, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATORY REPORTING OF MARINE CASUALTIES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Public Services; and
Justice and Human Rights**

Senate Bill No. 455, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE VERNACULAR AND FILIPINO IN FUNCTIONAL LITERACY AND PROVIDING GUIDELINES FOR ITS CLASSROOM USE

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 456, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR DISABLED PERSONS, GRANTING

ADDITIONAL PRIVILEGES AND INCENTIVES TO DISABLED PERSONS SIMILAR TO THOSE ENJOYED BY SENIOR CITIZENS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare
and Rural Development; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 457, entitled

AN ACT TO INSTITUTE A NATIONAL BAKERY INDUSTRY POLICY AND TO CREATE THE NATIONAL BAKERY REGULATORY AGENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 458, entitled

AN ACT REDUCING THE RATE OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY THROUGH EVALUATION OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE PROGRAMS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; Youth, Women and Family Relations;
and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 459, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING MOTHERS WHO TAKE COCAINE OR OTHER ILLEGAL DRUGS DURING PREGNANCY AND THEREBY CAUSE DEATH OR SERIOUS PHYSICAL INJURY TO THE UNBORN CHILD OR NEW-BORN AND AMENDING ARTICLES 255 AND 264 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE *AK*

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Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 460, entitled

AN ACT TO REGULATE THE PROCUREMENT AND TRANSPLANT OF HUMAN ORGANS AND TISSUES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 461, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING AND ESTABLISHING RIVERS, RIVER SYSTEMS, BEACHES, SHORES AND WATERWAYS AS ECOLOGICAL ZONES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 462, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7743, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CONGRESSIONAL, CITY, AND MUNICIPAL LIBRARIES AND BARANGAY READING CENTERS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 463, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY SEVEN (R.A. 6657), AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF 1998," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Agrarian Reform

Senate Bill No. 464, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED FORTY EIGHT HUNDRED AND FORTY SIX (R.A. NO. 4846), AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CULTURAL PROPERTIES PRESERVATION AND PROTECTION ACT

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 465, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE OPENING OF SUBDIVISION ROADS TO VEHICULAR TRAFFIC FOR ALTERNATIVE ACCESS TO MAIN THOROUGHFARES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Works; and Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Senate Bill No. 466, entitled

AN ACT TO ABSOLUTELY PROHIBIT THE TRADE OR EXPORT OF WILDLIFE, BOTH FLORA AND FAUNA OF WHATEVER SPECIES, ^{MS}

WHETHER DEAD OR ALIVE,
PROVIDING PENALTY THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Environment
and Natural Resources; and Agriculture and
Food**

Senate Bill No. 467, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A PUBLIC
CORPORATION TO BE KNOWN
AS THE FOUNDATION FOR THE
ENCOURAGEMENT OF GIFTED
AND TALENTED CHILDREN AND
YOUTH, AND TO DEFINE ITS
POWERS AND PURPOSES, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Government
Corporations and Public Enterprises; Youth,
Women and Family Relations; and Ways and
Means**

Senate Bill No. 468, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE PRE-
SERVATION AND CULTIVATION
OF THE FILIPINO HERITAGE
AMONG FILIPINOS OVERSEAS
THROUGH THE TEACHING OF
FILIPINO LANGUAGE AND HISTORY,
ASSISTANCE IN THE ESTABLISH-
MENT AND OPERATION OF PHILIP-
PINE SCHOOLS AND FILIPINIANA
RESOURCE CENTERS ABROAD,
AND THE CREATION OF A COM-
MITTEE ON HERITAGE AND CUL-
TURE FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINOS,
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 469, entitled

AN ACT REVISING THE SCHOOL
CALENDAR FOR THE HEALTH,
SAFETY AND WELFARE OF SCHOOL
CHILDREN AND STUDENT YOUTH,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 470, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERN-
IZATION OF THE NATIONAL MAP-
PING AND RESOURCE INFORM-
ATION AUTHORITY (NAMRIA)

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Environment and
Natural Resources; National Defense and
Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 471, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE LOCAL
HOUSING BOARD AND AMENDING
SECTIONS 447 AND 458 OF R.A.
7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF
1991, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 472, entitled

AN ACT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE THE
BASIC SERVICE OF INTEGRATED
SOLID WASTE COLLECTION
AND DISPOSAL IN ALL LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING
FOR THIS PURPOSE THE "LOCAL
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991,"
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committee on Local Government

Senate Bill No. 473, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND MAINTAIN THE OFFICE OF VETERANS AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PRESCRIBING ITS FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on National Defense and Security; Foreign Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 474, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 426 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, "THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991," BY MANDATING THE *SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN* TO IMPLEMENT AN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION PROGRAM IN THEIR RESPECTIVE BARANGAYS, PROVIDING THE MECHANISM FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Local Government; and Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 475, entitled

AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION BY MAKING THE APPOINTMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OFFICER MANDATORY FOR PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 484 (A) OF REPUBLIC

ACT NUMBERED 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Local Government; and Environment and Natural Resources

Senate Bill No. 476, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION, DEFINING ITS FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 477, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE URBAN AND COUNTRYSIDE GREENING OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 478, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION, PRESERVATION AND RESTORATION OF NATIONAL LANDMARKS, ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL LANDMARKS COUNCIL FOR THE PURPOSE, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 479, entitled

AN ACT PLACING ALL GOVERNMENT COTTAGES AND REST HOUSES IN BAGUIO CITY AND BENGUET PROVINCE UNDER THE MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM, ALLOWING THE SALE OR LEASE OF THE SAME OR THEIR CONVERSION INTO TOURIST PLACES, SUBJECT TO CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Tourism; and Public Works

Senate Bill No. 480, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL ECOTOURISM POLICY, ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR ITS INSTITUTIONALIZATION, PROVIDING THE MECHANISMS FOR ITS APPROPRIATE IMPLEMENTATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 481, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT FUND AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Tourism

Senate Bill No. 482, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT CHILDREN AND OTHER VULNERABLE SUB-POPULATIONS FROM EXPOSURE

TO CERTAIN ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTANTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 483, entitled

AN ACT ALLOCATING THE TRAVEL TAX COLLECTION TO THE PHILIPPINE TOURISM AUTHORITY, AMENDING THEREBY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1183, AS AMENDED, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7722, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 484, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC RESTROOMS

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Public Works; Local Government; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 485, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM, PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR DEVELOPERS, MANUFACTURERS AND USERS OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 486, entitled

**AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR TOY
SAFETY LABELING**

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committee on Trade and Commerce

Senate Bill No. 487, entitled

**AN ACT MANDATING THE CREATION
OF A COMMITTEE ON ENVIRON-
MENTAL PROTECTION IN EACH
LOCAL GOVERNMENT LEGISLA-
TIVE COUNCIL**

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Local Government;
and Environment and Natural Resources**

Senate Bill No. 488, entitled

**AN ACT CREATING THE POSITION OF
BARANGAY NUTRITION WORKER
IN EVERY BARANGAY PROVIDING
INCENTIVES THERETO, APPRO-
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1569**

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Health and Demo-
graphy; Local Government; Ways and Means;
and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 489, entitled

**AN ACT GRANTING A ONE (1) MONTH
NON-CUMULATIVE LEAVE WITH
PAY TO WOMEN WORKERS WHO
UNDERGO MAJOR SURGICAL
INTERNAL OPERATION ON THEIR
REPRODUCTIVE ORGAN**

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources Development; and Civil
Service and Government Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 490, entitled

**AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING
SECTIONS THREE AND FOUR OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3456, AS
AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 1177, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE INTERNAL AUDITING
ACT OF 1962**

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 491, entitled

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL
TOURISM POLICY, CREATING
THE TOURISM DEVELOPMENT
ADVISORY COUNCIL, AND APPRO-
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committees on Tourism; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 492, entitled

**AN ACT SEPARATING THE DEPART-
MENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS INTO THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT-
ATION AND THE DEPARTMENT
OF COMMUNICATIONS REDEFIN-
ING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,
THEREBY AMENDING EXECUTIVE
ORDER NO. 546**

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 493, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A *BALIK* SCIENTIST PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Science and Technology; Justice and Human Rights; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 494, entitled

AN ACT INCREASING THE YEARLY ALLOCATION FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL ACTIVITIES (STA)

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 495, entitled

AN ACT GIVING INDIGENT BUT GIFTED AND TALENTED STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO DEVELOP THEIR CAPABILITIES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 496, entitled

AN ACT TO AMEND CERTAIN SECTIONS OF R.A. 7431, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE RADIOLOGIC TECHNOLOGY ACT OF 1992, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 497, entitled

AN ACT DETERRING PROSTITUTION BY AMENDING ARTICLE 341 (WHITE SLAVE TRADE) OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE, INCREASING THE PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT AND FINE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws

Senate Bill No. 498, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING EARLY RETIREMENT AND VOLUNTARY SEPARATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE, PROVIDING A SYSTEM OF FUNDING THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

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

Senate Bill No. 499, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING NEWLY APPOINTED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO UNDERGO ORIENTATION COURSES UPON ASSUMPTION TO OFFICE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 500, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS, CITY AND MUNICIPAL MAYORS AND PUNONG BARANGAY TO POST AND PUBLISH WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION

OF THEIR LOCAL GOVERNMENT
UNITS A SUMMARY OF INCOME
AND REVENUE FROM BOTH
PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SOURCES
AND UTILIZATION OF FUNDS, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Jinggoy Ejercito
Estrada

To the Committee on Local Government

RESOLUTION

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 73, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CONTINUED, SAD PLIGHT OF NURSES RECRUITED BY SENTOSA RECRUITMENT AGENCY, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROVIDING REMEDIAL LEGISLATIONS THAT WILL PROVIDE MORE ADEQUATE PROTECTION TO OUR HEALTH PROFESSIONALS DESIRING TO WORK ABROAD

Introduced by Senator Lacson

To the Committee on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources Development

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE
OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Pangilinan acknowledged the presence of the 47-member delegation of the New Zealand Defense Force Command and Staff College.

REMARKS OF SENATOR BIAZON

Senator Biazon noted that the Fourth Additional Reference of Business which was Proposed Senate Resolution No. 72 was not included in the Journal of Session No. 9.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 4:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:43 p.m., the session was resumed.

Senator Pangilinan affirmed that the Journal of Session No. 9 would have to be corrected within the day as it did not reflect the Fourth Additional Reference of Business which contained Proposed Senate Resolution No. 72. He said that based on the transcripts of the session yesterday, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 72 was referred primarily to the Committee on National Defense and Security and secondarily to the Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs.

Senator Biazon stated that as committee chair, he could schedule only the public hearing by the Committee on National Defense and Security on Proposed Senate Resolution No. 72, which calls for an inquiry and investigation into the alleged direct knowledge and involvement of ranking government officials in the recent ambush and mutilation of 14 Marines by extremist groups, if Senator Trillanes is allowed to attend the hearing as he alone knew the identities of government officials allegedly involved in the incident and, therefore, could ask the appropriate questions.

**REFERRAL OF THE REMARKS
TO COMMITTEE**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair referred the remarks of Senator Biazon to the Committee on Rules.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Upon nomination by Senator Pangilinan, on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

*Committee on Labor, Employment
and Human Resources Development*

Members :

Cayetano (P)	Revilla
Escudero	Zubiri
Honasan	Cayetano (A)
Lapid	

Committee on Health and Demography

Members :

Angara	Escudero
Arroyo	Lapid
Cayetano (A)	Revilla ##

***Committee on Environment
and Natural Resources***

Members :

Angara	Honasan
Arroyo	Lapid
Cayetano (A)	Revilla
Enrile	Zubiri
Escudero	

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 4:50 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:50 p.m., the session was resumed.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

(Continuation)

Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Members :

Arroyo	Honasan
Cayetano (P)	Cayetano (A)
Enrile	

Committee on Ways and Means

Members :

Enrile	Honasan
Angara	Revilla
Cayetano (P)	Zubiri
Cayetano (A)	Lapid
Gordon	

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 4:51 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:52 p.m, the session was resumed.

WITHDRAWAL OF COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

After conferring with the Minority, upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the

memberships of the following senators to the committees hereunder indicated were withdrawn:

***Committee on Youth, Women
and Family Relations***

Senator Lacson

Committee on Trade and Commerce

Senator Trillanes

***Committee on Social Justice, Welfare
and Rural Development***

Senator Trillanes

***Committee on Peace, Unification
and Reconciliation***

Senator Legarda

Committee on Local Government

Senator Lacson

Committee on Economic Affairs

Senator Madrigal

Committee on Cultural Communities

Senator Trillanes

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

Senator Biazon

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the session was suspended.

It was 4:54 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:55 p.m., the session was resumed.

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH
OF SENATOR PIMENTEL**

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Pimentel informed the Body of his meeting earlier in the day with the National Security Council in Malacañang on the ongoing war in Basilan and Sulu. He clarified that in spite of his doubts about the legitimacy of the sitting President, he attended the meeting to show the people of Mindanao that he is participating in the search for solutions.

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Senator Pimentel said that in that meeting, the new Secretary of National Defense, Gilberto C. Teodoro, Jr., made a presentation on the problem in Basilan and Sulu in a cogent, compelling and challenging manner.

Among other things, Senator Pimentel noted that the surge of the troops in Basilan and Sulu apparently was not meant to send a message that the government was engaging in an all-out war against the Muslim rebels in the south and that, in fact, as Secretary Teodoro emphasized, the surge was intended only to impress upon the people that the government is ready to do battle with anyone who dared to challenge the sovereignty of the country, a stand that he himself supports.

Senator Pimentel informed the Body that in the meeting, the issue of whether or not legislators should investigate the causes of the beheading and the ambushes of troops in Basilan and Sulu was also discussed; however, the participants came to the conclusion that it may not be the opportune time to do so because Secretary Teodoro is currently conducting an investigation into the intelligence lapses and other problems that confronted the local commands in Basilan and Sulu.

He narrated that in the meeting, he told the President that the problem of the recurring rebellion of Muslims that started when the Spaniards invaded the Philippines would remain unless there is a comprehensive solution to it, and he argued that the superficial solutions that have been tried time and again in the past would not work as proven by history.

He pointed to the fact that rebellion arose at different times in various parts of Mindanao where Muslims predominate, as he cited the Muslims in the south who rebelled against the authorities:

- ◆ Dimakaling – a Moro chieftain whose uprising in Lanao was crushed by the American colonial government;
- ◆ Kamlon – his rebellion in Sulu was put down by the Philippine government;
- ◆ Datu Udtog Matalam - his rebellion in Cotabato was also suppressed by the government;
- ◆ Nur Misuari – leading the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), his rebellion took place after the declaration of martial

law in all areas where Muslims predominate; a peace agreement was hammered out in Tripoli under the auspices of Khadafi, unfortunately, it was not honestly implemented because it called for the establishment of an autonomous region in Mindanao; thereafter, President Marcos created two autonomous regions, Region IX and Region XII, which momentarily stopped the infighting between the government and the MNLF; following the signing of the Jakarta Accord, Misuari was elected Governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao; and

- ◆ Hashim Salamat of Cotabato – leader of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), he challenged hegemony in the South.

Senator Pimentel believed that the only solution that would work, as he had suggested to the President, is one that respects the culture, identity and the customs and traditions of the Muslims and it could only be realized through the adoption of a federal system of government. He said that all things like infrastructure development and the delivery of basic services are not the solution although they would help in alleviating the real problem.

Senator Pimentel stated that when Hashim Salamat was still alive, he was open to the idea of constructing a road from the junction of the national highway up to his hideout on the condition that along the road other infrastructure — schools, hospitals, bridges, power plants — would also be built to develop the area. However, he said that the infrastructure would not be sufficient unless the Muslim culture, as exemplified by the Shari'a, is recognized in the area. He believed that the Bangsamoro federal state could exist in a federal system of government, with its own Shari'a whose penalties would be modified to conform to the modern system of penology.

In conclusion, Senator Pimentel stated that it is time the proposed federal system was revived although that would entail an amendment to the Constitution. At least, he said, the debates could start and the different models could be looked into to determine which is best suited to the country. He said that peace and development is not only for the

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Muslims in Mindanao but also for the entire country, adding that people throughout the country are paying for the war against Muslim rebels. He appealed to the Body to consider the possibility of adopting the federal system to speed up development and to bring peace not only to Mindanao but to the rest of the country.

REMARKS OF SENATOR BIAZON

Preliminarily, Senator Biazon stated that there is a situation developing in Western Mindanao that necessitates military action to assert government authority and Philippine sovereignty. However, he noted that the ongoing peace process has limited the military capability of the AFP.

Senator Biazon disclosed that during the NSC meeting, he asked the President what other steps are being taken by the government to address the problem in the South. He recalled that after the July 10 incident, the military response was to launch a punitive operation to impress upon the people that the government was in control and this called for the redeployment of troops from Luzon and the Visayas to Basilan. He feared, however, that such a move would embolden rebel groups in other areas to take advantage of the situation. He believed that the Legislative Department should consider the creation of a well-funded mobile reserve strike force. In the event a peace agreement is reached with the MILF, he said that the legislature should consider how it should be structured in light of the Tripoli Agreement and the Jakarta Accord.

With respect to the peace process, Senator Biazon asserted that government should consider certain issues: 1) how the concerns of the different ethnic groups in Mindanao would be harmonized; and 2) how the issue of ancestral domain versus private land ownership would be settled.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ENRILE

Asked by Senator Enrile on the proper solution to the Mindanao problem, Senator Biazon replied that one step is to develop the military's combat capability. He disclosed that in the meeting, there was, in fact, a proposal to increase the military capability by 12 additional battalions.

On whether the military's present capability is not enough to deal with the insurgency problem, Senator Biazon stated that the military has a limited

manpower of 115,000 and 50,000 CAFGUs, while the Philippine National Police has 120,000 to 130,000. To illustrate, he noted that troops have to be deployed from certain areas to hot spots like Basilan.

In the course of the interpellation of Senator Enrile, Senate President Villar relinquished the Chair to Senate President Pro Tempore Ejercito Estrada.

Asked on the ratio of rebels to government troops if indeed there are 12,000 rebels, Senator Biazon stated that prior to the onset of modern technology, it was one rebel to 10 government troops. He said that the matter of making the technology available to the military is another thing to consider.

Upon further query, Senator Biazon replied that military armaments are at par with the armaments of their adversaries, not better, but he bared that the government has better cruiser weapons than the rebels. However, he admitted that he did not have all the data on the enemy's level of ammunition supply. He recalled that the Americans despite the superiority of their technology and equipment lost the war in Vietnam.

Senator Enrile disagreed that the Mindanao insurgency is akin to the Vietnam war that had China and Russia supplying the weaponry to North Vietnam, which was why he had asked at the meeting that morning whether the Mindanao rebels have a supply line, but nobody answered him. In response, Senator Biazon believed that the Body has to dig into the issue to get answers although the assumption is that the rebels have many sources of arms, among which are local manufacturers. He pointed out that the fact that the rebels have a large supply of locally manufactured grenades raises the question whether the government is in control of the sales of ammunition.

Senator Enrile maintained that with the present capability of 240,000 soldiers and policemen, the government can neutralize the Mindanao insurgency if it really wanted to. He believed that the Army, Marines and Scout Rangers, if properly deployed, could launch a massive operation that would end swiftly the Mindanao rebellion, instead of prolonging the situation which would only entail more losses in lives and limbs. He recalled that the problem in Mindanao did not start with the MNLF but with the rebellion of Tirurays in South Cotabato. As a matter of history, he pointed out that the Mindanao problem

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started when 100 well-selected Muslim youths were transported from Mindanao, trained by a foreign power in an island near mainland Asia, and subsequently returned to the country and provided with arms. He contended that the Mindanao problem is not locally generated as there are documented sources of foreign support.

Moreover, Senator Enrile agreed with Senator Biazon that the problem in Mindanao must be handled with complete attention and utmost care, otherwise, the government could create a conflagration should the Christians in Mindanao rebel as some are now opposing the government plan to give their lands as bargaining chips in the negotiation with the MILF. In response, Senator Biazon affirmed that the issue of ancestral domain, which the government sees as the main problem in the pursuit of peace in Mindanao, is very contentious.

Replying to further queries, Senator Biazon believed that aside from refurbishing the armed forces, the peace process in conjunction with economic reforms could solve the problem in Mindanao. But he conceded that the peace process would not give the final solution if the Muslim rebels, in taking up arms, seek to preserve their culture and assert their rights. He cited the Tripoli Agreement and the Jakarta Accord which need further study if the government would enter into another peace agreement with the MILF.

However, Senator Enrile charged that these two agreements were the product of politics. He argued that the Tripoli Agreement sought to dismember the country, which was why he advised former President Marcos that it could not be enforced, thereby incurring the ire of Imelda Marcos. He disclosed that the agreement would give the Muslims control of a swath of land from Cebu to Palawan and half of Mindanao where they would have their own government, language, courts, education system, and security force. He asked how could there be peace when there is no laying down of arms.

Senator Biazon cited President Arroyo's policy of demobilization, disarmament and integration (DDI) but he asked what "integration" meant. He recalled that the Jakarta Agreement provided for the integration of the MILF fighters into the AFP and the PNP.

Senator Enrile said that while it is everybody's wish to have a peaceful resolution to the problem without shedding of blood, it is very difficult to realize such an ideal situation in the real world where

government is dealing with people who use force to attain their goals. In the same manner, he said, the government is authorized by the Filipino people to maintain an army and a police force as a legitimate instrument of power to maintain the sovereignty of the Republic, and it is mandated to enforce the laws with all the instruments of power given to it regardless of the wishes of others. He stressed that this is the essence of the government; it must negotiate, if it must, but it must also enforce the law.

Senator Biazon agreed, adding that this was the reason why he was in favor of the proposal of the Secretary of National Defense to build up military manpower up to a certain point. Senator Enrile stated that he would support any effort to increase the manpower of the armed forces when it is needed, believing that the country has nothing to lose if it does so.

At this point, Senator Enrile agreed with Senator Pimentel that one of the best possible solutions to the problem of Mindanao is to change the course of the country. He said that while he was a bit reluctant in the past to deal with a federalist system of government because of the costs, he is now rethinking his position given the wisdom of the suggestion and the realities of the country's condition.

Asked by Senator Enrile on the vision as far as statehood is concerned, Senator Pimentel underscored the need for people to understand first that adopting a federal system does not mean dividing the nation, rather, it is creating federal states out of the Republic of the Philippines. He said that his personal vision is to have ten federal states: four (4) in Luzon—the Federal States of Northern Luzon, Central Luzon, Bicol and Southern Tagalog; three (3) in Visayas—the Federal States of Eastern, Western and Central Visayas; and three (3) in Mindanao—the Federal States of Northern Mindanao, Southern Mindanao and Bangsamoro.

Senator Pimentel said he has not taken it upon himself to be categorical about the exact boundaries because it would take a lot of negotiations—a negotiation with equals—which is the essence of federalism. He added that it is not a negotiation between superiors and subordinates, but people who respect one another and who are able to work out solutions to their problems despite their differences.

On whether there has been any insurgency that has not been settled by force, Senator Pimentel agreed that insurgencies, at the first instance, have to

be rebuffed by force. He said that any self-respecting sovereign state cannot simply lie idle and allow insurgents to run over it; it has to fight back and establish the sovereignty of the people. However, he believed that after a time, there should be room for negotiations, such as in the experience of Northern Ireland where the decommissioning of firearms was a sore point but was overcome in time.

Asked if the sovereignty of the nation would reside in the newly created states or in the original state, Senator Pimentel said that the Federal Republic of the Philippines would retain its sovereignty, and the federal states would have to contend with their roles which would be defined in the Constitution. He said that the country would not reinvent the wheel of federalism, unlike America which has to experiment from merging or welding into a federal state many of the states. He added that the Philippines could benefit from the experience of other federal states but would do its thing according to its demands or need.

On the suggestion to merely follow the present regional division of the country and create regional state parliaments out of the members of the provincial boards so as not to duplicate costs, Senator Pimentel said this could be done by contracting the parliament at the top into a smaller number to lessen the costs to government. He believed that the key is always negotiations.

Senator Enrile said that the national government could then divide its powers like currency, national taxation, national banking, foreign affairs, communication, defense, immigration, customs, international trade, strategic minerals, quarantine while land cases, minerals and fisheries, land resources and timber resources would be the functions of the national government.

Senator Pimentel said that the Philippines could benefit from the experience of Malaysia.

Senator Enrile believed that pooling the IRAs into one development fund for each state would go a long way in improving the lives of the people. Senator Pimentel agreed, saying that there is also a need for the central government to create an equalization fund, given the fact that the proposed federal states are not equal in terms of resource generation. He said that some of the federal states might need central state subsidy for many things that they need; for instance, road building in the Cordilleras with its rugged terrain costs much more than road building in

the plains of Central Luzon. He said that the central government could come up with an equalization fund and allow the Cordilleras, for instance, to benefit from that support.

Senator Enrile said he was glad that the matter is now being discussed in the Chamber so that it could be able to look at the problems of the nation in its totality and be able to strike a suitable arrangement and solution to the nagging problems that have besieged the country for decades.

Senator Pimentel lamented that some people view the proposal to adopt the federal system only as a solution to the Moro problem. On the contrary, he said, a federal system is supposed to speed up the development of the country; in the process, it gets a bonus of maintaining peace throughout the land.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

At the outset, Senator Zubiri thanked Senator Pimentel for taking up the cudgels for the people in Mindanao. He said that it was unfortunate that he was not able to attend the NSA meeting in Malacañang that morning because he was informed about it only that same morning. He said that he shares the vision of Senator Pimentel towards federal autonomy not only for Mindanao but for the rest of the Philippines.

Replying to a query of Senator Zubiri, Senator Pimentel agreed that guns and soldiers alone would not solve the Mindanao insurgency problem as he stressed the need for the military component of the solution to be accompanied by other major initiatives of the government.

Senator Zubiri noted that indeed, the military have failed repeatedly throughout the years to solve the insurgency problem using their guns, and even with superficial programs as development projects and road networks. He noted that the thousands upon thousands of soldiers trooping to Mindanao only aggravated the problem. Senator Pimentel agreed, saying that the presence of many troops who do not even speak the local language is a cause for alarm, they could be looked upon as an occupying force rather than a friendly force that is supposed to establish law and order. However, he said that he understands the concern of the Department of National Defense regarding the need to deploy a larger presence of military troops in Sulu and Basilan,

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the rationale of which is to deter adventurism on the part of outlawed bands that might create trouble if they perceive that the government is not ready to put disturbances down.

Senator Zubiri pointed out that confusion could take place when the local dialect is not spoken and the culture is not learned, and conflicts arise when troops are sent without a briefing or indoctrination on certain traditions and cultures in the Bangsamoro area. Senator Pimentel agreed, saying that he had received complaints from Muslim friends that what actually led to the beheading of the marines was the killing of an imam. Indeed, he said, ignorance of the culture adds to the difficulty of providing solutions to the problems faced by the people in Mindanao.

Relative thereto, Senator Zubiri underscored the need for the AFP to realize that it should take steps to offer solutions to the recurring problem by indoctrinating and educating its troops about the traditions and cultures in the area to avoid more conflicts.

Senator Zubiri recalled that Bukidnon has hosted a number of summits for the federal movement of Mindanao. He agreed that superficial measures would not be a permanent solution to the insurgency problem as he believed that the solution should be a political one.

Asked how the Constitution should be amended to propel the cause of federalism, Senator Pimentel replied that while any proposal to amend the Constitution is usually met with skepticism and apprehension, it would be necessary for legislators to discuss the issue thoroughly and share the information with the people so that legislators could work on federalism as the solution to the lingering problem of Muslim insurgency and eventually attain peace and development in the country.

Senator Zubiri stated that when he was on the campaign trail, he was criticized because he was running for a seat in the Senate that he would like to be abolished. He said that the Senate can be retained in a federal system of government.

For his part, Senator Pimentel stated that the federal system which was adopted by the United States still maintains a Senate and has a President that is elected by the people. He proposed that in the Philippines, local government units can still be retained so as not to displace as well as displease many of those who are already sharing power.

Senator Zubiri agreed, saying that legislators should come up with a better system to promote performance politics where the primary concern of peace and order and matters like tax collection shall be handled by the federal state.

Senator Pimentel stated that one of the merits of a federal system is that it brings the government closer to the people, unlike in the present system where people are beholden to the appointing power much more than to the people they are supposed to serve. Senator Zubiri added that provincial projects can be easily implemented, promulgated and designed within the federal states by those who know what the priorities are, unlike in the present setup where one has to travel long hours by plane or boat just to follow up a certain project.

Senator Pimentel said that the federal system would also make it easier for individuals coming from Visayas and Mindanao to get a seafarer's license and the like.

To the observation that only the leaders of a particular local federal state are to blame in the event that the area suffers because of corruption, Senator Pimentel agreed that accountability in public office is much harder to maintain by the people in a unitary system because more often, accountability is removed from where the office is being performed. Senator Zubiri added that the matter on peace and order would be better addressed because the federal state shall be the one to hire the police force.

Asked what should be done to prevent the splitting of the country once the federal system is adopted, Senator Pimentel stated that one should be guided by the fact that federalism is precisely one of the internationally recognized means by which states are kept together despite their individual differences. In his own study, he said, the only federal group of nations he knows of that have broken up and have parted ways are the ones that were forced to meld together, particularly Yugoslavia that broke up after the death of its head, Josip Broz Tito. He clarified that in the case of Singapore, it was expelled from the Federal State of Malaysia. He stressed that the federalization of the Philippines should not be forced as it should be done through legal means and persuasion.

Expressing his support for Senator Pimentel's endeavor, Senator Zubiri stated that he is for unity in diversity and that this is where the future of the nation lies.

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MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan manifested that there are other Members who have requested that they be allowed to interpellate on the speech in the next day's session.

SUSPENSION OF THE PRIVILEGE HOUR

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the privilege hour was suspended.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS/ VICE CHAIRMANSHIPS

Upon nomination by Senator Pangilinan, on the part of the Majority, there being no objection, the following senators were elected to the committees hereunder indicated:

Committee on Finance

Vice Chairpersons:

Defensor Santiago Angara	Arroyo
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Members :

Cayetano (P)	Lapid
Escudero	Revilla
Gordon	Zubiri
Honasan	

Committee on Accounts

Members :

Enrile	Arroyo
Escudero	Gordon
Cayetano (P)	Lapid

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 6:30 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:30 p.m., the session was resumed.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body considered Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2, entitled

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR FOR THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body approved the following committee amendments, one after the other:

1. On line 5, change "October 5, 2007" to OCTOBER 12, 2007;
2. On line 6, change "October 6, 2007 - October 28, 2007" to OCTOBER 13, 2007 - NOVEMBER 4, 2007;
3. On line 7, change "October 29, 2007" to NOVEMBER 5, 2007.

ADOPTION OF SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2 was adopted by the Body.

RECONSIDERATION OF THE APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL OF SESSION NO. 9

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body reconsidered the approval of the Journal of Session No. 9.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL AS CORRECTED

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body approved the Journal of Session No. 9, subject to the corrections of Senator Pangilinan that it reflect the reading and referral of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 72 to the Committees on National Defense, and Public Order and Illegal Drugs; and of Senator Pimentel on page 170, right column, to change the name of the Chair of the Committee on National Defense and Security from "Lacson" to BIAZON, and on page 171 to delete the

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name "Roxas" from the membership of the Committee on Trade and Industry.

CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

Upon motion of Senator Pimentel, on the part of the Minority, there being no objection, the following changes in the committee memberships were approved by the Body:

*Congressional Oversight Committee on
Ecological Solid Waste Management
Act of 2000*

Senator Madrigal in lieu of Senator Lacson

Congressional Oversight Committee on Labor

Senator Biazon in lieu of Senator Aquino

*Oversight Committee
on the Special Purpose Vehicle Act*

Senator Roxas in lieu of Senator Aquino

*Oversight Committee
on the Dangerous Drugs Act*

Senator Aquino in lieu of Senator Biazon

Oversight Committee on Power and Energy

Senator Roxas in lieu of Senator Biazon

Committee on Accounts

Senator Aquino in lieu of Senator Roxas

Committee on Health and Demography

Senator Roxas in lieu of Senator Aquino

Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senator Legarda in lieu of Senator Aquino

Committee on Energy

Senator Roxas in lieu of Senator Pimentel

Committee on Finance

Senator Roxas in lieu of Senator Aquino

INQUIRY OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

Asked by Senator Pimentel whether he could be replaced by Senator Roxas as a member of the Committee on Rules, Senator Pangilinan explained that doing so would create an imbalance in the

proportional representation of the Majority and Minority. He said that unlike in other committees where the proportional representation is maintained as both the Majority and Minority Leaders are automatically *ex-officio* members, his being the chair of the Committee on Rules means there is one less *ex-officio* member of that committee and adding another member of the Minority would create an imbalance.

CHANGES IN COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS (Continuation)

Committee on Rules

Senator Roxas in lieu of Senator Legarda

Joint Congressional Power Commission

Senator Legarda in lieu of Senator Madrigal

Senator Roxas in lieu of Senator Biazon

MOTION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

Senator Pimentel moved that Senator Lacson act as substitute for Senator Trillanes in the committees to which the latter had been elected in instances where Senator Trillanes is unable to participate in the committees due to his present predicament. He clarified that the only exception in this case is in Senator Trillanes' participation in the Oversight Committee on the Official Development Assistance as Senator Legarda would take his place.

Senator Pangilinan stated that he sees no problem with Senator Pimentel's recommendation, except that it should still be subject to the findings of the Committee on Rules to which the matter has been referred.

There being no objection, the Body approved the motion of Senator Pimentel.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

It was 6:47 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION


At 6:48 p.m., the session was resumed. *JS*

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

It was 6:50 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO-REYES
Secretary of the Senate
ms / 2 *AK*

Approved on August 21, 2007