



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 2
Tuesday, July 27, 2010

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 2
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CALL TO ORDER

At 3.44 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Juan Ponce Enrile, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Joker P. Arroyo led the prayer, to wit:

Dear Lord, today, we buckle down to work in earnest.

We pray, Heavenly Father, for Your guidance and enlightenment.

With old and two new faces, we ask for cooperation and harmony, and above all, peace

We pray that this Fifteenth Congress will be fruitful, productive, and constructive.

These we ask, through our Lord, Jesus Christ, Amen.

ROLL CALL

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

Angara, E. J.	Honasan, G. B.
Arroyo, J. P.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Marcos Jr., F. R.
Cayetano, P. C. S.	Osmeña III, S. R.
Ejercito Estrada, J.	Recto, R. G.
Enrile, J. P.	Sotto III, V. C.
Guingona III, T. D.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

With 14 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senators Drilon, Escudero, Lapid, Pangilinan, Revilla and Villar, who arrived before 4:00 p.m., the time the session should have started as relayed earlier to all senators, were not considered late as per instruction of the Senate President.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

Senator Lacson was absent.

Senator Trillianes was unable to attend the session as he was under detention.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of students from the Philippine Women's University headed by Professors Maynigo and Amarillo.

The Senate President welcomed the guests to the Senate.

**DEFERMENT OF APPROVAL
OF THE JOURNAL**

Acting on Senator Arroyo's request, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body deferred the consideration and approval of the Journal of Session No. 1 (July 26, 2010) to a later hour.

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REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING UNFAIR TRADE AND ANTI-COMPETITIVE PRACTICES IN RESTRAINT OF TRADE, UNFAIR COMPETITION, ABUSE OF DOMINANT POWER, STRENGTHENING THE POWERS OF REGULATORY AUTHORITIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Enrile

To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2, entitled

AN ACT DIRECTING THE REDUCTION OF ELECTRICITY RATES THROUGH THE UTILIZATION OF THE GOVERNMENT SHARE IN THE DISCOVERY, EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT AND/OR PRODUCTION OF INDIGENOUS SOURCES OF ENERGY FOR THE PURPOSE OF LOWERING THE COST OF ELECTRICITY

Introduced by Senator Enrile

To the Committee on Energy

Senate Bill No. 3, entitled

AN ACT IMPOSING A UNIFORM FRANCHISE TAX ON DISTRIBUTION UTILITIES ENJOYING LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISE IN LIEU OF ANY AND ALL TAXES COLLECTED BY THE GOVERNMENT WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REDUCING THE COST OF ELECTRICITY BORNE BY CONSUMERS

Introduced by Senator Enrile

To the Committees on Ways and Means; and Energy

Senate Bill No. 4, entitled

AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT INDIGENT FILIPINOS ARE GRANTED WITH BASIC HEALTHCARE SERVICES, PROVIDING FOR A UNIVERSAL HEALTHCARE COVERAGE AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995 AS AMENDED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 5, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9502 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE CHEAPER AND QUALITY MEDICINES ACT OF 2008" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 6, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE GREENING AND FORESTLAND REHABILITATION AND PROTECTION IN THE BARANGAY LEVEL, SPURRING LOCAL CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

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Senate Bill No. 7, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PROTECTION TO HOUSEHOLD HELPERS THEREBY AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLES 141, 142, 143, 148 AND 151 OF CHAPTER III OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 8, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL HOSPITAL FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWS) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 9, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Local Government; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 10, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SECURITY OF TENURE, CODE OF CONDUCT

AND ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO TEACHERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4670, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MAGNA CARTA FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 11, entitled

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC CONCERN GUARANTEED UNDER SECTION TWENTY-EIGHT, ARTICLE II AND SECTION SEVEN, ARTICLE III OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 12, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT BROADCAST SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Public Information and Mass Media; Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 13, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING THE PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1866, ENTITLED CODIFYING THE LAWS ON ILLEGAL/UNLAWFUL POSSESSION, MANUFACTURE, DEALING

IN, ACQUISITION OR DISPOSITION OF FIREARMS, AMMUNITIONS OR INSTRUMENTS USED IN THE MANUFACTURE OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION, AND IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS THEREOF, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NOS. 8294 AND 9516

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 14, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING CYBERCRIME, PROVIDING FOR PREVENTION, SUPPRESSION AND IMPOSITION OF PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 15, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE CAREER EXECUTIVE SYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 16, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING MANDATORY COMPUTER EDUCATION IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 17, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF THE POOR

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 18, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING THAT ALL CITIZENS OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL AUTOMATICALLY BE ENROLLED IN THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995

Introduced by Senators Trillanes IV and Marcos Jr.

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 19, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

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

Senate Bill No. 20, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING FIXED TERMS FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF AND MAJOR SERVICE COMMANDERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committee on National Defense and Security

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Senate Bill No. 21, entitled

**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE RIDING
OR TRANSPORTING OF CHILDREN
SEVEN YEARS OLD AND BELOW
ON MOTORCYCLES ALONG
HIGHWAYS**

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Public Services; and
Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 22, entitled

**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC
RESTROOMS ALONG NATIONAL
AND PROVINCIAL HIGHWAYS
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 23, entitled

**AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 198,
AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE PROVINCIAL
WATER UTILITIES ACT OF 1973**

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Public Works;
Public Services; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 24, entitled

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING ROAD
SAFETY MEASURES, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Public Services; and
Finance**

Senate Bill No. 25, entitled

**AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE RIGHT
OF THE PEOPLE TO INFORMATION
ON MATTERS OF PUBLIC
CONCERN GUARANTEED UNDER
SECTION SEVEN, ARTICLE THREE
OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION AND
THE STATE POLICY OF FULL
PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF ALL ITS
TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING
PUBLIC INTEREST UNDER SECTION
TWENTY-EIGHT, ARTICLE TWO
OF THE 1987 CONSTITUTION, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Public Information
and Mass Media; and Civil Service and Govern-
ment Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 26, entitled

**AN ACT EXPANDING AND MAXI-
MIZING THE SCHOLARSHIP
GRANTS EXTENDED TO FAMILY
MEMBERS OF PERSONNEL OF THE
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
(PNP), ARMED FORCES OF THE
PHILIPPINES (AFP), BUREAU OF
FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), AND
BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT
AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), AMEND-
ING FOR THIS PURPOSE CERTAIN
PROVISIONS OF 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 INCAPACITA-
TED WHILE IN THE PERFORMANCE
OF HIS DUTY OR BY REASON OF
HIS OFFICE OR POSITION AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Public Order and
Illegal Drugs; National Defense and Security;
Education, Arts and Culture; Ways and Means;
and Finance**

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Senate Bill No. 27, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS, WHOSE STATUS OF APPOINTMENT IS EITHER CASUAL OR CONTRACTUAL AND WHO HAVE RENDERED A TOTAL OF FIVE YEARS OF EFFICIENT SERVICE

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization

Senate Bill No. 28, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL OWNERS OR OPERATORS OF TELEVISION NETWORKS OR STATIONS AND PRODUCERS OF TELEVISION NEWS PROGRAMS TO HAVE THEIR NEWS PROGRAMS BROADCAST WITH CLOSED-CAPTION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Revillar Jr.

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 29, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 6 AND 7 OF REPUBLIC ACT 8794, ALSO KNOWN AS AN ACT IMPOSING A MOTOR VEHICLES USER'S CHARGE ON OWNERS OF ALL TYPES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

To the Committees on Public Works; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 30, entitled

AN ACT REORGANIZING THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICA-

TIONS COMMISSION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 31, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A COMPREHENSIVE AND HOLISTIC FRAMEWORK AND PROGRAMS FOR LEFT-HANDERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 32, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING A MECHANISM FOR HEALTH PROVIDER'S INCENTIVES FOR THE MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ACTUALLY PROVIDED TO THE POOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Health and Demography; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 33, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE INTERNATIONAL BOXER WELFARE, INSURANCE AND PENSION SYSTEM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

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Senate Bill No. 34, entitled

AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SPORTS AS AN ATTACHED AGENCY OF THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION, PROVIDING THE STRUCTURE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Games, Amusement and Sports; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 35, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF AEROPONICS TECHNOLOGY TO BE APPLIED IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION OF HIGH VALUE-ADDED CROPS AND VEGETABLE FARMING TO ADDRESS FOOD SECURITY CONCERNS OF THE COUNTRY AND JUDICIOUSLY UTILIZE SCARCE FERTILE LAND RESOURCES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 36, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND COASTAL OBSERVATION SYSTEM FOR THE COUNTRY'S SEAS, OCEANS, COASTS AND OTHER HYDROGRAPHICAL FEATURES TO ENHANCE WARNINGS OF TSUNAMI, FLOOD, EL NIÑO PHENOMENA AND IMPROVE THE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 37, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON AMBLYOPIA AND REQUIRING THE MANDATORY INCLUSION OF VISUAL SCREENING TESTS ON AMBLYOPIA IN THE NATIONAL NEWBORN SCREENING COVERAGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9288, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NEWBORN SCREENING ACT OF 2004" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 38, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING FIXED TERMS FOR THE CHAIRMAN, PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CLARK INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CORPORATION (CIAC)

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 39, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL FILM AND SOUND ARCHIVE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 40, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM ON AUTISM AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 41, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 1 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 53, 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

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Senate Bill No. 42, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 150 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committees on Local Government; and Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 43, entitled

AN ACT TO LOWER THE AGE OF EXEMPTION FROM CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY AMENDING SECTIONS 6, 20, 22, 23, 58 AND 64 OF R.A. 9344 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUVENILE JUSTICE AND WELFARE ACT OF 2006" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Youth, Women and Family Relations

Senate Bill No. 44, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AFFORDABLE DRUG REHABILITATION

TREATMENT FOR PHILIPPINE HEALTH INSURANCE CORPORATION (PHIC) BENEFICIARIES, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. 7875, AS AMENDED BY R.A. 9241

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committees on Public Order and Illegal Drugs; and Health and Demography

Senate Bill No. 45, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY DRUG TESTING FOR DRIVERS PREVIOUSLY INVOLVED IN TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 36 OF R.A. 9165 OR THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committees on Public Order and Illegal Drugs; and Public Services

Senate Bill No. 46, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 21 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

To the Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs

Senate Bill No. 47, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL COURT TO BE KNOWN AS THE "DANGEROUS DRUGS COURT" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Sotto III

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

Senate Bill No. 48, entitled

**AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE
SPORTS UNIVERSITY, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Angara

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and
Culture; Games, Amusement and Sports; Ways
and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 49, entitled

**COLLECTIVE INVESTMENT SCHEMES
LAW**

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

Senate Bill No. 50, entitled

**AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT
OF INFORMATION AND COM-
MUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY,
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND
FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

Introduced by Senator Angara

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

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the members of the Independent Bishops Conference of the Philippines headed by Bishop Perez.

The Senate President welcomed the guests to the Senate.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading

of the Journal of Session No. 1 and considered it approved.

**MANIFESTATION
OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)**

Senator Cayetano (P) expressed concern over what she considered an antiquated system of filing bills in the Senate, with senators' staff lining up for weeks, and even for months, just to be able to be first in filing bills and be recognized as their principal authors. She believed that it is a disservice to the real authors who had worked on a bill for three, six or even twelve years. She requested the Committee on Rules to study the system so that bills could be filed in a more humane and eco-friendly manner.

Senator Cayetano (P) said that in the age of computers, it would be ridiculous to manually file bills, and in so many copies at that which is a waste of paper. She suggested that even the documents prepared for senators, many of whom do not read them, could be electronically printed only if they require copies thereof.

Senator Cayetano (P) reiterated the need to change the system of filing bills. If a bill were to be copied by another senator, she hoped that there is a way to recognize its true author even if the latter has retired from the Senate.

**MANIFESTATION
OF SENATOR PANGILINAN**

Concurring with the observation of Senator Cayetano (P), Senator Pangilinan affirmed the need for a better system in terms of hierarchy of the filing of bills by identifying who takes precedence over the others.

DIRECTIVE OF THE CHAIR

The Chair directed Senator Sotto to take note of the remarks and suggestions of Senators Cayetano (P) and Pangilinan.

INQUIRY OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Senator Legarda spoke of an unspoken rule or agreement about bills that had been passed on Third Reading in the past Congress but did not have counterpart measures in the Lower House. She recalled that in the last two Congresses, there was

an unspoken rule that on the succeeding Congress, the authors could propound on the bill and one hearing would be conducted, after which, the committee report could be adopted.

The Chair said that while this might have been done in the previous Congress, the new Members of the Senate, who did not have any participation in the consideration of the bill, have every right to participate and be heard in the deliberations.

REMARKS OF SENATOR PANGILINAN

Senator Pangilinan recalled that the practice referred to by Senator Legarda was adopted by consensus in an all-senators' caucus in the Fourteenth Congress during which he was Majority Leader, because there were occasions when the House of Representatives adjourned without ratifying the bicameral conference committee reports or failed to approve the bills on third and final reading. He explained that the agreement was to conduct one or two hearings, depending on the request of the authors/sponsors, and then consider it as being ready for a committee report to be submitted to plenary.

The Chair reiterated that the succeeding Congress could not be bound by any agreement of previous Congresses. Senator Pangilinan hoped that the present Congress, by consensus, agree to such a procedure. The Chair, however, pointed out that even if the Senate agrees to adopt the procedure, it still has to get the agreement of the House of Representatives because they also have new members who have not participated in the consideration of the bills.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR DRILON

For his part, Senator Drilon said that the *Rules* is clear that bills that were passed on Third Reading or were the subject of Bicameral Conference Committee Reports that were not ratified have the status of an archived bill, which means that they are *non-existent*.

He believed that if the bill were to be refiled in the new Congress, it is the prerogative of the concerned committee what to do with the bill, whether to hear it *in toto* and report it to the plenary. He preferred that the Body simply follow the *Rules* — the bill should be referred to the appropriate committee which would then decide what to do with the measure.

The Chair requested Senator Sotto to take note of the manifestations and let the Committee on Rules study them.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 8, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE
IGLESIA NI CRISTO UNDER THE
LEADERSHIP OF BRO. EDUARDO
MANALO ON THE OCCASION OF
ITS 96TH ANNIVERSARY.

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

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 8

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 8 was adopted by the Body.

PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 49

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered Proposed Senate Resolution No. 49, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE
PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND
SINCERE CONDOLENCE OF THE
SENATE ON THE DEATH OF
FORMER SENATOR MAGNOLIA
WELBORN ANTONINO.

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

ADOPTION OF PROPOSED SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 49

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, Proposed Senate Resolution No. 49 was adopted by the Body.

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COAUTHORS

Upon the request of Senator Sotto, all senators were made coauthors of Proposed Senate Resolution Nos. 8 and 49.

MANIFESTATION OF THE CHAIR

Senate President Enrile said that it was he who requested the session to start at four o'clock instead of three o'clock because of some chores he had to attend to earlier. Since the session started at 3:44 p.m., he asked the indulgence of the Body, in the interest of fairness, not to mark as late the senators who appeared after the roll call but before four o'clock.


Senator Sotto expressed assurance that the Secretariat would adjust the records accordingly.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

It was 4:19 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


EMMA LIRIO REYES
Secretary of the Senate
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Approved on July 28, 2010