



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
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Journal

SESSION NO. 50
Tuesday, January 17, 2017

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

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CALL TO ORDER

At 3:26 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Maria Lourdes “Nancy” S. Binay led the prayer, to wit:

Ama namin, dalangin ko na basbasan at pagpalain Mo kaming mga lingkod bayan sa pagtupad namin ng aming mga tungkulin para sa bayan.

We pray that 2017 would be a better year for us here in the Senate and for our country.

Continue to bless us with peace in our hearts so that we can understand, respect and forgive one another.

Bigyan Mo po kami ng lakas at liwanag ng isip upang makamit ang maginhawang buhay na aming ninanais.

Ganoon din po, Panginoon, itinataas po namin sa Inyo ang aming mga kabab-

bayan sa Visayas at Mindanao na nabaha dahil sa patuloy na pag-ulan kahapon. Dalangin po namin ang mabilis na pagbangon ng aming mga kababayang nasalanta.

This we pray to You, our Lord, our God and Savior.

Amen.

ROLL CALL

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

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

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

Senators Gordon and Pangilinan arrived after the roll call.

Senators Cayetano and Legarda were on official business as indicated in the letters of the former's chief of staff and the latter's chief legal officer, both dated 17 January 2017.

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. 49 (January 16, 2017) and considered it approved.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

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

- Students from the Colegio de San Agustin-Southwoods, Biñan, Laguna, headed by their dean, Dr. Carmen Yupangco;
- Pastors from different congregations from Bataan and Nueva Ecija, headed by Bishop Senados; and
- Mayor Tony Carolino and former Mayor Cindy Carolino of Sta. Maria Bulacan.

Senate President Pimentel welcomed the guests to the Senate.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1291, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 146 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PUBLIC SERVICE ACT, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Public Services; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1292, entitled

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

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Sports; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 1293, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAGNA CARTA OF PUBLIC ENERGY WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committees on Energy; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. No. 1294, entitled

AN ACT REIMPOSING THE DEATH PENALTY AND INCREASING PENALTIES FOR CRIMES INVOLVING DANGEROUS DRUGS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

To the Committees on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

RESOLUTIONS

Senate Joint Resolution No. 6, entitled

JOINT RESOLUTION DECLARING JANUARY 17 OF EVERY YEAR AS

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JAMES LEONARD TAGLE GORDON DAY, A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF OLONGAPO AND THE SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS, CONTRIBUTIONS AND HEROISM OF JAMES LEONARD TAGLE GORDON

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

To the Committee on Local Government

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 259, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION AND MASS MEDIA, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE/S TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE MASSIVE PROLIFERATION OF FALSE, ERRONEOUS, DISTORTED, FABRICATED AND/OR MISLEADING NEWS AND INFORMATION ON SOCIAL MEDIA AS WELL AS ON THE SO CALLED SOCIAL MEDIA TROLLS, IN ORDER TO COME UP WITH REMEDIAL LEGISLATION TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM MANIPULATION THROUGH THE SPREAD OF FALSE, ERRONEOUS, DISTORTED, FABRICATED AND/OR MISLEADING NEWS AND INFORMATION, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF COMING UP WITH A VIABLE SYSTEM TO HOLD THE AUTHORS, DISTRIBUTORS AND/OR PURVEYORS OF THE SAME RESPONSIBLE AND ACCOUNTABLE UNDER THE LAW FOR THE CONTENTS THEY GENERATE AND/OR DISSEMINATE

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 260, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ELECTORAL REFORMS AND PEOPLE'S PARTICI-

PATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE VOTERS DATABASE IN THE CUSTODY OF THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS THAT WAS HACKED BY THE GROUPS ANONYMOUS PHILIPPINES AND LULZSEC PILIPINAS, LEADING THE NATIONAL PRIVACY COMMISSION (NPC) TO DECIDE AGAINST THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS FOR VIOLATION OF THE DATA PRIVACY ACT OF 2012, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF INSTITUTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATIVE MEASURES THAT WILL ENSURE THAT THE GOVERNMENT ACCOMPLISHES ITS CONSTITUTIONAL DUTY OF PRESERVING THE SANCTITY AND INTEGRITY OF THE ENTIRE ELECTORAL PROCESS, BEGINNING WITH THE PROTECTION OF THE VOTERS REGISTRATION PROCEDURE AND ALL DATA APPURTENANT THERETO, AND PROTECTING THE EXERCISE OF SUFFRAGE FROM ALL FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC THREATS

Introduced by Senator Leila M. de Lima

To the Committee on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 261, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT PHILIPPINE RATIFICATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT WILL BE BENEFICIAL FOR THE COUNTRY'S PROGRESS AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND STRENGTHEN ITS CAPACITY TO REDUCE DISASTER RISKS AND ADAPT TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Introduced by Senator Legarda

To the Committee on Rules

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, sub-

mitting to the Senate the *Report on Economic and Financial Developments in the Philippines, Third Quarter 2016*, pursuant to Section 39(a), Chapter I, Article V of the New Central Bank Act (R.A. No. 7653).

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

Letters from the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, transmitting to the Senate copies of the following certified and authenticated BSP issuances in compliance with Section 15(a) of Republic Act No. 7653 (The New Central Bank Act):

Circular Letter Nos. CL-2016-095, 098, 099, 100, 101, 102, 103 and 104 dated 2, 8, 14 and 15 December 2016;

Circular Nos. 932, 933, 934, 935, 936 and 937 dated 16, 23, 27 and 28 December 2016; and

Memorandum Nos. M-2016-020, 021, 022, 023 and 024 dated 8, 15, 20, 21 and 28 December 2016.

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

Senator Zubiri stated that he was rising on a question of personal and collective privilege to react to Senator Trillanes' statement reported in media, accusing him and Senator Gordon of whitewashing the Bureau of Immigration bribery scandal probe.

He said that he took offense at Senator Trillanes' accusation because in his nine years as a member of the House of Representatives and four years as a senator, he has never been accused of whitewashing, stalling or stopping any investigation.

He reminded the Body that what transpired the previous day during the session was a discussion on the *Rules of the Senate*. He stated that as a former Majority Leader for two-and-a-half years, he knows very well that measures calling for the modernization, expansion or reorganization of a particular agency had always been referred to the mother committee which has jurisdiction over the department to which

the agency is attached, so that when he read the title of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 256 and noted that it was intended to look into the possible reorganization of the Bureau of Immigration which is under the Department of Justice, he stood up to make a manifestation. He said that he did not accuse anyone of any plan to commit any wrongdoing, nor questioned whatever the agenda was for filing the resolution. He said that he merely and diplomatically invoked the *Rules* because he places a high value on the existing amity in the Senate as a body.

Senator Zubiri then read to the Body his statement, taken from the stenographic notes during the plenary session the previous day, to wit:

"Mr. President, with due respect to all Members, on Proposed Resolution No. 256 on the possible reorganization of the Bureau of Immigration, would it not be prudent to also refer it to the Committee on Justice and Human Rights because the Department of Justice has jurisdiction on the Bureau of Immigration?"

He recalled that he did not even make a formal motion as he simply just wanted to "throw the question to the Body."

He informed the Body that he did his own research and found out that the following bills with the same subject matter as that of Proposed Senate Resolution No. 256 were referred to the Committee on Justice and Human Rights: 1) Senate Bill No. 85, "The Philippine Immigration Act," authored by Senator Drilon, which seeks to improve and reorganize the Bureau of Immigration; 2) Senate Bill No. 501, authored by Senator Trillanes, which seeks to strengthen, professionalize and modernize the Philippine immigration system; and 3) Senate Bill No. 17, or the "Immigration Act of the Philippines," authored by Senator Drilon, which proposes to reorganize the Bureau. He said that the referral of the three bills to the Committee on Justice strengthens his position to refer the proposed resolution to the Committee on Rules instead of the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation.

Senator Zubiri stated that he was not casting any aspersions on whatever plans the proponents have regarding the resolution and neither does he care if the Committee wanted to conduct an investigation. All he wanted, he said, was a discussion of the *Rules*.

He reiterated that he took offense at the accusation and he asked the Body what should be done, whether the Ethics Committee takes it up, or Senator Trillanes issues an apology to him.

Senator Zubiri stressed that he is independent and that he is not even a member of PDP-Laban, and he acknowledged that the Members differ in opinion on many topics of national relevance. For instance, he said that he is against issues like increasing taxes and death penalty, but he is in favor of a change in the Constitution not through Constituent Assembly, but through Constitutional Convention.

He then asked if the accusation of whitewashing was also directed at the 14 senators who voted to refer the resolution to the Committee on Rules. He believed that Senators Pacquiao, Poe or Lacson would not dare whitewash any investigation and that it would also be unfair to them to be accused of doing so.

Senator Zubiri reiterated that there was no plan to whitewash the probe and that he never spoke to Senator Gordon about the issue before he took the floor. He explained that he was merely alarmed when he saw the resolution in the Reference of Business and he felt that he had to raise the issue which was voted upon and decided by the Body. He said that the Body did not even decide to refer it to the Blue Ribbon Committee but brought it to the Committee on Rules for proper action especially because of the confusion brought about by its content.

Fearing that more hurtful phrases or statements were going to be made, he recalled that he immediately moved to refer the resolution to the Committee on Rules, but he expressed disappointment that Senator Trillanes went out to talk to the media. He hoped that Senator Trillanes was just being misquoted by the media and that he should be given the opportunity to correct the statements that were coming out.

To prove that he was not privy to any whitewash, Senator Zubiri moved that the Blue Ribbon Committee investigate the alleged bribery scandal and gave his commitment to actively participate in the hearings. He said that he would respect whatever decision the Committee on Rules would have on the matter. He stressed that he would never be a part of any whitewash.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR TRILLANES

Responding to Senator Zubiri's statements, Senator Trillanes stated that there is a law in physics that "if there is an action, there is a counter reaction," and so his reaction was expected because Senators Zubiri and Gordon blocked the referral of the proposed resolution to reorganize the Bureau of Immigration to the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation of which he is the chair. He said that he was glad that Senator Zubiri felt something and took offense at his statements which came out in the media because it was really meant to be offensive. He pointed out that what he articulated in the media was his position, that it was his right to say so, and that no senator should be barred from speaking his mind in front of the media.

But Senator Zubiri maintained that accusing him of whitewashing was not right. He wondered what would happen to Senate Bill No. 501, authored by Senator Trillanes, seeking to reorganize the Bureau of Immigration and which was referred to the Committee on Justice and Human Rights. He believed that the filing of the other resolution was a form of forum-shopping for which the chairperson of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights might take offense. He said that in his nine years as member of the House of Representatives and another four years as senator, he has never heard of the committee chaired by Senator Trillanes investigating corruption or issues as problematic as those involving the Bureau of Customs, Bureau of Immigration, the BIR, the Department of Agriculture, and the PDAF.

Senator Zubiri denied any plan to whitewash, saying that he was not about to whitewash anything as he reminded everyone that in the previous hearings of the Committee on Justice and Human Rights, he never stopped Senator Trillanes or countered any of his statements, and that when sought for his reactions to the statements of his fellow senators, he always told the media that every senator has the right to say anything about any particular issue. He maintained that he never accused any senator of grandstanding, and that he has always asked the Members to respect each other's position. As a former Majority Leader, he said that debates regarding the referral of certain measures should be settled by the Committee on Rules. He said that Senator Trillanes could have



accused him of whitewash if he raised a motion to refer the measure to a particular committee, which he did not and that instead he withdrew his motion and it was the Majority Leader, Senator Sotto, who made the motion.

At this juncture, Senate President Pimentel reminded Senators Trillanes and Zubiri of Section 93 of Rule XXXIV of the Rules of the Senate which states that "Acts and language which offended a Senator or any public institution shall be deemed unparliamentary."

Senator Trillanes, for his part, explained that as regards the investigations against former Vice President Binay, he said that any hint or insinuation that it was propaganda or just an attack against the Vice President should also be addressed to the Senate President, who was then the chairperson of the subcommittee which conducted the investigation. To the claim that he accused President Duterte of having P200 million in bank account during the campaign, he said that the amount actually involved P2 billion in deposits under the President's name, and that it was part of the attached documents of the plunder case he filed against the President with the Office of the Ombudsman.

MOTION OF SENATOR ZUBIRI

At this juncture, Senator Zubiri moved to strike off the record certain words and phrases that he deemed unparliamentary.

Asked by the Senate President how to proceed with the motion of Senator Zubiri, Senator Sotto seconded the motion, noting that what transpired definitely violated Sections 93 and 94 of the Rules of the Senate on the use of offensive language. He stressed that the Members should not be allowed to use offensive language and he noted that Senator Trillanes has admitted that he really meant to offend a fellow member.

Senator Trillanes pointed out, however, that the statements being referred to were made outside the halls of the Senate. He said that if Senator Zubiri felt that it was offensive, then he had accomplished his objective because it was meant to be offensive. As regards the motion of Senator Zubiri to strike off the record certain phrases, he suggested that the transcripts be reviewed because Senator Zubiri also used similar offensive words in reference to him.

Senator Zubiri denied using any offensive words, adding that he neither accused Senator Trillanes.

Senate President Pimentel noted that Senator Trillanes also wanted to review first the transcript before he can make his motion on what to strike off the record.

Asked by Senate President Pimentel whether Senator Trillanes could also be given time to make the proper motion, Senator Sotto answered in the affirmative, as he asked the Body to look into the interpretations of both Sections 93 and 94 of the Rules of the Senate. He explained that Section 93 provides that "Acts and language which offended a Senator or any public institution shall be deemed unparliamentary." To the observation that the so-called offensive language was said in the media and not in the Senate, he pointed out that as provided for in Section 94, "No Senator, under any circumstances, shall use offensive or improper language against another Senator or any other public institution."

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

With the permission of the Body, the Chair suspended the session.

It was 4:00 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

MOTION OF SENATOR SOTTO TO STRIKE OFF THE RECORD

Upon resumption, Senator Sotto moved to strike off the record all the unpleasant exchanges between Senators Zubiri and Trillanes, except the part where Senator Zubiri manifested that he has nothing to do with any whitewash.

Agreeing with Senator Sotto's motion, Senator Zubiri informed the Body that during the suspension of session and while the Members were at the Senators' lounge, it was agreed upon that he was not privy to any whitewash and that a Senate investigation would be conducted to probe the bribery scandal in the Bureau of Immigration. He said that he was leaving it to Senate President Pimentel and Senator Sotto to determine which phrases or words are deemed unparliamentary and therefore should be stricken off the record.

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Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, Senator Sotto's motion to strike off certain remarks deemed unparliamentary was approved.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1269

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1269 (Committee Report No. 15), entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE AND PRACTICE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Senator Sotto stated that the parliamentary status was the period of interpellations.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Trillanes, sponsor of the measure.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

There being no interpellation, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations and proceeded to the period of individual amendments, the proposed measure being a substitute bill.

TRILLANES AMENDMENTS

As proposed by Senator Trillanes, there being no objection, the Body approved the following amendments:

1. On page 1, line 4, replace "2016" with 2017; and
2. On page 2, delete Section 3(d) on lines 15 and 16.

DE LIMA AMENDMENT

On page 5, line 7, as proposed by Senator De Lima, there being no objection, the Body approved to insert before the words "*subpoena duces tecum*," the phrase *SUBPOENA AD TESTIFICANDUM AND*, to explicitly reflect that the subpoena to be issued by the Professional Regulatory Board of Food Technology is a form of administrative subpoena.

She explained that *subpoena ad testificandum* was added to completely reflect the intent which is to secure the appearance of witnesses and to produce the documents concerning the investigation of violations involving the practice of food technology.

MOTION OF SENATOR TRILLANES

Upon motion of Senator Trillanes, there being no objection, the Secretariat was directed to go over the bill and subject to style.

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

There being no other individual amendment, upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of individual amendments.

APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 1269 ON SECOND READING

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, Senate Bill No. 1269 was approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1269

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 10 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1239

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1239 (Committee Report No. 10), entitled

**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 35B(4)
OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975,
OTHERWISE KNOWN "AS AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE
NATIONAL POLICE UNDER A
REORGANIZED DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES."**

Senator Sotto stated that the parliamentary status was the period of interpellations.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Lacson, sponsor of the measure, and Senator De Lima for her interpellation.

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INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR DE LIMA

Senator De Lima asked Senator Lacson if he was clear in his understanding that under Republic Act No. 6975 (DILG Act of 1990) and Republic Act No. 8551 (Philippine National Police Reform and Reorganization Act of 1998) none of the officers or units in the PNP, not even the PNP Chief himself, is vested with subpoena powers. Senator Lacson replied in the affirmative, saying that precisely the reason Section 35(b) subparagraph 4 of Republic Act No. 6975 was being amended is to reinstate the subpoena power of the director and deputy chief of CIDG, previously called CIU under Republic Act No. 5750.

Asked if he subscribes to the position that the PNP Chief has the power to issue a subpoena which he cannot simply delegate without an express grant through a statute, Senator Lacson said that under Republic Act No. 6975 and Republic Act No. 8551 amending Republic Act No. 6975, the Chief PNP has no power to issue a subpoena or subpoena *duces tecum*.

Asked if he was aware that Presidential Decree No. 765 issued in 1975 and Republic Act No. 5750 granted subpoena powers to the chief and deputy chief of the CIS, Senator Lacson supposed that Senator De Lima was referring to the PC/INP which was dissolved by the passage of Republic Act No. 6975. He said that by virtue of the said law, the members of the Philippine Constabulary were absorbed into the PNP.

Asked if the absorption of the old organization, the Philippine Constabulary, into the PNP did not necessarily mean that the power then vested in the PC/PNP Chief under PD 765 was absorbed by the PNP Chief under RA 6975, Senator Lacson believed that at the time the law creating the PNP was enacted, Congress and Malacañang might have overlooked the fact that the commander and deputy commander of the CIS were already enjoying subpoena powers.

Asked if in the passage of Republic Act No. 6975, the subpoena power of the PNP chief was likewise overlooked, Senator Lacson replied in the affirmative, as he recalled Senator Drilon as saying during his interpellation that the PNP Chief should be given subpoena powers as it is awkward that some subalterns in the organization have subpoena powers while he has none. He agreed to consider an amendment granting the PNP Chief the power to issue subpoena.

As regards the functions of the CIDG that necessitate the grant of subpoena powers, Senator Lacson replied that under the PNP Law, the CIDG, being the principal investigating unit of the PNP, is mandated to investigate criminal cases brought to its attention. He agreed with Senator De Lima that the subpoena power under Republic Act No. 6975 is only confined to criminal cases falling under CIDG's investigatory jurisdiction.

Senator De Lima asked Senator Lacson whether he would agree to the proposition that not all kinds of criminal cases fall under the investigative jurisdiction of CIDG considering that RA 6975 limits the CIDG's investigative jurisdiction to "the monitoring, investigation and prosecution of all crimes involving economic sabotage and other crimes of such magnitude and extent as to indicate their commission by highly-placed or professional criminal syndicates or organizations." Senator Lacson agreed, adding that the unit shall likewise investigate all major cases, including violations of the Revised Penal Code, and operate against organized crime groups, unless the President assigns the case exclusively to the National Bureau of Investigation.

Relative thereto, Senator De Lima said that the passage of the NBI Modernization Law has given rise to questions about which investigative body would have primary jurisdiction over certain cases considering that once an agency assumes primary jurisdiction over any of the cases enumerated in the law, other investigative agencies are automatically placed in a supporting role. Senator Lacson agreed that the question was clearly settled in the passage of the NBI Modernization Law.

As regards the concern over the possible grant of a general type of subpoena which is broad in character compared to administrative subpoenas, Senator Lacson clarified that the bill only grants the director and deputy director of the CIDG the power to issue administrative subpoenas.

Asked what he meant by "administrative subpoena," Senator Lacson explained that the director and deputy director have no power to cite in contempt persons who will not adhere to or comply with the subpoena that they issued; all they have to do is to file with the Regional Trial Court (RTC) a motion to cite in contempt persons who violated their issuances.

On whether there is a contemplated consequence or penalty for non-compliance with the subpoena,

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Senator Lacson reiterated that the CIDG or PNP Director has no direct power or authority to hold a person in contempt and that doing so would have to be done through the judicial process. He explained that the authority to be vested in the CIDG director is similar to that granted to various government agencies and instrumentalities such as the Ombudsman, the Department of Justice, the National Bureau of Investigation, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, National Police Commission, Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Cybercrime Operation Center of the Cybercrime Investigation Coordination Center.

Senator De Lima pointed out that at times, a subpoena can potentially be broader in reach than a search warrant. She explained that a subpoena covers broad categories of documents or other property and is effective to reach any such items in the custody or control of the subpoenaed party no matter where the subpoenaed items are located, while a search warrant has the requirement of specificity such that it can only be applied in the premises described in the warrant itself.

On whether there are specific safeguards contemplated in the bill that would limit opportunities for abuse, Senator Lacson said that these restrictions to the grant of subpoena power may be found under GR No. L-29274, an old Supreme Court ruling or jurisprudence on the case *Presidential Agency on Reforms and Government Operations (PARGO) vs. Hilarion Jarencio* wherein the Supreme Court cited Sections 71 and 580 of the Revised Administrative Procedure of 1917 which has its progeny in Section 37 of Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code), to wit:

Powers Incidental to Taking of Testimony –
When authority to take testimony or receive evidence is conferred upon any administrative officer or any non-judicial person, committee or other body, such authority shall include the power to administer oaths, summon witnesses and require the production of documents by a subpoena *duces tecum*.

He noted that in that same ruling, the Supreme Court said that it was mindful that the privilege against self-incrimination extends in administrative investigations generally in scope similar to adversary proceedings. Thus, he said that there are limitations to the grant of the subpoena power to administrative agencies like the CIDG.

Senator De Lima sought clarification on whether the proposed subpoena powers that would be issued by another officer would also be covered by the limitations set forth in the Rules of Court, particularly on the requirement of *prima facie* evidence. In reply, Senator Lacson quoted from the ruling in *PARGO vs. Jarencio* which states that:

“In sum, it may be stated that a subpoena meets the requirements for enforcement if the inquiry is (1) within the authority of the agency; (2) the demand is not too indefinite; and (3) the information is reasonably relevant.”

As regards the view that law enforcers should also protect the rights of private citizens by not being overzealous in the performance of their duty as this could be the source of certain evils in terms of possible abuse in the execution of the law, Senator Lacson gave assurance that the bill provides for clear definition of such limitations.

Asked which part of the bill can be relied upon in determining if there are safeguards or limitations, Senator Lacson explained that even though such safeguards are not stated in the measure, existing jurisprudence would still be followed. However, he indicated that while it was not necessary to inject specific phrases into the bill to make clear that the subpoena powers are subject to existing legal standards, he would be receptive to whatever amendments Senator De Lima would want to introduce in this regard at the proper time.

Senator De Lima surmised that no specific provisions on limitations or standards have been included in previous enactments and grant of subpoena powers to other investigative bodies like the PDEA, NAPOLCOM and the NBI because of the understanding that such safeguards ought to conform to existing legal standards. Nevertheless, she believed that it would be best if such limitations are clearly stated in future laws, and that this would be the best time to do so, adding that standards like *prima facie* relevance are normally not appreciated by non-lawyers.

Senator De Lima noted that one of the reservations engendered in the minds of some parties is the wisdom of granting subpoena powers to the CIDG even though it is being limited only to the level of the PNP chief, director and deputy director of the CIDG, and she lauded Senator Lacson for not proposing to grant the same powers to lower ranked officials like the regional directors, unlike the NBI

which has been granted subpoena powers under the law because all regional directors, deputy directors and directors of the bureau are required to be lawyers. Senator Lacson acknowledged that not all regional directors or directors of the CIDG and even the PNP chief himself are lawyers although the CIDG director and deputy director should preferably be lawyers.

That being the case, Senator De Lima believed that it makes it even more important for the bill to be clear in the specific standards that ought to be followed in the grant of subpoena powers to these set of officers. Senator Lacson agreed, recalling that when Senator Drilon asked him whether he was amenable to giving the same powers to regional directors, he replied in the negative.

Asked if there is a system in place for the proper storage or destruction of documents collected through this subpoena power, Senator Lacson replied that the documents should be deposited to the legal custodian which is the court. In addition, he pointed out that there are physical custodians assigned by the court to store whatever documents and other pieces of evidence may be needed if and when the case reaches the courts. However, in the event that such cases do not reach the court, he believed that the subject of the subpoena should demand the return of the pieces of evidence confiscated or submitted to the issuing authority.

On whether there is a specific law that provides for this particular remedy, Senator Lacson replied in the negative, saying that as a matter of course, the CIDG director or the unit itself would not have any use for these documents if they are no longer needed for any prosecution or litigation.

But Senator De Lima pointed out that the CIDG or any investigative body would not, as a matter of course, initiate returning the documents which have been secured or acquired through the issuance of subpoena and which are no longer needed for the purposes of court cases. Senator Lacson said that while this was not explicitly stated, the investigating agency should return those documents as these are useless to the subpoena-issuing authority. However, he indicated that he is open to including it in the bill as discussed.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO

Senator Sotto stated that Senator Recto would interpellate on the bill on Monday.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR GORDON

Senator Gordon expressed his concern regarding the capacity and capability of the concerned CIDG officers and the PNP Director General to effectively utilize the provisions of the bill. He said that crime should be immediately addressed and, if not, only then would subpoenas be necessary. He recalled his dialogue with some PNP officers who said that they needed 72,000 investigators. If the aim is to give such investigative power to the police, he said that there must be an assurance that they would be provided with the wherewithal, such as lawyers, to investigate.

Senator Lacson replied that the PNP has a legal division from which the investigators can consult should they be granted the power. He lamented, however, that there are only four lawyers in the entire CIDG who undergo regular specialized trainings in investigation.

Senator Gordon surmised that conducting investigations must be the most stressful task in the PNP and, therefore, they should be supported by providing more qualified investigators who are lawyers. He reiterated that the best time to catch crooks would be immediately after the crime was committed, and that they would only resort to subpoenas when there are no leads, therefore making it very essential to have lawyers to give advice and questions. He said that while it is not possible to have 72,000 investigators immediately, getting 10,000 or even 5,000 would make a big difference. He hoped that the Body could work together to create the budget requirement, and that the CIDG and PNP could provide the necessary information so that they could effectively perform their function in a legal manner.

Senator Lacson agreed, saying that he would look forward to the partnership in order to help raise the standards of PNP as far as investigations are concerned.

Senator Gordon explained the reason why he has always been very active when it comes to police work. He said that his father was assassinated 50 years ago and the masterminds have not been caught. He remembered his frustration after being tossed from one agency to another. He then expressed his support to giving premium to peace and order.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1239

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no

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objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

With the permission of the Body, the session was suspended.

It was 5:45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:46 p.m., the session was resumed.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 20 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1278 *(Continuation)*

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 1278 (Committee Report No. 20), entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING JOB PLACEMENT OFFICES IN PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS TO PROVIDE CAREER SERVICES TO THE YOUTH.

Senator Sotto stated that the parliamentary status was the period of interpellations.

The Chair recognized Senator Aquino, sponsor of the measure, and Senator Villanueva for his interpellation

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR VILLANUEVA

At the outset, Senator Villanueva commended the chairman of the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture for prioritizing the measure, given the recent youth unemployment rate data of 14.6%.

Citing Section 9 of Republic Act No. 10533, or the Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013, Senator Villanueva asked on the status of the implementation of the career guidance and counseling advocacy activities. Senator Aquino replied that the DepEd is merely doing career counseling through guidance counselors. He added that there are not enough guidance counselors who have a very specific job, and that the DepEd is having a hard time fulfilling the requirements to fill up the positions. At this point,

he said that the most that the DepEd could do is to provide tests to help students with their possible career path.

Senator Aquino explained that career counseling is only one of the functions envisioned in the bill and that the intent really is to take it to an even deeper level by focusing on academic-industry linkage, career counseling and assigning somebody to run those functions in schools.

Senator Villanueva agreed on the importance of area- and region-specific industry linkages so that the DepEd would have an idea of what is happening in the industry. Senator Aquino agreed, stating that at present, the most that DepEd receives as industry information is when they determine the tracks in the senior high school level, a process that is not fool-proof as tracking does not always match with the industries in the area. By having a *Trabaho* Center run by an advocate, he said that schools would become more responsible in ensuring that the industries in the area, the tracking done in the senior high school system, and the linkages that need to be created after they graduate would be a continuous process, alongside the tools that most universities use to determine career path and aptitude, hence having the in-school work done, working with the industries, supporting the curriculum and tracking and making sure that it is a year-long process.

Asked if assessment is only done in senior high school, Senator Aquino said that in the original version, it was meant only for Grades 11 and 12 but that during the hearings, a number of SUCs wanted to be ensured that they would have placement offices too.

To Senator Villanueva's proposition that it is also important to encourage technical-vocational institutions because it is an important component in generating jobs, Senator Aquino acknowledged that during Senator Villanueva's time as director-general of TESDA, he instituted industry linkages in technical-vocational schools. He mentioned that during the committee hearings, the representative from TESDA said that it is already mandatory in all private technical-vocational institutions and TESDA institutions to link up with PESO; to look at the labor market information system; to match the course, the range of courses provided, the base requirements; and to also provide entrepreneurial assistance. He said that he would like to expand that advocacy through the measure and that he would include it in the amendments.

Senator Villanueva said that at the proper time, he would introduce some amendments to institutionalize the initiative he started in TESDA. He also noted the importance of having regular consultation and regular industry forums. He recalled that employment rate was 28% of the total graduates six years ago, but the figure went up to 70% after TESDA started regular industry consultations. He said that he would encourage Senator Aquino to welcome any amendments or suggestions that would further enhance the proposed measure.

Asked by Senator Villanueva how the existing employment facilitation programs of the government, such as the JobStart, would complement the proposed measure, Senator Aquino said that the DepEd would be on top of the proposed *Trabaho* Centers but it is directed to coordinate with DOLE which has its labor market information system and the JobStart program. However, he noted that the JobStart is found in only 14 provinces, and he hoped that as the program grows, it would be instituted in more areas. He said that there are a number of government agencies that look at employment, including the DTI. He said that the *Trabaho* Center career advocate could work with the different agencies as they work with the different members of the private sector to implement the ideals and goals of the proposed measure.

To Senator Villanueva's suggestion that the TESDA be included in the particular agencies that would promote the *Trabaho* Centers as provided under Section 9 (*Information Dissemination*) of the bill, Senator Aquino said that Technical Vocational Institutions or TVIs are covered under Section 8 of the bill. However, he assured Senator Villanueva that he would include the TESDA in Section 9 during the period of amendments.

Senator Villanueva explained that he made the suggestion because under the Duterte Administration, the TESDA was no longer be considered as an attached agency of the DOLE but under of the Office of the President.

Senator Villanueva further noted that the bill proposes to establish *Trabaho* Centers in all public high schools. Asked whether the *Trabaho* Centers were intended only for the public senior high schools or whether the bill also intends to include other basic education institutions, Senator Aquino said that the original intent was the establishment of the *Trabaho*

Centers only in the public senior high schools under the auspices of the DepEd. However, he said that he was open to discuss the matter of the inclusion of private schools.

Senator Villanueva said that it was important to determine the number of *Trabaho* Centers that are sought to be established under the proposed measure in order to create a mechanism to encourage the private sector to also establish them in private schools.

Senator Aquino agreed that the private schools should be encouraged to establish the *Trabaho* Centers while the public senior high schools would be mandated to establish these centers.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, the session was suspended.

It was 5:59 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

Replying to Senator Villanueva's query on the number of public senior high schools in the country, Senator Aquino said that there are 5,965 public senior high schools. He said that as regards the initial target, he would have to leave it up to DepEd to determine the number of *Trabaho* Centers to be established, in consultation with the DBM.

Senator Villanueva suggested that a reasonable number perhaps on the first year of implementation would be half of 5,965. Senator Aquino said that it would be difficult to set the targets at this point without looking at or determining a budget.

Asked by Senator Villanueva whether a different testing and evaluation instrument per *Trabaho* Center was being proposed pursuant to Section 5 (e) of the bill which provides that one of the specific tasks of the *Trabaho* Center Career Advocates is to develop testing and evaluation instruments for job selection, training and coaching, Senator Aquino replied in the negative. He said that the idea was to use the existing evaluation instrument currently being used.

Senator Villanueva hoped that the current mechanisms would be used to ensure that there

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would be, at least, minimum quality standards of the testing and evaluation instruments.

Senator Aquino said that during the period of amendments, he would propose to delete the word “develop” and replace it with “administer,” to ensure that the *Trabaho* Center career advocates use the evaluation tools that are currently being used and approved by DepEd.

Senator Villanueva said that during the period of amendments, he would propose the establishment of a council that would formulate a national standard testing and evaluation instrument allowing for a region-specific alteration system, given a set of guidelines to be determined by the council. He said that the RDCs and the different industry associations could be tapped to join the proposed council.

Finally, looking at 5,965 *trabaho* centers, Senator Villanueva asked on the number of career advocates needed to implement the program. Senator Aquino replied that ideally, there should be one career advocate per senior high school.

Senator Aquino said that the rules on guidance counselors on the K to 12 Act have been relaxed because of DepEd’s suggestion after noting that the requirements for career guidance counselors have been restrictive which resulted in a lot of schools left without any individual filling the career counseling function. He said that he would leave it up to DepEd to determine the requirements and qualifications for the potential 5,965 career advocates.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

It was 6:04 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:07 p.m., the session was resumed.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR ANGARA

Asked by Senator Angara whether the proposed measure intends to amend or repeal R.A. No. 8759, the PESO law passed in 1999 which was amended by R.A. No. 10691 in the 16th Congress, Senator Aquino replied in the negative. He said that the

proposed measure, in fact, made reference to the PESO in a number of its provisions, specifically citing the provision requiring the *Trabaho* Center career advocates to coordinate with the local PESO of the DOLE for their work and on the labor market information. He said that the PESO would serve to enhance the work of the *Trabaho* Center career advocates who are based in the schools.

Asked by Senator Angara whether each public senior high school was to have one *Trabaho* Center career advocate, Senator Aquino replied in the affirmative. He said that this would be around 5,965 personnel.

On further queries whether this would mean that the government would have to hire 5,965 employees, Senator Aquino said that some personnel could probably “double up”, although there are concerns that they may become less effective in the performance of their functions. He said that it would be better if new personnel would be hired.

Senator Aquino also said that there are actually guidance counselors in some schools who are already performing the duties and responsibilities of career advocates, and they could be converted into *Trabaho* Center career advocates since they are already fulfilling the functions of career counseling. He said that the academic industry linkage as well as the placement functions of the individuals could just be added on top of their other duties and responsibilities. He said that he would inquire from the DepEd the number of guidance counselors and career advocates that are currently employed in the public senior high school system.

Senator Angara noted that the proposed measure makes reference to R.A. No. 9258 or the Guidance Counseling Act of 2004. He asked whether there was an existing mechanism in place that could just be transformed to make the job of government easier on this matter.

Senator Aquino said that he earlier mentioned the difficulty on the part of DepEd to fill up the positions even if there are already plantilla positions and corresponding budget because of the strict qualification standards necessary to fill up the positions of guidance counselors. He said that if there are guidance counselors currently performing the job of *Trabaho* Center career advocates as envisioned in the bill, this could just be one individual; there would be a need to hire new personnel.

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Senator Angara asked whether the career advocates are supposed to be as qualified as guidance counselors who are professionals regulated by the PRC or whether the career advocates are just individuals or people with specialized training on career matters, among other things.

Senator Aquino explained that guidance counselors provide more services than just career counseling; they provide services on the mental health and mental well-being of the students, as well as work on relationships between the parents and the children. He said that these are functions that a career counselor could not fulfill because one has to have some level of training to perform them. He said that specifically, career counselors also perform academic industry linkage and job placement which do not fall under the ambit of the requirements of being a guidance counselor. He hoped that with some training from the DepEd, schools would be able to have functioning and competent career counselors.

As to what particular training is envisioned for these career advocates, Senator Aquino explained that there are now schools which already have job placement offices which provide academic-industry linkages. He said that the Philippine Business for Education Group (PBEG), for instance, has programs available to support the academic-industry linkage. He said that once this is implemented by DepEd, more training programs for career advocates could be put up.

Senator Angara noted that the bill provides that a *Trabaho* Center coordinator be placed in each DepEd Division Office. He then asked how many division offices are there throughout the country. Senator Aquino said that he would provide the data later in the proceedings.

Asked whether there is still a teacher shortage in the country's schools, Senator Aquino stated that on a ratio level, there are no teacher shortages but on a per school level, some schools have less teachers. He explained that taking the total number of teachers and dividing it by the total number of schools is actually very close to the ratio that is acceptable. He said that some schools in far-flung areas lack teachers because some teachers do not want to be assigned there, thus it cannot be completely said that there are no teacher shortages, not because of lack of money for funding but because of problems in implementation.

Asked if the government has been hiring teachers partly because of the transition to the K to 12 program, Senator Aquino replied in the affirmative, as he explained that since two more years were added to basic education, two more years of soft infrastructure, such as the teachers, division superintendents and principals, as well as physical infrastructure, were also added to the education system of the country.

Senator Angara asked how Senator Aquino would prioritize the 5,900 senior high school all over the country given that it would not be possible to hire teachers all at once. Senator Aquino replied that it would be the DepEd as the implementing agency that would prioritize the hiring through its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). He said, however, that if Senator Angara has suggestions on prioritization, he would be happy to take it into consideration if it would mean prioritizing based on need, based on poorest provinces, or based on provinces with the highest employment potential. He reiterated that his Committee just trusted the DepEd to come up with the process for prioritization in the hiring of teachers.

Noting that the *Trabaho* centers would be mandatory in all public senior high schools, Senator Angara asked if it is also applicable to private schools. Senator Aquino replied that the intention of the measure was just to provide for the country's public schools. He said that he would consider Senator Angara's amendment to the bill if the latter wishes to propose any to the bill. He pointed out that the government has more authority and control what it chooses to prioritize based on its budget, the reason why the Committee decided to put it as a requirement in public schools. He said that while the government has mandated the public schools to put up *Trabaho* centers, Senator Villanueva has suggested that the private sector could be encouraged to do the same.

Asked if there is no legal impediment in requiring private schools to put up *Trabaho* centers, Senator Aquino replied in the negative. He pointed out that it would even help the private schools in their goals in implementing the K to 12 program. However, he said that his concern was more on the infrastructures and spending which are very important for the program to succeed. He pointed out that if the graduates are still unemployed at the end of the whole process, then the K to 12 program would be put to question. He added that graduating from Grade 12 does not ensure the student a job, so it needs extra steps, such

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as providing for the industry linkages, the curriculum and the tracks.

Senator Aquino stressed that Senate Bill No. 1278 is important to the success of the K to 12 program, otherwise, the government might come up with a system that would not be able to employ the graduates. He said that the Committee wanted to make sure that in the K to 12 program, the 60% of the student population, especially those on the tech-voc track, those who would not be able to go to college, would have a better chance of finding employment.

Adverting to Section 8 of the bill, Senator Angara asked why the HEIs and Tech-Voc Institutions (TVIs) are encouraged to establish *Trabaho* centers, and why it is mandatory for the public high schools and not the HEIs to have *Trabaho* centers. Senator Aquino explained that the original scope of the bill was for the senior high schools, but he expressed willingness to amend the measure should Senator Angara wish to include the SUCs and TVIs.

Senator Angara recalled that during the debates on the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Law, he learned that some school-based PESOs tended to be very proprietary or protective of their information and they are very wary of sharing their information with other PESOs, non-graduates or non-students of their schools. That was why, he said, when RA 10691 was crafted, he made sure that all PESOs would be under the ambit of the government because the purpose really is to share all information and all the job-seekers should be beneficiaries of such information.

Senator Aquino informed the Body that there are about 300 divisions of *Trabaho* Centers all over the country. Senator Angara stated that 300 new *Trabaho* Center coordinators would therefore be needed. Senator Aquino replied in the affirmative.

Noting that there would be 300 new *Trabaho* Center coordinators and 5,965 *Trabaho* Center advocates, Senator Angara asked if there was an implicit bias in favor of seeking work for high school graduates since the message might be that getting a job is better than going on to college. He cautioned the Body to be careful about putting such message across. He stressed that the career advocates should not also give such message when they are advising the students because by the name itself, “*Trabaho* Center,” it would seem that the ultimate goal of high school education is merely to find a job.

Agreeing with Senator Angara, Senator Aquino said that based on the statistics that led to the K to 12 program, 60% of high school graduates do not go to college because at some point, they want to look for work already. He added that of the four that go to college, three will not finish it, thus, nine out of ten students would have to find a job at some point without finishing college.

He said that reducing the drop-out rate is what the Committee is working at with the Free Tuition Act so that more would be able to finish college. He said that part of the process of the K to 12 program would be that high school students who could graduate within the next two years would have enough means to find a job, and that the intent is to empower them with an NCI certification to help them find jobs in the job market.

Stating that it is not easy to find a job, Senator Aquino said that the tracking offered to students needs to be relevant to the jobs available while the equipment used should be at par with the type of equipment provided also by the industries in the area of work.

Senator Aquino hoped that six out of ten students who have to get jobs through the *Trabaho* centers can also be supported through the advice and mechanisms in the centers which can help them find the right career path in order to go to the right college or university or maybe avail of the free tuition in the SUCs and then find employment after four years of college. He noted that the four that go to college would be the *Trabaho* Center advocates, one of whose functions is counselling.

Senator Angara asked how many of the six of 10 students who have to find work and could no longer get higher education have to do it because of force of circumstance. Senator Aquino opined that it would be all of the six students.

Senator Angara expressed hope that a situation will not happen where a high school graduate who opts for a higher education is ill-advised by a career placement officer to work and forego higher education. At such an early stage, he said that the people should be advised not to be discouraged from educating themselves if they have the opportunity.

Senator Aquino agreed, saying that it is something that the Body can look at as regards the K to 12



system. He pointed out that students are asked to choose their track at Grade 10, meaning, they and their families have to decide which of the academic track or the Tech-Voc track they would choose. He said that the decision of the students and their families actually happens much earlier so that there is a need to give them time to consider things, if they can already afford college or take a higher education.

Asked if the measure seeks to institutionalize the National Career Assessment Examination (NCAE), Senator Aquino replied in the affirmative.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Aquino, the session was suspended.

It was 6:27 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:29 p.m., the session was resumed.

Asked how many years the NCAE has been administered, Senator Aquino replied that the examination is currently implemented but that there are times when the DepEd decided not to do it. He explained that during calamities, the DepEd would not conduct the examination, thus making it non-mandatory in nature. He then hoped to implement the NCAE on a more regular basis. He said that Senator Angara would be provided with the data on what year the particular version of the test has been administered.

Senator Angara asked on the purpose of the examination and why the government is instituting it considering that the State would incur expenses for

the conduct of such types of examinations. He added that if the purpose is to guide the country's youth and provide them with more options for the future, then the money is well spent.

Senator Aquino recalled that in one of the committee hearings, a resource person commented that the results of the test are a little broad, hence the need to improve or evolve them further.

Senator Angara suggested discussing the matter further during the period of amendments to the bill.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1278

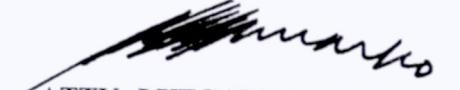
Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

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 6:32 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


ATTY. LUTGARDO B. BARBO
Secretary of the Senate
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Approved on January 23, 2017