



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 66

Monday, May 5, 2014

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

SESSION NO. 66
Monday, May 5, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:10 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Ralph G. Recto led the prayer, to wit:

Let us bow our heads in the presence of the Lord.

Dear God, we thank You for gathering us once again in this august Chamber to seek and do Your will.

We are grateful that we remain in fellowship with You as one family, as an institution, and as a nation.

Almighty Lord, please hear our prayers from the deepest concerns of our hearts.

Only You have infinite knowledge of our hopes, struggles, and pains.

Only You welcome us with open arms when we seek You especially when we are weak, troubled and humbled.

Make us embrace truth so that we can stand strong, unperturbed, and unashamed.

As Your light shine on us, please show us mercy and accept our offering and sacrifice.

Help us become effective leaders who are unrelenting in the pursuit of a better life for our people.

We employ Your help in keeping us focused on our commitment to the welfare of our people in the midst of challenges and destructions.

Dear Father, You are our savior and our refuge. We trust in You.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Senate Choir led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song, entitled "*Isang Dugo, Isang Lahi at Musika.*"

ROLL CALL

Upon direction of the Chair, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Oscar G. Yabes, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Honasan, G. B.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Lapid, M. L. M.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Legarda, L.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Osmeña III, S. R.
Cayetano, P. S.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Drilon, F. M.	Poe, G.
Ejercito, J. V. G.	Recto, R. G.
Enrile, J. P.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Sotto III, V. C.
Estrada, J.	Villar, C. A.

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

Senators Marcos and Trillanes were on official mission, the latter abroad.

Senator Defensor Santiago was on sick leave.

Senator Guingona was absent.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 63 (March 10, 2014) and Session No. 65 (March 12, 2014) and considered them approved.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2176, entitled

AN ACT DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS BUY PINOY, BUILD PINOY MONTH TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TO PRIORITIZE THE PURCHASE AND UTILIZATION OF FILIPINO PRODUCTS, LABOR AND SERVICES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship

Senate Bill No. 2177, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10086 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT STRENGTHENING PEOPLE'S NATIONALISM THROUGH PHILIPPINE HISTORY BY CHANGING THE NOMENCLATURE OF THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE INTO THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES, STRENGTHENING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

Senate Bill No. 2178, entitled

AN ACT MAKING ELECTION SERVICE NON-COMPULSORY FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, AUTHORIZING THE APPOINTMENT OF OTHER QUALIFIED CITIZENS, PROVIDING FOR COMPENSATION AND OTHER BENEFITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6646, AND OTHER ELECTION LAWS

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committees on Electoral Reforms and People's Participation; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2179, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL COASTAL GREENBELT PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

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

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 566, entitled

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE HEALTH CONDITION OF CHILDREN IN EVACUATION CENTERS IN ZAMBOANGA CITY

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Youth

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Proposed Senate Resolution No. 567, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE ALLEGED DELISTING OF DELFIN LEE FROM THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE MOST WANTED PERSONS LIST AND WARRANT OF ARREST DATABASE

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 568, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING VICTORIA TAULI-CORPUZ FOR BEING NAMED AS UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 569, entitled

RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT TO CONDUCT A SPECIAL AUDIT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S "ORGANIC AGRICULTURAL FUND" (SPECIALLY FOR THE YEAR 2012)

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Finance

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 570, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE PHILIPPINE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE POSSIBLE EFFECTS OF THE NEW LABOR POLICY OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA (KSA) ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS

(OFWS) TO THE SAID COUNTRY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING REMEDIAL MEASURES TO MITIGATE THE IMPACT OF THIS NEW LABOR POLICY ON THE ESTIMATED 1.5 MILLION OFWS WORKING IN THE KSA

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 571, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS AND OTHER PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE(S) TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED DUE PROCESS VIOLATIONS AGAINST DAVAO JOURNALIST ALEXANDER "ALEXIS" ADONIS, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REVIEWING OUR CURRENT LAWS ON LIBEL AND OF ENACTING MEASURES THAT WILL STRENGTHEN OUR SYSTEM OF FREE LEGAL SERVICES FOR INDIGENT LITIGANTS AND THE PROBATION AND PAROLE SYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 572, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE P7B REAL ESTATE SCAM INVOLVING THE HOME DEVELOPMENT MUTUAL FUND (HDMF OR PAGIBIG) AND GLOBE ASIATIQUE'S DELFIN LEE

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

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Proposed Senate Resolution No. 573, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FAILURE OF THE BUS COMPANIES TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE VICTIMS OF ROAD ACCIDENTS CAUSED BY THE NEGLIGENCE OF THE BUS DRIVERS/OPERATORS WITH THE END VIEW OF REVIEWING THE PROVISIONS OF THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, TRANSPORTATION LAW AND OTHER PERTINENT LAWS

Introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV

To the Committee on Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 574, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE TO INCLUDE IN ITS ONGOING PROBE INTO THE PORK BARREL SCAM AN INQUIRY ON THE EXPENSES INVOLVING PUBLIC FUNDS IN CONNECTION WITH THE DETENTION OF JANET LIM NAPOLES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 575, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE TO IMMEDIATELY SUMMON AS RESOURCE PERSONS FOR THE ONGOING PROBE INTO THE PORK BARREL SCAM, RHODORA MENDOZA AND VICTOR ROMAN CACAL, FORMER OFFICIALS OF THE NATIONAL AGRI-BUSINESS CORPORATION

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 576, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION ON THE INFESTATION OF COCONUT TREES IN THE CALABARZON BY THE COCONUT SCALE INSECT OR CSI (ASPIDIOTUS DESTRUCTOR) AND COCONUT LEAF BEETLE (BRONTISPA LONGISSIMA) AND INQUIRE ON THE MEASURES BEING UNDERTAKEN BY THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY TO ADDRESS THE PROBLEM

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Agriculture and Food

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 577, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPOSITION OF VALUE ADDED AND EXCISE TAXES ON AVIATION FUEL WHICH MAY HAVE ADVERSE EFFECTS ON TOURISM IN THE COUNTRY AND MAY HAVE VIOLATED OBLIGATIONS BY THE PHILIPPINES TO INTERNATIONAL AIR TREATIES AND CONVENTIONS

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 578, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE NEED TO ADOPT MEASURES TO ENSURE THE PERSONAL SECURITY AND PROTECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY

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Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 579, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO DETERMINE THE STATE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES IN THE COUNTRY AND THE NEED TO INCENTIVIZE GRID-SCALE ENERGY STORAGE OF THE SAME WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROMOTING EFFECTIVE AND COST-EFFECTIVE COMMERCIAL UTILIZATION OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Energy

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 580, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PRESENCE OF ANTIMONY, ARSENIC, CADMIUM, CHROMIUM, LEAD AND MERCURY IN LOCAL SOUVENIR ITEMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING APPROPRIATE INSPECTION MECHANISMS AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR THE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF SOUVENIR ITEMS CONTAINING SAID CHEMICALS

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 581, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING BUSINESSMAN

MR. JOHN L. GOKONGWEI, JR. FOR BEING HONORED WITH THE 2014 LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT LUMINARY AWARD BY CHANNEL NEWS ASIA

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

COMMUNICATION

Letter from the Office of the President of the Philippines, transmitting to the Senate two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 10635, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA) AS THE SINGLE MARITIME ADMINISTRATION RESPONSIBLE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AND ENFORCEMENT OF THE 1978 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STANDARDS OF TRAINING, CERTIFICATION AND WATCHKEEPING FOR SEAFARERS, AS AMENDED, AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS OR COVENANTS RELATED THERETO,

which was signed by His Excellency, President Benigno S. Aquino III on 13 March 2014

To the Archives

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 353 ON THIRD READING

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 353, printed copies of which were distributed to the senators on March 11, 2014.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, Secretary Yabes read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT MANDATING THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICE PROVIDERS TO SEND FREE MOBILE ALERTS IN THE EVENT OF NATURAL AND

MAN-MADE DISASTERS AND CALAMITIES.

Secretary Yabes called the roll for nominal voting.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

In favor

Angara	Honasan
Aquino	Lapid
Binay	Legarda
Cayetano (A)	Osmeña
Cayetano (P)	Pimentel
Drilon	Poe
Ejercito	Recto
Enrile	Revilla
Escudero	Sotto
Estrada	Villar

Against

None

Abstention

None

With 20 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 353 approved on Third Reading.

APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 3187 ON THIRD READING

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, House Bill No. 3187, printed copies of which were distributed to the senators on March 11, 2014.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, Secretary Yabes read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT GRANTING COTABATO LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY, A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A DISTRIBUTION

SYSTEM FOR THE CONVEYANCE OF ELECTRIC POWER TO THE END-USERS IN THE CITY OF COTABATO AND PORTIONS OF THE MUNICIPALITIES OF DATU ODIN SINSUAT AND SULTAN KUDARAT, BOTH IN THE PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO.

Secretary Yabes called the roll for nominal voting.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

In favor

Angara	Honasan
Aquino	Lapid
Binay	Legarda
Cayetano (A)	Osmeña
Cayetano (P)	Pimentel
Drilon	Poe
Ejercito	Recto
Enrile	Revilla
Escudero	Sotto
Estrada	Villar

Against

None

Abstention

None

With 20 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared House Bill No. 3187 approved on Third Reading.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Cayetano (A) acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests:

- Teachers from Julian D. Luna Elementary School, Barangay Sta. Cruz, Rosario, Batangas; and
- Delegates from Japan who are also officers of the Japan-Philippines Parliamentarians Friendship League (JPPFL),

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and who were accompanied by the Ambassador of Japan to the Philippines, Toshinao Urabe, namely: Senator Kenji Kosaka, JPPFL President and Member of the House of Councilors, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP); Senator Takeshi Maeda, JPPFL Vice President and Member of the House of Councilors, Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ); Congressman Yukio Ubukata, JPPFL Chief Secretary and Member of the House of Representatives, DPJ; Congressman Taku Otsuka, JPPFL Secretary General and Member of the House of Representatives, LDP.

Senate President Drilon welcomed the guests to the Senate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), the session was suspended to allow the senators to greet the guests.

It was 3:31 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:36 p.m., the session was resumed.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The 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. 2180, entitled

AN ACT REVITALIZING THE PROCEDURE FOR ACQUISITION OF RIGHT OF WAY, SITE OR LOCATION FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS, THEREBY REPEALING FOR SUCH PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8974, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO FACILITATE THE ACQUISITION OF RIGHT-OF-WAY, SITE OR LOCATION FOR NATIONAL GOVERNMENT INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS"

AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Public Works; Ways and Means; and Finance

Senate Bill No. 2181, entitled

AN ACT ACCORDING EQUAL RIGHTS TO WIVES AND HUSBANDS IN THE PHILIPPINES BY AMENDING ARTICLES 333, 334, AND 344 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Senate Bill No. 2182, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF CORPORAL PUNISHMENT ON CHILDREN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7610, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AGAINST CHILD ABUSE, EXPLOITATION AND DISCRIMINATION ACT, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

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

Senate Bill No. 2183, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING PARENTAL BEREAVEMENT LEAVES TO PARENTS IN THE EVENT OF THE DEATH OF A SON OR DAUGHTER

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

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Senate Bill No. 2184, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF FARM TOURISM IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 2185, entitled

AN ACT ALLOWING WOMEN TO REVERT TO THEIR MAIDEN SURNAME, ESTABLISHING A PROCEDURE FOR REVERSION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Senate Bill No. 2186, entitled

AN ACT SETTING A UNIFORM PERIOD FOR THE REDEMPTION OF FAMILY HOMES SOLD AT FORECLOSURE SALES, EXECUTION SALES AND OTHER FORCED SALES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Marcos Jr.

To the Committees on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality; and Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Senate Bill No. 2187, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING ARTICLE 351 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Cynthia A. Villar

To the Committee on Women, Family Relations and Gender Equality

Senate Bill No. 2188, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE COMPLETION OF THE LAND ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION (LAD) COMPONENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP) BY JUNE 30, 2016 PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW", AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Honasan II

To the Committee on Agrarian Reform

Senate Bill No. 2189, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO FORMER PRESIDENTS AND VICE PRESIDENTS OF THE PHILIPPINES OR THEIR SURVIVING SPOUSE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5059, REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2087, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes; Ways and Means; and Finance

RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 582, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORT FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH OF THE INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF FILIPINOS DYING FROM TUBERCULOSIS DAILY DESPITE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AIMED IN PREVENTING THE SPREAD AND CURING THE DISEASE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

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To the Committee on Health and Demography

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 583, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PREVALENCE OF CHILD LABOR IN THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Youth

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 584, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED HIGH LEVELS OF MERCURY VAPORS DETECTED IN DENTAL SCHOOLS, STORES AND INSTITUTIONS IN THE COUNTRY, ACCORDING TO A STUDY CONDUCTED BY ENVIRONMENTALIST GROUP BAN TOXICS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 585, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED NEED TO INTENSIFY THE DRIVE TO GO AFTER GUN REGISTRATION FIXERS IN THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 586, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER

SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DANGER CAUSED BY THE UPSURGE OF MOSQUITOS IN COMMUNITIES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Local Government

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 587, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGATION THAT PHINMA PROPERTY HOLDINGS CORPORATION HAS DEVELOPED A CONDOMINIUM COMPLEX IN VIOLATION OF SEVERAL PHILIPPINE LAWS

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 588, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED DISTRIBUTION OF WORM-INFESTED, SPOILED, AND ROTTEN FOOD AID TO SURVIVORS OF TYPHOON YOLANDA IN TACLOBAN CITY

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 589, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REPORTED PREVALENT USE OF TROPHIES AND MEDALS CONTAMINATED WITH LEAD

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Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Health and Demography

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 590, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE BLUE RIBBON COMMITTEE TO IMMEDIATELY INCLUDE IN ITS ONGOING HEARING ON THE PORK BARREL SCAM THE FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION ON AUDIT THAT PORK BARREL FUNDS COURSED THROUGH THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON MUSLIM FILIPINOS WENT TO NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS REPORTEDLY LINKED TO JANET LIM-NAPOLES

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 591, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES IN THE SENATE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REGISTRATION AND RENEWAL PROCESS AS WELL AS THE ISSUANCE OF CERTIFICATES OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCE TO VEHICLES BY THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ADDRESSING THE PROLIFERATION OF SMOKE-BELCHING AND DILAPIDATED VEHICLES TO ENSURE SAFER AND ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY THOROUGHWAYS FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 592, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL

GOVERNMENT AND COMMITTEE ON TOURISM TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS' IMPOSITION OF FEES FOR THE OPERATION OF TOURISM ESTABLISHMENTS AND THE ENGAGEMENT OF TOURISM WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committees on Local Government; and Tourism

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 593, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS; AND THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SUCH OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND ACTIONS THAT ADDRESS THE REPORTED ABUSE OF SOLVENTS AND OTHER FORMS OF ADDICTIVE SUBSTANCES BY STREET CHILDREN, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO INHALE RUGBY IN PLAIN SIGHT AND BROAD DAYLIGHT, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF EXPANDING EXISTING LAWS THAT AIM TO PROTECT THE NATION'S YOUTH FROM THE ILL EFFECTS OF THIS SOCIAL MALADY

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 594, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SERVICES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO RECURRING FLIGHT DELAYS AND CANCELLATIONS COMMITTED BY LOCAL AIRLINES, WITH THE END IN VIEW OF CRAFTING POLICIES THAT

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WILL PROTECT THE PUBLIC FROM THE INCONVENIENCE AND ANY ADDED EXPENSE BROUGHT ABOUT BY THESE OCCURRENCES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Public Services

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 595, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT; AND COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF MINING THROUGH THE ISSUANCE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF SMALL-SCALE MINING PERMITS AND SIMILAR PERMITS, WHICH HAVE, ON SEVERAL INSTANCES, COUNTENANCED THE CONDUCT OF PROHIBITED MINING ACTIVITIES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 596, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ILLEGAL TRADE OF PHILIPPINE COBRAS WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROTECTING THESE ENDANGERED SPECIES

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 597, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES AND OTHER APPROPRIATE SENATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF UNDERWATER ACTIVITIES WHICH INVOLVE CHEMICAL ETCHING ON CORAL PLATES TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR MARINE ECOSYSTEM

Introduced by Senator Lapid

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 598, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PEOPLE'S CHAMP AND SARANGANI CONGRESSMAN MANNY "PACMAN" PACQUIAO FOR WINNING BACK THE WORLD BOXING ORGANIZATION WELTERWEIGHT TITLE AGAINST AMERICAN BOXER TIMOTHY BRADLEY AT THE MGM GRAND GARDEN ARENA IN LAS VEGAS, NEVADA, U.S.A. ON 12 APRIL 2014

Introduced by Senator Lapid

To the Committee on Rules

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 599, entitled

RESOLUTION COMMENDING FOUR (4) FEMALE ROOKIE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION POLICE OFFICE – REGIONAL PUBLIC SAFETY BATALLION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND RECOGNIZING THEIR ACTS OF BRAVERY IN THE MIDST OF THE ROBBERY AND SHOOT-OUT ON 30 MARCH 2014 AT THE MALL OF ASIA, PASAY CITY

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committee on Rules

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Proposed Senate Resolution No. 600, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND DANGEROUS DRUGS, AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE SENATE, TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED INEFFICIENCY AND IMPRACTICALITY OF THE CENTRALIZED GUN LICENSING PROCEDURES OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), AND TO REVISIT THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10591, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "COMPREHENSIVE FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION REGULATION ACT" AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS (IRR), WITH THE END IN VIEW OF DETERMINING AND STRENGTHENING THE CAPABILITY OF THE PNP IN ENFORCING THE PROVISIONS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR LEGARDA

Availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Legarda requested that she be allowed to present an eight-minute video documentary as her privilege speech on marine biodiversity to coincide with the celebration of the Ocean Month. She acknowledged that it was quite untraditional and an unorthodox way of delivering a privilege speech but she believed that the documentary could convince, encourage and move all of them to protect the country's beautiful and bountiful marine life. She expressed hope that her colleagues could help in protecting the oceans, seas and waters that surround the Philippine archipelago.

She then proceeded to show the video documentary with the following narration which she delivered herself:

Beneath these blue waters that cradle the islands of the Philippines, lies the world's richest marine ecosystem. Vast coral reefs, seagrass

beds and dense mangroves bursting with color and life line the coasts and depths of its islands. It is nestled in the so-called "coral triangle" which is home to more than three quarters of the world's coral species and over 2,000 marine plants and animals.

The natural abundance of the seas benefits more than half of the country's 98 million citizens, mostly farmers and fisherfolk living on coastal areas. Our enchanting islands are among the world's top tourist destinations. Their pristine white sand and crystal clear waters attract thousands of tourists each year.

Reefs nurture life in the sea. They are natural habitat for thousands of marine species. A square kilometer of healthy coral reef may yield to about 30 tons of fish every year. Reefs are intricately linked to mangrove forests, seagrass beds and countless other ecosystems.

Nature has truly blessed us with rich marine resources but these natural treasures are not forever bountiful and the risk of losing them pervades through human abuse, neglect, apathy and inaction. In the past 30 years, our coastal ecosystems have significantly declined.

Now, 70% of our mangroves are damaged, 20% of seagrass are destroyed; nearly 90% of coral reefs are endangered; and only one percent of these are underwater rainforest.

Now, 70% of our mangroves are damaged, 20% of our seagrass are destroyed, nearly 90% of coral reefs are endangered. Only 1% of this underwater rainforests remain pristine. It would take many years for these corals to form, grow and flourish anew and the mass of fish species in our coast has dwindled to 1/10 since the 1940s.

Overfishing, destructive fishing, urbanization and pollution – all these degrade our marine ecosystems. Unpredictable weather extremes brought about by climate change threaten even more marine biodiversity as they destroy the coral reefs.

To destroy coral reefs is to endanger the entire marine life. For us, its destruction affects the livelihood of our coastal communities, our food supply, our tourism and our economy. We need our seas to live.

In the 1970s, dynamite and cyanide fishing were common in Apo Island in Negros Oriental. As coral habitats were destroyed, their fish dwindled and the community risked losing their very source of food and income. It was a turning point for the people of Apo Island.

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In 1982, the town adopted a marine conservation program that stopped this unsustainable fishing ways.

At this juncture, a video presentation was shown with the following sound bites:

Male interviewee: *The intervention there was a small fish sanctuary. At that time, it was about six hectares and it was a way of focusing the people to the fact that it starts looking at the sea as a limited resource, not an open resource.*

Male interviewee: *Our main objective is to help deploy corral modules — artificial structures made of natural dead corals — so that you can actually encourage new growth, and these were deployed inside the noted zone marine sanctuary. The main goal there is to help provide habitats for the fishes which used to live in living corals and also to stabilize the rubble wherein you are encourag-ing new growth without being damaged again.*

Parts of the island were made into a marine sanctuary where locals took turns to guard the coasts from any fishing mangrove reforestation, fisheries management and the establishment of a marine protected area. Vigilance, close monitoring and intervention from the government and local folks are needed to stop persistent illegal fishing and unregulated shipping.

Male interviewee: *The fisherman himself, parang mga bantay-dagat silang lahat. While they go fishing, they are also watching their resources, their territory, so that no other fishermen or illegal fishermen will fish and destroy their resources.*

After three years, the sanctuary and its neighbouring areas steadily produced more fish.

Male interviewee: *Sa umpisa, parang hindi pa masyadong na-influence iyong mga tao. Importante na mag-patrol kayo para makita ng mga tao. Gusto mong ipakita ang benefits, iyong benepisyo ng mga tao, then, this kind of program, it takes time to get the benefits in five to seven years.*

Through discipline and cooperation in the community, the marine ecosystem fully recovered after 10 years. The long and difficult path to recovery has taught the people of Apo Island to favour and apply more sustainable ways of fishing.

Female interviewee: *I think Apo Island has become a model for marine research not only in*

the Philippines but also around the world. I think we are very proud of that and we are continually trying to get more information so that we can improve the management of our fisheries through marine research.

Male interviewee: *This means that even if part of Apo has been done, especially the historical main sanctuary where everything started in conservation of the marine resources in the Philippines, there is still hope.*

They now embrace the much needed balance in harnessing marine resources and protecting the ecosystem.

Similarly, many other coastal communities across the Philippines face the daunting challenge of sustaining their marine resources amid the demands of a modern society and the risk spawned by urbanization and industrialization.

We can only become worthy stewards of these natural resources if we uphold and follow the environmental laws to protect our seas and act now to serve our marine ecosystems from its current decline.

Nature's inherent capacity for giving life always inspires and brings hope. We, too, can inspire to nurture life in our seas.

Save a marine life now, and sustain our children's life today and tomorrow.

INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR PIMENTEL

Prefatorily, Senator Pimentel congratulated Senator Legarda for the novel manner of delivering her privilege speech as he noted that she was anyway the one actually narrating in the video. He also thanked Senator Legarda for providing a copy of her video presentation.

Senator Legarda replied that although perhaps considered non-traditional and unorthodox, to her, there was no other way better than actually showing what underwater marine life is. She disclosed that the films and images were provided by underwater videographers, her speech was done by herself and her office, and the video was edited *pro bono* by Cannes Film Festival Best Director awardee Brillante Mendoza.

Asked by Senator Pimentel if the thesis of the eight-minute video presentation was to save, preserve and maintain the ecosystem and marine biodiversity, Senator Legarda replied in the affirmative. She pointed out that marine preservation is not just for

sea enthusiasts and divers, or for purposes of tourism, it also depicts the daily take of fisherfolk in coastal barangays, towns and municipalities in the whole archipelago that thrive on marine ecosystem. She stressed that it is incumbent upon every Filipino to care for, maintain, conserve, protect and sustain the country's marine ecosystem since the Philippine islands are at the center of biodiversity in the world, particularly the Verde Island Passage which is composed of the coastal areas in the provinces of Batangas, Mindoro, Romblon and Marinduque, or the Coral Triangle.

Senator Pimentel agreed with the thesis statement of the video presentation, an idea that could be extended to the entire ecosystem not only to preserve marine biodiversity, but also to enhance human life at the present time and to preserve the quality of life of future generations.

Senator Legarda affirmed that the preservation of the marine ecosystem would lead to an enhancement of human life since the ocean is a major food source. She expressed the need for people to conserve and preserve the country's natural resources, particularly its marine life to be able to withstand the effects of climate change.

Noting Senator Legarda's statement that people need seas to live, Senator Pimentel suggested to replace the word "seas" with "rivers, lakes, forests, mountains," and such other natural resources. Senator Legarda said that her statement encompasses the entire ecosystem. She revealed that she was, in fact, working on a similar documentary for forests and other protected areas.

Adverting to the four factors that Senator Legarda mentioned as degrading the ecosystem — overfishing, destructive fishing, urbanization and pollution, Senator Pimentel noted that the last two factors, urbanization and pollution, not only affect the sea but the entire ecosystem. He then stressed the need for urbanization and pollution to be given sufficient attention. Senator Legarda agreed, saying that the divers found plastics underwater which show how coral reefs are destroyed and degraded by man-made abuse. She then underscored the need to implement existing laws to be able to maintain what is left of the coral reefs. On a positive note, she reported that there have been many positive developments like the Coral Reef Restoration Program of the DOST which is currently being undertaken in various parts of the country

including Camiguin, Cagayan de Oro, Misamis Oriental and Anilao, Batangas. She, however, stressed the need for human kind to do it collectively because the department alone cannot prevent their further damage.

Asked by Senator Pimentel if coral reefs could be restored and if tires are still used for their replacement, Senator Legarda said that while some still use tires as fish sanctuary, initiated by the Save Our Seas Foundation some 30 years ago, others use a special kind of cement to put together strewn pieces of corals broken by the natural flow of waves or by storm surge. She said that the natural regeneration process is called a coral restoration program.

As regards the use of tires as material for coral restoration, Senator Legarda said that some groups still use tires but that she was not certain whether or not the practice could be disastrous to coral reefs. However, she said that in areas where they were utilized, the coral reefs have grown.

Senator Pimentel said that as an active member of socio-civic organizations such as the Jaycees and the Rotary, he would like to know which coral reef restoration activity should be pushed, what materials to use and what to avoid. Senator Legarda replied that the DOST or the DENR would be in the best position to suggest what the best kind of material for coral reef restoration should be used, although she opined that the best natural material would be the existing fragments of corals found in the seabed.

To the apprehension that the natural abundance of the seas and attractiveness of the archipelago would bring in millions of tourists whose presence could possibly destroy the ecosystem, Senator Legarda disclosed that there are places in the country which have already been declared as marine conservation area such as Anilao, Batangas, and other areas where coral reefs are greatly damaged, such as Boracay, where coral reef restoration programs are already currently being implemented.

Senator Pimentel asked for a possibly feasible strategy to be used before inviting tourists to the country considering that by analogy, the influx of people could lead to the degradation of the ecosystem through pollution and urbanization. Senator Legarda expressed the need for tourists to be informed about compliance with laws. Moreover, she said that there must also be an effective and efficient implementation of rules and regulations which could

even inspire tourists to protect and preserve the country's forests and seas.

Asked if she believes that the concept of ecotourism is possible, Senator Legarda said that it is already being done and that she believes in it. She explained that the concept of eco-tourism is a feasible promotional strategy for the Department of Tourism (DOT). In fact, she said that if this was not yet being implemented by the DOT, Tourism Secretary Jimenez should be encouraged to consider this alternative along with heritage and cultural tourism. She also underscored the importance of protecting the natural environment which not only has much to offer foreign and local tourists but is also part of the country's culture and heritage.

Asked for the location of the model LGU, Senator Legarda explained that Apo Island is a municipality in Negros Oriental which was featured as a laboratory in the Greenpeace video.

In closing, Senator Pimentel thanked Senator Legarda for her speech as well as for providing him with a copy of the video presentation.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), the session was suspended.

It was 4:12 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:12 p.m., the session was resumed.

REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

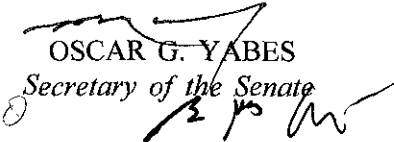
Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Chair referred the privilege speech of Senator Legarda and the interpellation thereon to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

It was 4:13 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on May 6, 2014