



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

# Journal

**SESSION NO. 73**  
Tuesday, May 20, 2014

**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

**SESSION NO. 73**  
Tuesday, May 20, 2014

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:25 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

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

*Aming Panginoon,*

*Muli po kaming nagtitipon ngayon upang ipagpugay ang Inyong Pangalan, ipagpasalamat ang Inyong mga biyaya, at tuparin ang aming mga tungkulin at pangako sa taumbayang nagbigay tiwala sa amin.*

*Nagsusumamo po kami sa Inyo na kami ay Inyong gabayan sa aming pag-iisip, pananalita at gawa; na isipin at gawin ang wasto at makabubuti sa bawat Pilipino at sa bayan. Nawa ay manahan sa aming mga puso na ang pagsisilbi sa bayang Pilipinas ay pagsisilbi rin sa Inyo.*

*Batid namin ngayon na ang institusiyong ito ay nasa gitna ng pagsubok. Buklurin po Ninyo kami upang malam-pasan ang mga gusot at hindi pagka-kaunawaan.*

*Ito po ang aming dalangin sa Inyo, Panginoon.*

*Amen.*

**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.            | Lapid, M. L. M.     |
| Aquino, P. B. IV B.   | Legarda, L.         |
| Binay, M. L. N. S.    | Marcos Jr., F. R.   |
| 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.       |
| Honasan, G. B.        |                     |

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

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

Senator Defensor Santiago was on indefinite qualified medical leave as indicated in her letter dated May 14, 2014.

**APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL  
AS CORRECTED**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 72 (May 19,

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2014) and considered it approved, subject to the following corrections made by Senator Cayetano (P):

1. On page 225, first column, paragraph no. 6, replace the phrase "lifted the TRO that was initially granted" with GRANTED A TRO IN FAVOR OF MIKEE;
2. On the same page, second column, paragraph no. 1, after the word "her," replace the word "very" with FORMER; and
3. On the same page, second column, paragraph 2, between the words "but" and "with," insert the word MAYBE.

Senator Cayetano (P) also submitted some minor corrections which she wanted them reflected in the Journal.

## REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2228, entitled

AN ACT ALLOWING EXPENSES INCURRED AS PAYMENTS FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION TUITION AND ALLIED EXPENSES AS DEDUCTIONS FROM GROSS INCOME OF INDIVIDUALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 34 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 2229, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NEW PASSPORT LAW, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED EIGHT THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE (R.A. NO. 8239), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996

Introduced by Senator Sonny Angara

**To the Committee on Foreign Relations**

Senate Bill No. 2230, entitled

AN ACT TO CREATE THE SOCIAL HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCE CORPORATION, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

**To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 2231, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES FROM IMPOSING AN EXPIRATION PERIOD ON THE VALIDITY OF PREPAID CALL AND TEXT CARDS AND THE FORFEITURE OF LOAD CREDITS THEREOF

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship**

Senate Bill No. 2232, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FREE PUBLIC WIRELESS INTERNET ACCESS IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS, PARKS AND NATIONAL ROADS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Recto

**To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Finance**

## RESOLUTION

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 653, entitled

RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND SYMPATHY AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES OF THE SENATE

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## ON THE DEATH OF AZUCENA “NENE” VERA-PEREZ

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy  
S. Binay

### To the Committee on Rules

#### COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 26 ON SENATE BILL NO. 2212 (Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 2212 (Committee Report No. 26), entitled

#### AN ACT TO ACTIVELY PROMOTE ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION AMONG FILIPINO YOUTH.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Cayetano (P) for her cosponsorship speech.

#### COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR CAYETANO (P)

Senator Cayetano (P) delivered her cosponsorship speech as follows:

Many Filipinos show their innovative enterprising nature through many different business ventures throughout the country. We have a lot of rags-to-riches stories and inspiring icons that our youth can look up to as role models who showed that an enterprising mind can be the springboard to future success. While there are those students who start to show their enterprising character at a young age, many still need to be exposed to enterprise activities and cultivate a pro-enterprise attitude. Meanwhile, there are a lot of stories that are also untold and these are stories of failure, and this is also what we want to address.

It is, thus, my privilege to cosponsor the Youth Entrepreneurship Act of 2014 which seeks to promote entrepreneurship and financial education among the youth. Educating our students on the basic concepts of enterprising business can help them reach their full entrepreneurial potential and help them learn to be more cost-efficient and profitable in their present and future ventures.

In Senate Bill No. 153 which I filed, I proposed that entrepreneurship education shall

be mandatory in high school and college so that they will have a business know-how regardless of the course they take in college.

This Committee Report No. 26 that we sponsor now seeks to promote youth entrepreneurship through education. By developing and integrating subjects and competencies in entrepreneurship in the curricula of primary, secondary, post-secondary and alternative learning schools, these subjects will also teach and develop financial literacy among Filipinos at a young age.

Further, the implementation of this bill will opportunely complement the enhanced K+12 program which allows specialization in business and entrepreneurship beyond just preparation for college but can be sufficient for gainful employment.

I believe that encouraging entrepreneurship among Filipinos, especially when they are young, is a sustainable means of empowering them as well as boosting our economic growth and hastening poverty reduction. It benefits not only the entrepreneur but also our economy, as it is in job creation, increasing productivity and strengthening competitiveness. Thus, I earnestly seek the immediate approval of this bill.

#### COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR ANGARA

At the outset, Senator Angara thanked Senators Aquino and Cayetano (P) for facilitating and prioritizing Senate Bill No. 2212, saying that he has been filing a similar bill since his term as a congressman in the House of Representatives.

*Following is the full text of Senator Angara's cosponsorship speech:*

#### FINANCIAL LITERACY AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

*Noong 2008, nanalo si Dionie Reyes na isang taga-Las Piñas ng P14 million sa Lucky Pick, System 7 ng Lotto. Seventy pesos po ang ginastos ni Dionie para sa nanalong ticket na tatlong araw nang basa sa beer bago niya ito pinakita sa Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).*

*Bumili agad si Dionie ng kotse — isang Toyota Fortuner — halos isang araw pa lang ang lumipas noong nakuha niya iyong tseke sa PCSO. Bumili na rin siya ng lote sa isang eksklusibong subdivisyon at tuluyan siyang*

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*nag blow-out sa kanyang mga kamag-anak at kaibigan, nagsugal at nagpakasaya.*

*Kaya sa loob ng tatlong buwan, naubos po ang P14 million. Nabaon si Dionie Reyes sa utang kaya binenta niya ang ilan sa mga lupaing binili bilang pambayad. Noong 2011, kinailangan pa niyang humingi ng tulong mula sa PCSO para sa pang-opera sa kaniyang puso.*

*Sadyang isang babala ang malungkot na kuwento ni Dionie Reyes. Naging basehan nga ito ng isang episode sa “Magpakailan Man” sa Channel 7 noong 2013. Ngunit mas malungkot isipin na hindi pambihira ang nangyari kay Dionie Reyes: na ang perang natanggap ng isang pamilyang Pilipino – napanahunan man or pinaghirapan – ay winawaldas at ginagastos sa di-wastong paraan.*

*Ayon sa isang pag-aaral noong 2011 ng Social Enterprise Development Partnerships, Inc., isa sa bawat sampung OFW (one out of 10) ay maituturing na “financially broke.” Walo sa sampu naman (eight out of 10) ay walang naitabing pera – tulad ng pera para sa kanilang retirement – kahit na mas malaki ang kanilang kinikita sa ibang bansa.*

*Hindi pa rin daw nagbabago ang ranko natin sa Mastercard Financial Literacy Index 2013, mula sa unang survey noong 2011. Sa 16 (labing-anim) na bansa sa Asia-Pacific Region, nanatili tayong pang-walo lamang – isang hudyat na marami pa tayong puwedeng matutunan tungkol sa tamang financial planning.*

*Para sa 2013 SOLAR FLARe Survey ng Sun Life Financial Philippines, napuna na kahit marami sa mga respondent – halos 20% — ang nagsasabi na eksperto sila sa paghawak ng pera, mas marami ang hindi nakakaintindi ng mga basic financial concepts.*

*Kaya raw nanatiling “cash-based” ang ekonomiya ng Pilipinas. Filipinos prefer paper over plastic. The World Startup Report estimates that in the Philippines, up to 90% of financial transactions in the year 2012 were conducted with cash, while there are only 7.36 million credit cards in the whole country.*

*Worse, a 2012 Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) survey found that eight out of 10 heads of households did not maintain bank accounts, while four out of 10 households do not have any cash on hand for emergencies. Not only are we overly cash-based, we are very much hand-to-mouth – a situation only exacerbated by ordinary Filipinos’ propensity to borrow at underground, high-interest rates, the so-called five-six, and at a heavy cost of our wages and savings.*

*Ayon sa SOLAR FLARe survey uli ng Sun Life, two out of 10 lang po ang gumagamit ng kanilang insurance para pondohan ang kanilang mga gastusin, one out of 10 lang ang gumagamit ng mga investments nila, habang eight out of 10 lamang ay nakasalalay sa kanilang mga bank savings*

*Kaya rin siguro iilan lang talaga sa bansa ang pumipiling maging negosyante. Dahil limitado ang nalalaman tungkol sa pagpa-paikot at pagpapalago ng pera, naiiwan na lang ang marami sa simpleng pag-iimbak ng pera sa bangko kaysa pag-invest nito sa mga bagay-bagay na puwedeng pagkakitaan.*

This speaks of so many missed opportunities, especially since the country’s financial system has been lauded for its performance, particularly its stability in the face of external shocks. Unfortunately, such a financial system is out of reach from most of the population. The Philippine Stocks Exchange (PSE) records hold no less than 526,000 investor accounts, which is barely half a percent of the country’s 100 million population. I repeat, barely one-half of 1% of the country’s entire population. If taken with widespread unemployment and poverty, such a low participation rate only highlights our greater problem of inequality.

#### ***Iilan lamang ang nakararanas ng paglago ng ating ekonomiya sa ngayon***

*Patuloy ngang umaangat ang bansa. Nakararanas po tayo ng 7.2% GDP growth noong nakaraang taon. Bagama’t hinagupit tayo ni Yolanda, mangunguna pa rin daw ang Pilipinas ngayong 2014 sa economic growth sa buong Asya, ayon sa Moody’s, isang credit ratings agency.*

*Kamakailan lamang, inangat uli ng Standard and Poor’s ang credit rating ng bansa na ngayon ay “BBB” – ang pinakamataas na antas na natanggap natin sa kasaysayan. Marahil paparating pa lamang ang kasaganaan ng bansa bunsod ng tuluy-tuloy na pag-angat ng ating ekonomiya.*

*Ngunit marami pa rin ang naiiwan sa pag-angat na ito. Ayon sa isang bagong SWS survey, mahirap pa rin ang turing sa sarili ng 53% ng mga respondent. Halos 40% naman ang nagsabi na sila ay “food-poor,” gipit sa pera at gahol sa hanapbuhay para pakainin ang sarili nilang pamilya.*

Countries prosper and flourish on the backs of hardworking individuals who by their individual effort create new products and services that spur new industries and snowball

into national growth. Filipinos are enterprising and industrious, but are we equipped with the knowledge and tools to leverage on these financial openings whenever they present themselves? Do we have the drive to take on risks for future higher gains?

In fact, ours is a long-standing story of missed economic opportunities – one that should end so that a new chapter of widespread prosperity can begin. Such a scenario is only possible if more ordinary citizens are empowered to grab these opportunities and lift themselves up.

But financial literacy and the entrepreneurial spirit that it could foster are not simple lessons that are learned in a day – but they represent ways of thinking or habits that are imbued early on in life. So, if government were to intervene, it must do so early on, with our children.

And thus, I, again, commend the Senate Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship, chaired by Senator Aquino, for prioritizing Committee Report No. 26 on Senate Bill No. 2212.

*Kaya masugid po nating isinusulong ang panukalang batas na ito, kung saan isinasalin ang Financial Literacy, na kaakibat ng Youth Entrepreneurship, sa sistemang edukasyon ng bansa. Sa kasalukuyang sistema raw kasi, tinuturuan ang mga mag-aaral na maging mabuting empleyado kaysa sa magiging negosyante na marunong magpalago at magpalaki ng kanilang pera.*

Some say that ours is an environment that does not breed self-starters, innovators and other enterprising individuals. We are trained to be mere followers and not fearless trailblazers and great thinkers.

*Sa panukalang batas, minamandato po natin ang Department of Education (DepEd), ang Commission on Higher Education (CHED) at ang Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) na magpasok sila ng leksiyong nauukol sa entrepreneurship at financial education sa curriculum ng mga mag-aaral sa primary, secondary at alternative schools.*

*Hinihiling din natin na bumuo ng mga enterprise incubation laboratories at creative spaces sa mga paaralan at pamayanan natin. Ang masinsinan na pagtuturo kasi ay hindi lamang naka-angkla sa silid-aralan. Dapat may pagsasanay at dapat may pagsasabuhay rin po.*

*Naglalaan rin po tayo ng pondo – bilang grants or loans – para sa mga grupo at organisasyon na maaaring tumulong sa DepEd,*

*CHED at TESDA na turuan ang ating mga mag-aaral tungkol sa financial literacy at entrepreneurship. Magtatabi rin tayo, bilang project grants and loans, para sa mga batang negosyante.*

*Marapat lamang na palaganapin din ng DepEd, TESDA at CHED ang anumang impormasyon tungkol sa government and non-government assistance para sa training ng mga young entrepreneurs.*

### **Conclusion**

*Sa katunayan, hindi lamang sa Pilipinas problema ang financial literacy, ayon sa isang pag-aaral na inilabas ng Journal of Economic Literature. Nagsagawa sila ng financial literacy quiz at marami pong bansa ang lumagpak. Sa kasalukuyang panahon, masasabing higit na mahalaga ang financial literacy or kaalaman sa usaping pang-pinansyal lalo na at bunga ng masamang financial and credit behavior ang pinakahuling economic depression na ang epekto ay tuluyan pa ring binubuhat ng buong mundo. Marami ang nanawagan, kasama ang Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), na kailangang magkaroon ng global financial literacy drive, lalo na at dahil sa globalisasyon, nakaangkla sa isa't isa ang mga ekonomiya at mga financial market ng mga bansa.*

*Kung kaya't mahalagang isabatas natin ang panukalang ito hindi lamang dahil hinahanda natin ang ating mag-aaral na lumahok sa global financial market. Sa panahon na masugid na tinutulak ng gobyerno ang financial literacy at entrepreneurship, binibigyan niya ang bawat mamamayan ng kakayahan para magtagumpay sa buhay. We give our people the confidence to bet on themselves, invest in their capabilities and realize their vision. That is why swift passage of this bill is earnestly sought.*

### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 2212**

Upon motion to Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

He said that the period of interpellations would be scheduled on Monday, May 26, 2014.

### **COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 27 ON HOUSE BILL NO. 4084**

*(Continuation)*

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there

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being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of House Bill No. 4084 (Committee Report No. 27), entitled

**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE  
CITIZENSHIP TO ANDRAY BLATCHE.**

Senator Cayetano (A) stated that the parliamentary status was still the period of interpellations.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Angara, sponsor of the measure, and Senator Estrada for his manifestation.

**MANIFESTATION  
OF SENATOR ESTRADA**

At the outset, Senator Estrada placed on record that it was not his intention to block the measure granting Filipino citizenship to Mr. Andray Blatche, and neither was his intention to prevent him from eventually playing for the Philippine team in the 2014 FIBA Basketball World Cup because as a basketball aficionado himself, he also wanted to see the national team succeed and become world champions. Thereafter, he read the following into the record:

I rise because I am vehemently against the apparently arbitrary and seemingly two-pence procedure of conferring citizenship through legislation. I strongly believe that someone has to put a stop to this practice. As the good sponsor of this measure, Sen. Sonny Angara, has said: "Citizenship is not an ordinary privilege bestowed to any individual." To be a Filipino citizen comes with a great responsibility. Thus, Congress must be very judicious in the exercise of its power in granting Filipino citizenship through legislation.

*Kung ang pagbibigay ng Filipino citizenship under administrative or judicial process ay parang dumadaan ka sa butas ng karayom at taon pa ang binibilang* because one has to go through a very stringent and strict screening process, *aba'y dapat ganoon din kasinop at kabusisi kung ito ay sa pamamagitan ng pagsasabatas.*

Having said that, I was given a copy of the sworn affidavit executed by Mr. Blatche. Aside from his intention to play for the Philippine Team, he also stated that he intends to embrace the customs, traditions and ideals of a Filipino. I just hope and pray that he makes good with this intention.

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD  
OF INTERPELLATIONS**

There being no further interpellation, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations and proceeded to the period of committee amendments.

**COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

As proposed by Senator Angara, there being no objection, the following Committee amendments were approved by the Body, one after the other:

1. On page 1, line 1, before the name "Andray Blatche," insert the title MR.;
2. On the same page, lines 3 and 4, replace the phrase "and with the same effects and subject to the same conditions as provided under the Constitution" with UNDER THE CONSTITUTION AND THE LAWS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES;
3. On the same page, delete the entire Section 2, and in lieu thereof, insert a new Section 2 to read as:

SEC. 2. AFTER THE TAKING BY MR. ANDRAY BLATCHE OF HIS OATH OF ALLEGIANCE BEFORE AN OFFICER DULY AUTHORIZED FOR THIS PURPOSE, AND THE REGISTRATION OF THE SAME WITH THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION, MR. ANDRAY BLATCHE SHALL ENTER UPON THE FULL ENJOYMENT OF HIS PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP;

4. On the same page, delete the entire Section 3, and in lieu thereof, insert a new Section 3 to read as:

SEC. 3. UPON REGISTRATION OF THE OATH OF ALLEGIANCE, THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION SHALL FORTHWITH ISSUE MR. ANDRAY BLATCHE'S CERTIFICATE OF NATURALIZATION; and,

5. On the same page, delete the entire Section 4, and in lieu thereof, insert a new Section 4 to read as:

SEC. 4. THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT IMMEDIATELY UPON PUBLICATION IN AT LEAST TWO NEWSPAPERS OF GENERAL CIRCULATION.

**TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD  
OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS**

There being no other committee amendment,

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upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body closed the period of committee amendments and proceeded to the period of individual amendments.

#### **TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS**

There being no individual amendment, upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there being no objection, the Body closed the period of individual amendments.

#### **APPROVAL OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4084 ON SECOND READING**

Submitted to a vote, there being no objection, House Bill No. 4084 was approved on Second Reading.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF HOUSE BILL NO. 4084**

Upon motion of Senator Cayetano (A), there

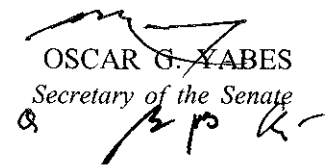
being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

#### **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 3:53 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

OSCAR G. XABES  
Secretary of the Senate  


Approved on May 21, 2014