



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Senate
Pasay City

Journal

SESSION NO. 78
Monday, June 2, 2014

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

SESSION NO. 78
Monday, June 2, 2014

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:20 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

PRAYER

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile led the prayer, to wit:

Aming Panginoon, binubuksan po namin ang sesyon ngayon nang may pasasalamat sa panibagong araw, buhay at pagkaka-taon na Iyong ibinigay sa amin upang makapaglingkod sa aming kapwa.

Marami po sa aming mga kababayan ang nananatiling gutom sa pag-asa't kalinga, walang trabaho, may sakit, at biktima ng diskriminasyon at pang-aapi. Marami rin po sa amin ang patuloy na bumabangon mula sa pagkasalanta ng mga nagdaang kalamidad. Sa Iyong paggabay, mahanap nawa nila ang katatagan at inspirasyong magpatuloy at lumaban sa buhay.

Sa harap ng mga pagsubok, basbasan Ninyo kami ng karunungan upang ang lahat ng aming gawain sa Senado ay para sa higit na ikabubuti ng aming kapwa; na ang katotohanan ang siya naming maging saligan at ang katapatan at pang-unawa ang aming maging gabay upang mapunan

ang aming mga kakulangan at mapatawad ang mga humuhusga sa amin.

Sa Iyong tulong at pagkalinga, nawa'y tuluyang umusad ang aming bansa tungo sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran. Aming dasal na ang Iyong Salita ay gumabay sa aming mga puso upang kumilos nang naaayon sa Iyong layunin.

Siya Nawa.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

The Senate Choir led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song, entitled "Lead Me, Lord."

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

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With 17 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Osmeña arrived after the roll call.

Senator Cayetano (P), who was on official mission, likewise arrived after the roll call.

Senators Estrada, Guingona and Marcos were on official mission.

Senator Cayetano (A) was on official mission abroad.

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

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

Upon motion of Senator Pimentel, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 77 (May 28, 2014) and considered it approved.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 27 May 2014, the House of Representatives concurred with the amendments introduced by the Senate on House Bill No. 4084, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO ANDRAY BLATCHE.

To the Archives

Letter from the Secretary General of the House of Representatives, informing the Senate that on 27 May 2014, the House of Representatives passed the following House bills, in which it requested the concurrence of the Senate:

House Bill No. 2729, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE PUNONG BARANGAY TO ADMINISTER THE

OATH OF OFFICE OF ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL, INCLUDING THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 41 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987," AS AMENDED

To the Committees on Local Government; and Constitutional Amendments and Revision of Codes

House Bill No. 4397, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Finance

House Bill No. 4411, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE HOARDING OF LEGAL TENDER COINS OF THE PHILIPPINE CURRENCY

To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

House Bill No. 4420, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 9 AS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY AND MANDATING THE MEANINGFUL OBSERVANCE THEREOF

To the Committee on Cultural Communities

House Bill No. 4427, entitled

AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU TO BE KNOWN AS THE SEVENTH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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

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House Bill No. 4442, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE IMPOSITION OF PENALTY LOWER THAN THAT PRESCRIBED BY LAW IN CRIMINAL CASES, WHERE THE CIVIL CASE IS SETTLED THROUGH OR BY ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9285

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

House Bill No. 4443, entitled

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

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

and House Bill No. 4444, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 19 OF EVERY YEAR AS "ARAW NG PAGSULAT," A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY

To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2250, entitled

AN ACT CLASSIFYING THE ASSOCIATION DUES AND MEMBERSHIP FEES COLLECTED BY HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION OR CONDOMINIUM CORPORATIONS FROM THEIR MEMBERS OR TENANTS AS EXCLUDED FROM INCOME TAX OR VALUE ADDED TAX AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC

ACT NO. 8424 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2251, entitled

AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR FALSIFICATION OF CERTIFICATES OF LAND TITLE OR ANY APPLICATION, DEED, INSTRUMENT OR SUPPORTING DOCUMENT, REASONABLY CONNECTED WITH AND CALCULATED TO CAUSE THE ISSUANCE OF A CERTIFICATE OF LAND TITLE, CLASSIFYING THE SAME AS A HEINOUS OFFENSE INVOLVING ECONOMIC SABOTAGE IF THE VALUE OR AGGREGATE VALUE OF THE LAND IS AT LEAST TEN MILLION PESOS (P10,000,000.00), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 171 AND 172 OF ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights

Senate Bill No. 2252, entitled

AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES ON THE OFFENSE OF STEALING OR VANDALIZING GOVERNMENT ROAD SIGNS AND OTHER WARNING DEVICES, ACCESSORIES AND OTHER FACILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Public Works

Senate Bill No. 2253, entitled

AN ACT ENHANCING THE GIS ACCOUNT SYSTEM THROUGH LEGISLATIVE-EXECUTIVE BODY

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AND POOL OF FORENSIC ACCOUNTANTS AND AUDITORS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 2254, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TAX REFORM ACT OF 1997 BY EXEMPTING FROM VALUE ADDED TAX THE GOODS AND SERVICES ACQUIRED BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2255, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE USE OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS FOR THE SECURITY AND SAFETY OF COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs

SUSPENSION OF THE REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

At this juncture, with the permission of the Body, the Chair ordered the suspension of the Reference of Business so that the Body could vote, on Third Reading, Senate Bill No. 2226.

APPROVAL OF SENATE BILL NO. 2226 ON THIRD READING

Upon motion of Senator Pimentel, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Third Reading, Senate Bill No. 2226, printed copies of which were distributed to the senators on May 28, 2014.

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, upon motion of Senator Pimentel,

there being no objection, Secretary Yabes read only the title of the bill, to wit:

AN ACT PROTECTING THE AMATEUR NATURE OF STUDENT-ATHLETES IN THE PHILIPPINES BY REGULATING THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT AND PROHIBITING THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES.

Secretary Yabes called the roll for nominal voting.

RESULT OF THE VOTING

The result of the voting was as follows:

In favor

Angara	Legarda
Aquino	Pimentel
Binay	Poe
Drilon	Recto
Ejercito	Revilla
Enrile	Trillanes
Escudero	Villar
Lapid	

Against

None

Abstention

None

With 15 senators voting in favor, none against, and no abstention, the Chair declared Senate Bill No. 2226 approved on Third Reading.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

(Continuation)

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

Senate Bill No. 2256, entitled

AN ACT CLASSIFYING THE SERVICES OF FRANCHISE GRANTEEES OF WATER UTILITIES, AND SALE OR IMPORTATION OF MACHINERY

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AND EQUIPMENT DIRECTLY USED IN OPERATING, MAINTAINING, IMPROVING AND EXPANDING DISTRIBUTION OF POTABLE WATER BY WATER UTILITIES AS VALUE-ADDED TAX EXEMPT TRANSACTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 109 (1) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9337, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito

To the Committee on Ways and Means

Senate Bill No. 2257, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10149 OR THE GOCC GOVERNANCE ACT OF 2011

Introduced by Senator Escudero

To the Committees on Finance; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 2258, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING THE WELFARE OF WORKERS IN THE WELLNESS SPA, BEAUTY SALON, FITNESS GYM AND RELATED BUSINESSES BY FACILITATING THEIR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SSS, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SOCIAL SECURITY LAW, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Government Corporations and Public Enterprises

Senate Bill No. 2259, entitled

AN ACT PROTECTING EMPLOYEES IN CASES OF MERGER OR CONSOLID-

ATION, SALE OR TRANSFER OF ALL OR SUBSTANTIALLY ALL ASSETS OR BUSINESS OF THEIR EMPLOYERS AND OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 2260, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING PRE-EMPLOYMENT PRIVILEGE TO INDIGENTS BY GRANTING A DISCOUNT ON FEES IN SECURING PRE-EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATIONS AND CLEARANCES FROM GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development

Senate Bill No. 2261, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING POLICIES FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CAREGIVERS IN THE PRACTICE OF THEIR PROFESSION

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development

Senate Bill No. 2262, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE SMALL RUMINANTS CENTER

Introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada

To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Finance

RESOLUTION

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 680, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE; AND THE



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NON-RELEASE OF FUNDS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF STATE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES SEVERELY DAMAGED BY TYPHOON YOLANDA AND EARLIER CALAMITIES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel III

To the Committee on Public Works

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee Report No. 34, submitted by the Committee on Finance, on Senate Bill No. 963, introduced by Senator Ejercito Estrada, entitled

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

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsors: Senators Escudero and Ejercito Estrada

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 35, submitted by the Committee on Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1657, introduced by Senator Trillanes IV, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 53 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsors: Senators Escudero and Trillanes IV

To the Calendar for Ordinary Business

Committee Report No. 36, submitted by the Committee on Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1872, introduced by Senator Enrile, entitled

AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TEN BILLION PESOS FOR THE AID, RELIEF, RESETTLEMENT, REHABILITATION AND LIVELIHOOD SERVICES AS WELL AS INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE IN CENTRAL VISAYAS, CREATING THE CENTRAL VISAYAS ASSISTANCE, RESETTLEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 297, introduced by Senator Grace Poe, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A P10 BILLION SPECIAL FUND FOR THE IMMEDIATE REBUILD, RECONSTRUCTION AND REHABILITATION OF BOHOL AND CEBU AND TO HELP THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THE 7.2 MAGNITUDE EARTHQUAKE THAT JOLTED CENTRAL VISAYAS;

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 337, introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito, entitled

RESOLUTION URGING THE PRESIDENT TO ALLOCATE A THREE BILLION PESOS REHABILITATION FUND FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELIEF AND REHABILITATION OF THE AREAS AFFECTED BY THE SEPTEMBER 2013 ZAMBOANGA SIEGE;

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 338, introduced by Senator Joseph Victor Ejercito, entitled

RESOLUTION CREATING THE "ECONOMIC AND LIVELIHOOD ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF TYPHOON SANTI FUND" AND THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR IN THE AMOUNT OF TWO BILLION PESOS;

and Proposed Senate Resolution No. 369, introduced by Senator Grace Poe, entitled

RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE INCLUSION OF A SPECIAL FUND IN THE AMOUNT OF TEN BILLION

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PESOS (PHP10,000,000,000.00) IN THE 2014 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS FUND TO AID THE VICTIMS OF SUPER TYPHOON "YOLANDA" AND FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF THE PROVINCES OF LEYTE, SAMAR, ILOILO, CEBU, PALAWAN AND OTHER LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AFFECTED,

recommending that it be archived.

To the Archives

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 2263, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE BALANCED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7279, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9397, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING ACT OF 1992

Introduced by Senator Defensor Santiago

To the Committee on Urban Planning, Housing and Resettlement

Senate Bill No. 2264, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 8 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 910 TO ALLOW THE FINANCING OF ENERGY-RELATED EXPENSES OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE USE OF THE SPECIAL FUND

Introduced by Senator Trillanes IV

To the Committee on Finance

Senate Bill No. 2265, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE, ATMOSPHERIC, GEOPHYSICAL

AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Drilon

To the Committees on Science and Technology; and Finance

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

Upon motion of Senator Pimentel, 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.

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

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

There being no interpellation, upon motion of Senator Pimentel, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 2212

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

SPECIAL ORDER

Upon motion of Senator Pimentel, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 32 on Senate Bill No. 2239 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 32 ON SENATE BILL NO. 2239

Upon motion of Senator Pimentel, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading,

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Senate Bill No. 2239 (Committee Report No. 32),
entitled

**AN ACT REQUIRING ALL FRANCHISE
HOLDERS OR OPERATORS OF
TELEVISION STATIONS AND
PRODUCERS OF TELEVISION
PROGRAMS TO BROADCAST OR
PRESENT THEIR PROGRAMS WITH
CLOSED CAPTIONS OPTION, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Pimentel, only the title of the bill was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

Thereupon, the Chair recognized Senator Poe for the sponsorship.

**SPONSORSHIP SPEECH
OF SENATOR POE**

Senator Poe presented to the Body Committee Report No. 32 on Senate Bill No. 2239 which, she said, was a consolidation of Senate Bill Nos. 271, 349 and 1656 authored respectively by Senators Revilla, Legarda and herself, and in consideration of House Bill No. 925, introduced by Representatives Tieng, Velarde and Atienza, the approved version of the House of Representatives, which was referred to the Committee on Public Information and Mass Media. She also acknowledged Sen. Bam Aquino as one of the coauthors.

The full text of Senator Poe's sponsorship speech follows:

Senate Bill No. 2239 is entitled "An Act Requiring All Franchise Holders or Operators of Television Stations and Producers of Television Programs to Broadcast or Present their Programs with Closed Captions Option, and For Other Purposes." The legislation has the objective of allowing the deaf, deafened and hard of hearing individuals, access to a full variety of television programs through the aid of closed captions and, thus, permitting them to engage and be part of popular culture.

As defined in the proposed policy measure, closed-caption is a method of sub-titling television programs by coding statements as vertical interval signal that are decoded at the receiver

and superimposed at the bottom of the television screen. This is similar to the description written in the portal of Merriam-Webster that "closed-captioning" is a system of having written words that appear on the screen to describe what is being said for people who do not hear well. It can only be seen with a special receiver-equipped decoder.

At present, there is no reliable data as to what exact percentage of all persons with disabilities are deaf or hearing-impaired. At the very least, 1.4 million persons with hearing disabilities were reported in the latest census. In 2009, the reported deaf population was at 241,624 and those who are partially deaf at 275,912. A considerable 517,536 have limited access to media information because of hearing impairment, as the Philippine Statistics Authority reported.

A study of the Department of Education (DepEd) indicated that 97% of children with disabilities are not in school and that of the same, around 13% have hearing loss or impairedness problem.

Closed-captioning is developed to aid hearing-impaired people, although it has since been used for a variety of other reasons:

1. It provides a critical link to news, entertainment and information to individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing;
2. The deaf culture is comprised of those who are deaf, hearing-impaired and the hearing world that interacts with them on a personal basis; and
3. Complete access to information, especially those relating to human rights issues lining the deaf community, is essential.

Its practicality can be seen in such noisy environment such as airports, or in places where there is a need to keep an environment quiet such as hospitals or libraries.

The following are the highlights of the legislation:

- a. It mandates that all franchise holders or operators of television stations and producers of television programs to broadcast or present their programs with closed captions options. It means that the system of closed captioning includes the capability or option to hide or show the captions at the discretion of the viewers. It benefits not only the deaf but also those who have difficulty hearing or understanding the spoken words;

- b. It provides exemptions where closed-captioning may not apply;
- c. A system of penalty, so that this written legislation will not just be a scrap of paper but should be honestly pursued; and
- d. A provision on implementing rules and regulations. This is most significant as the system of closed-captioning is one that combines noble objective and technical implementation. I trust that in this phase, the MTRCB, NTC and the TV stations will devise mechanisms to fully realize the objectives and intents of this bill.

During the public hearing conducted by the committee on the legislation, the resource persons from the three big networks: ABS-CBN (Ms. Monalisa Manalo and Arlan Alfonso), GMA-7 (VP Lynn Delfin and VP Teresa Pacis), and TV-5 (Mr. Patrick Paez), all posited that the networks' technical capacity is competent enough to support a closed caption system, especially for pre-recorded, pre-scripted or canned shows.

This legislation is likewise consistent and a fulfilment of the Philippine government's commitment when it ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008. Its provisions explicitly state that there should be full accessibility and recognition of the linguistic and cultural identity of persons with disability.

The country will also join the rest of its Southeast Asian neighbors – Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand – in providing a closed-captioning system to help the deaf and the hearing-impaired community.

Maari pong sabihin na ang panukalang ito ay malayo sa bituka sa unang tingin at masyadong teknikal para sa iba, ngunit sa pagtatantya ng Komite ay makakatulong sa ating mga kababayan hindi lamang sa mga taong may problema sa pandinig ukol sa impormasyon ngunit sa atin ding lahat dahil maaari nating malaman kahit na sa magugulong lugar kung ano ba ang nangyayari sa bansa, at makakapanood tayo ng balita na kahit walang sound ay mababasa natin kung ano ang nangyayayari. Dahil tamang impormasyon ang puwedeng magpayabong sa bayan. Ang sabi nga, "Information is the currency of democracy."

COSPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR AQUINO

Senator Aquino echoed what Senator Poe said in her sponsorship speech, and he underscored the importance of the measure to the deaf and hearing-

impaired Filipinos since closed captioning would enable them to keep in touch with public affairs and make them integrated in society.

Senator Aquino informed the Body of the visit to his office a few weeks ago of a number of deaf individuals and groups pushing for the closed caption measure and another bill which would mandate a Filipino sign language, especially in the absence of a universal Filipino sign language.

Senator Aquino stressed the need for another bill that would seek the inclusion of a sign language interpreter during newscasts similar to the '80s show, "*Kapwa Ko Mahal Ko.*" He reiterated that this simple act would help deaf Filipinos keep in touch with public affairs and become updated with current events, similar to TV5 which has a sign language screen insert. He said that aside from closed caption, the integration of a Filipino sign language and sign language insert in newscast would hopefully be tackled in future bills.

Senator Aquino revealed that one of the alarming news that the deaf group told him was that more than 50% of deaf children are molested and/or abused primarily because the education system does not provide enough support for the deaf. Thus, he underscored the need to support measures that would provide the hearing-impaired with proper support and care, and to likewise help them integrate into society by assisting them to find jobs and become productive members of the society.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR POE

At this point, Senator Poe thanked Senator Aquino for supporting the measure, acknowledging his huge role in advocating for the hearing-impaired community. She gave assurance that she would work on a separate bill that would mandate a sign language option in news programs.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 2239

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS

At this juncture, Senator Pimentel acknowledged the presence in the gallery of barangay officials and

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employees from Bgy. Fatima, General Santos City headed by Josephine P. Matobato, and the 2014 Miss Philippines Earth beauty titleholders, namely: Miss Philippines Air Diane Carmela Querrer, Ms. Philippines Water Kimberly Covert, and Miss IT Philippines Ecotourism Monique Teruelle Manuel.

Senate President Drilon welcomed the guests to the Senate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Pimentel, the session was suspended.

It was 3:59 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:07 p.m., the session was resumed.

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 33 ON SENATE BILL NO. 2159

(Continuation)

Upon motion of Senator Pimentel, there being no objection, the Body resumed consideration, on Second Reading, of Senate Bill No. 2159 (Committee Report No. 33), entitled

**AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 7721, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
AN ACT LIBERALIZING THE ENTRY
AND SCOPE OF OPERATIONS OF
FOREIGN BANKS IN THE PHILIP-
PINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

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

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

TERMINATION OF THE PERIOD OF INTERPELLATIONS

There being no interpellation, upon motion of Senator Pimentel, there being no objection, the Body closed the period of interpellations.

MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR OSMEÑA

Senator Osmeña manifested his willingness to continue entertaining questions during the period of amendments. He appealed to the Body to pass the bill on Third Reading the following week so that both Houses could meet in a bicameral conference since the House of Representatives had already passed its version. He said that the bill is in keeping with the Philippines' commitment to join the ASEAN framework for banking institutions.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 2159

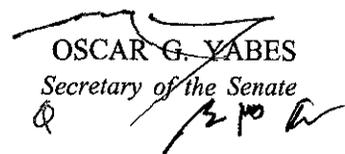
Upon motion of Senator Pimentel, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

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

It was 4:10 p.m.

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.


OSCAR G. YABES
Secretary of the Senate

Approved on June 3, 2014