

**REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**

**S e n a t e**

**Pasay City**

# **Journal**

**SESSION NO. 21**

*Monday, September 17, 2007*

**FOURTEENTH CONGRESS  
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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Monday, September 17, 2007

**CALL TO ORDER**

At 4:20 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Manny Villar, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

Sen. Mar Roxas led the prayer, to wit:

Dear Lord, now more than ever, this proud yet deeply divided nation turns to You as a God of Peace and Justice. Heal our country of its wounds. Grant us the grace to forgive, the gift of being a national family and the wisdom to take the high road of a common destiny of life and love.

God of Justice, pray for us.

God of Peace, dwell in us.

God of Greatness, light our future.

Amen.

**NATIONAL ANTHEM**

The Trinity University of Asia High School Glee Club led the singing of the national anthem and thereafter rendered the song entitled, *Tagumpay Nating Lahat*.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon direction of the Chair, the Deputy Secretary for Legislation, Edwin B. Bellen, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, E. J.	Defensor Santiago, M.
Aquino III, B. S. C.	Ejercito Estrada, J.
Arroyo, J. P.	Enrile, J. P.
Biazon, R. G.	Escudero, F. J. G.
Cayetano, A. P. C. S.	Gordon, R. J.
Cayetano, C. P. S.	Honasan, G. B.

Lacson, P. M.	Pimentel Jr., A. Q.
Lapid, M. L. M.	Revilla Jr., R. B.
Legarda, L.	Roxas, M.
Madrigal, M.A.	Villar Jr. M. B.
Pangilinan, F. N.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

With 22 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Trillanes was unable to attend the session.

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT  
OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

Senator Pangilinan acknowledged the presence of Vice Mayor Tobing Betito of Bacacay, Albay; Commissioner Herwin Butabara; and students from the College of Education, University of Makati, headed by Dr. Nenita Manongsong, and College of Nursing, University of the East-Caloocan, headed by Ms. Agnes Sagadraca.

**APPROVAL OF JOURNALS**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session Nos. 19 and 20 and considered them approved.

**DEFERMENT  
OF THE REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Body deferred the Reference of Business to a later hour.

**PRIVILEGE SPEECH  
OF SENATOR PIMENTEL**

Availing himself of the privilege hour, Senator Pimentel delivered the following speech, along with

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a visual presentation depicting some gruesome scenes in Burma to dramatize the utter lack of civility by which the military regime has been operating in Burma, enslaving its own people.

### BURMA NEEDS OUR HELP

In 1990, parliamentary elections were held and Burma elected 485 members of parliament; 390 of those elected were members of the National League for Democracy (NLD) led by Aung San Suu Kyi. The military subsequently dissolved the parliament, arrested Aung San Suu Kyi, and took into custody many NLD leaders. Three of the arrested NLD leaders died while in custody; three other MPs died soon after they were released from prison; two MPs in exile were assassinated -- one in the Burma-China border and the other in Bangkok.

Hkun Htun Oo, chairman of the Shan Nationalities League for Democracy, has been ordered imprisoned for 83 years.

Since the 1990 elections also, 13 MPs, 11 of whom are NLD representatives, have remained in custody, 182 MPs have been harassed, forced to resign from their parties or dismissed by the Elections Commission.

An elected MP by the name of U Than Lwin, who is 70 years old, was punched on the face with a knuckle-duster—in Visayas, we call it *pitsi kurno*—and the attacker fled into the office of the Union Solidarity and Development Association. This took place on June 15, 2007 at the town of Madaya.

The people of Burma have not been sitting idle. They have been trying to assert their rights peacefully. The slide that we see depicts a peaceful rally at the National League for Democracy on May 27, 2007 in Rangoon.

Swan Arr Shin, who is the one with power similar to the Brownshirts of Nazi Germany, stopped prayer sessions and blocked peaceful march in Rangoon on May 27, 2007. And so, what did the unarmed demonstrators do? They sat down to counter the harassment of the Swan Arr Shin thugs of the military regime.

And then, at a peaceful demonstration at Insein Township on May 15, 2007, the thugs of Swan Arr Shin attacked Su Su Nway, a human rights and labor advocate who was peacefully demonstrating.

The next slide shows Swan Arr Shin thugs forcibly carrying away a peaceful demonstrator in Rangoon.

The problem in Burma today has spread to so many towns. In Sittwe and Pakokku, monks led the protests, whereas before they were just keeping quiet. And so, the Swan Arr Shin thugs have stopped prayer sessions, closed places of worship, harassed NLD leaders, and attacked and detained peaceful protestors. Even human rights defenders and promoters who were teaching the villagers about human rights were attacked by Swan Arr Shin thugs. Myint Naing and Maung Maung Lay, human rights defenders, were injured by attacks of the junta-backed goons on April 18, 2007 at Okpon Village.

The next two slides may shock the sensitive. This is the slide of a student leader, a former student leader by the name of Thet Naing Oo of the 1988 Movement, who was beaten to death by police and Swan Arr Shin hoodlums in Rangoon on March 18, 2006.

The next slides show in graphic details photographs of genocidal atrocities. We can see that terrible picture of a man, lying with one of his legs blown off and in the other slide, another victim of such an atrocity.

Then, jumping ahead, our slide shows the picture of Thet Win Aung, a political prisoner who died in Mandalay Prison in Upper Burma, on October 2006. Arrested in October 1998, he was sentenced to 52 years of imprisonment, later increased to 59 years. But death has freed him from having to pass through the ordeal of that lengthy prison term.

Forced labor is also rampant in Burma and we can see even women are subjected to carry things in behalf of the military junta in that hopeless land.

The next slide will show a boy breaking stones that demonstrates child labor is also a common thing in Burma.

Then the next slide shows the picture of a child victim of military offensive against the Karen and Shan States.

The next slide shows a 9-year old girl, who was shot by government forces on May 27, 2006, and she somehow survived the incident.

Not content with just shooting or harassing people, the military junta in Burma burned villages forcing the people to flee to what is known in Burma as the "Internally Displaced People's Camp" which shows some of the inmates of that camp, most of them children and some adults at the Shan State in Burma. There is also displacement of people in the current state of Burma, and these slides show the picture of a woman and

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her child, as well as in the background several displaced persons, running away from the military harassment.

The next slide shows what ASEAN leaders have said. We have statement from Foreign Affairs Secretary Alberto Romulo who said, "There is impatience in ASEAN about the fact that it is not working out the way we thought it would work out." In other words, Secretary Romulo is complaining about the fact that despite the promise of Myanmar authorities that it will *institute peaceful, democratic reforms in Burma*, such a thing has not yet happened as the *Time* released this statement on September 7, 2007.

There is also a statement of the Indonesian Foreign Minister, Hassan Wirayuda, who said that "the diplomatic efforts by the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which *includes Indonesia and Myanmar*, to prod Myanmar to rapidly democratize have failed so far."

The next slide will show that the European Union is concerned about what is happening in Burma.

And so just days ago, the European Union passed a unanimous resolution seeking action by the National Security Council to sanction Burma for what it is doing to its own people. And I would like to quote in this connection what EU Minister Colm Burke said that the EU has done little to help Burma democratize, and he asked the question: "How long will the EU allow the state of affairs in Burma to continue?"

So our call is that we should work with our ASEAN colleagues in legislature – our friends in the various legislatures of ASEAN, we are nine members excluding Burma – and I think we should use our contacts with our colleagues in the various legislatures of the ASEAN countries to press the Myanmar military to effect: 1) a reconciliation among the people of Burma; 2) restoration of their rights; and 3) installation of a democratic and freely elected government in Burma.

But to that end, we also have to seek the help of China and India because China and India are the two main investors in Burma today; so, they have a lot to say regarding the way the authorities in Burma would treat their own citizens.

Unless the regime takes clearer steps to democratize Myanmar, the nine other nations of ASEAN should either suspend or expel Myanmar from ASEAN. *The whole problem is that I do not think that the leaders of ASEAN are taking forceful determination to effect whatever sanctions are needed on the Myanmar regime.*

So that is our call and for the credits on the photos that we have just seen, we acknowledge the Norwegian Burma Committee, Burma Digest, Camilla Bushi, San Aung and Au So Pine, Burma United Nations Service Office and the Democratic Voice of Burma.

## REFERRAL OF SPEECH TO COMMITTEE

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair referred the speech of Senator Pimentel to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

## MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

Senator Defensor Santiago recalled that she had delivered three privilege speeches on three points of law which she believed are relevant to the present Senate inquiry into the alleged illegal wiretapping. She said that the first speech entitled "Charter Places Absolute Ban on Use of Illegal Wiretap," which was properly acknowledged in the invitations for the public hearings, was referred to the three committees conducting the investigation; while the second speech entitled "The Doctrine of Executive Privilege After the 2006 Cases of *Gudani v. Senga* and *Senate v. Ermita*," and the third speech entitled "Witness Retraction is Weightless in the Rule on Evidence" have not been referred to its proper committees. She proposed to have the speeches referred to the committees investigating the so-called Garcillano probe.

## REFERRAL OF SPEECHES TO THE COMMITTEE

After conferring with the Minority Leader, upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, there being no objection, the Chair referred the two cited speeches of Senator Defensor Santiago to the Committees on National Defense and Security, primarily; and the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws, secondarily.

## PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

Likewise, availing herself of the privilege hour, Senator Defensor Santiago delivered the following speech:

*MS*

*MS*

## AMNESTY AND PARDON BOTH IMPLY GUILT

### *Constitutional provision*

The Constitution, Article VII on the Executive Department, provides:

Sec. 19. Except in cases of impeachment, or as otherwise provided in this Constitution, the President may grant reprieves, commutations, and pardons, and remit fines and forfeitures, after conviction by final judgment.

He shall also have the power to grant amnesty with the concurrence of a majority of all the Members of the Congress.

The Constitution does not provide a definition of the term "pardon" and "amnesty." And yet the distinction of these two concepts is important, because the Constitution requires that Congress, by majority vote of all its Members, should concur with an amnesty. Since there is no effort at drawing a constitutional distinction, this function has been implicitly left by the Constitution for the Supreme Court to discharge.

### *Definitions of amnesty and pardon*

Accordingly, in the 1903 case of *Villa v Allen*, the Philippine Supreme Court defined an amnesty as "the general pardon to rebels for their treason and other high political offenses,..." This was followed by the 1991 case of *Llamas v Orbos*, where the Court also used this definition of amnesty.

Unlike these two cases defining "amnesty," there is no Supreme Court decision which defines what pardon is, but cases indicate that the Philippine Supreme Court implicitly adopts the definition of the term "pardon" in the seminal American case of *U.S. v Wilson*, where the great Chief Justice Marshall ruled in 1833:

A pardon is an act of grace, proceeding from the power entrusted with the execution of the laws, which exempts the individual, on whom it is bestowed, from the punishment the law inflicts for a crime he has committed. It is the private, though official act of the executive magistrate, delivered to the individual for whose benefit it is intended, and not communicated officially to the court. It is a constituent part of the judicial system, that the judge sees only with judicial eyes, and

knows nothing respecting any particular case, of which he is not informed judicially. A private deed, not communicated to him, whatever may be its character, whether a pardon or release, is totally unknown and cannot be acted on. The looseness which would be introduced into judicial proceedings, would prove fatal to the great principles of justice, if the judge might notice and act upon facts not brought regularly into the case. Such a proceeding, in ordinary cases, would subvert the best established principles, and overturn those rules which have been settled by the wisdom of ages.

Is there anything peculiar in a pardon which ought to distinguish it in this respect from other facts? We know of no legal principle which will sustain such a distinction. A pardon is a deed, to the validity of which delivery is essential, and delivery is not complete, without acceptance.

### *Distinction between amnesty and pardon*

The distinction between amnesty and pardon was first drawn in the 1949 case of *Barrioquinto v Fernandez*, which has since been superseded. And in my view, that was a welcome development because that old *Barrioquinto* case still continues to be quoted by certain public officials in our media today. This old *Barrioquinto* case has produced more doctrinal confusion than it has clarified. In contemporary jurisprudence, *Barrioquinto* is valid merely for the statement that pardon is a private executive act, while amnesty is a public executive proclamation to which Congress must concur. Thus, *Barrioquinto*, despite its oratory, does not really tell us what is the difference in nature of these two forms of executive clemency, and neither does the present authority that I am about to cite. But still, I will cite it because it is the prevailing authority.

Today, the better authority for the distinction is the 1997 case of *People v Casido*, thus:

Pardon is granted by the Chief Executive and as such it is a private act which must be pleaded and proved by the person pardoned, because the courts take no notice thereof; while amnesty by Proclamation of the Chief Executive with the concurrence of Congress is a public act of which the courts should take judicial notice. *AC*

*ms*

Pardon is granted to one after conviction; while amnesty is granted to classes of persons or communities who may be guilty of political offenses, generally before or after the institution of the criminal prosecution and sometimes after conviction. Pardon looks forward and relieves the offender from the consequences of an offense of which he has been convicted, that is, it abolishes or forgives the punishment, and for that reason it does "not work the restoration of the rights to hold public office, or the right of suffrage, unless such rights be expressly restored by the terms of the pardon," and it "in no case exempts the culprit from the payment of the civil indemnity imposed upon him by the sentence" (Article 36, Revised Penal Code). While amnesty looks backward and abolishes and puts into oblivion the offense itself, it so overlooks and obliterates the offense with which he is charged that the person released by amnesty stands before the law precisely as though he had committed no offense.

These are fine words but they still do not teach us what is the distinction between a pardon and an amnesty.

#### ***Both Amnesty and Pardon imply guilt***

It appears from media accounts that even lawyers who should know better are discombobulated on the issue of whether pardon and amnesty imply guilt. I humbly submit that contemporary jurisprudence holds that both pardon and amnesty imply guilt.

That amnesty implies guilt was the ruling in the 1963 case of *Vera v. People*, thus:

But said cases have been superseded and deemed overruled by the subsequent cases of *People v. Llanita, et al.* (L-2082, April 26, 1950, 86 Phil. 219) and *People v. Guillermo, et al.* (L-2188, May 18, 1950, 86 Phil. 395), wherein we held that:

It is rank inconsistency for appellant to justify an act, or seek forgiveness for an act which, according to him, he has not committed. *Amnesty presupposes the commission of a crime, and when an accused maintains that he has not committed a crime, he cannot have any use for amnesty.*

For emphasis, "amnesty presupposes the commission of a crime, and when an accused maintains that he has not committed crime, he cannot have any use of amnesty." This was directly contradicted by a banner headline story, where one of former President Estrada's spokespersons said that the former President is willing to negotiate or, at least, discuss the prospect of an amnesty because it does not imply guilt. That is wrong and that lawyer is so dead. This is the specific ruling in the 1963 case of *Vera v. People*:


Amnesty presupposes the commission of a crime and when an accused maintains that he has not committed any crime he cannot have any use for amnesty.

Where an amnesty proclamation imposes certain conditions, as in this case, it is incumbent upon the accused to prove the existence of such conditions. *The invocation of amnesty is in the nature of a plea of confession and avoidance, which means that the pleader admits the allegations against him but disclaims liability therefore on account of intervening facts which, if proved, would bring the crime charged within the scope of the amnesty proclamation.*

And just to be clear that amnesty implies guilt, the Supreme Court repeated this ruling in the subsequent 1965 case of *People v. Pasilan*, thus:

Neither can the additional ground of amnesty entitle appellant to a new trial. In the first place, Proclamation No. 8 of President Roxas is not a newly discovered evidence, for it was already known when the case was tried. Secondly, availing of the benefits granted by the amnesty proclamation would be inconsistent with the plea of not guilty which appellant entered upon his arraignment. Amnesty presupposes the commission of a crime, and when the accused maintains that he has not committed a crime, he cannot avail himself of amnesty.

This was exactly the case of former President Estrada. He entered a plea of not guilty. And the court here is telling us, "If you pleaded not guilty, but if found guilty by the court, then when you apply for amnesty, you are implying that the court was correct that you are guilty."

That pardon, like amnesty, also implies guilt was the ruling of the Supreme Court in the 1989 case of *Monsanto v. Factoran, Jr.*, thus: 



The modern trend of authorities now rejects the unduly broad language of the *Garland* case. (It is referring to an old American case reputed to be perhaps the most extreme statement which has been made on the effects of a pardon.) To our mind, this is the more realistic approach. While a pardon has generally been regarded as blotting out the existence of guilt so that in the eye of the law the offender is as innocent as though he never committed the offense, it does not operate for all purposes. The very essence of a pardon is forgiveness or remission of guilt. Pardon implies guilt. It does not erase the fact of the commission of the crime and the conviction thereof. It does not wash out the moral sting. It involves forgiveness and not forgetfulness.

The better considered cases regard full pardon (at least one not based on the offender's innocence) as relieving the party from all the punitive consequences of his criminal act, including the disqualifications or disabilities based on the finding of guilt. But it relieves him from nothing more. "To say, however, that the offender is a 'new man,' and as 'innocent as if he had never committed the offense,' is to ignore the difference between the crime and the criminal. A person adjudged guilty of an offense is a convicted criminal, though pardoned; he may be deserving of punishment, though left unpunished; and the law may regard him as more dangerous to society than one never found guilty of crime. Though it places no restraints upon him following his conviction."

A pardon looks to the future. It is not retrospective. It makes no amends for the past. It affords no relief for what has been suffered by the offender. It does not impose upon the government any obligation to make reparation for what has been suffered. "Since the offense has been established by judicial proceedings, that which has been done or suffered while they were in force is presumed to have been rightfully done and justly suffered, and no satisfaction for it can be required." This would explain why petitioner, though pardoned, cannot be entitled to receive backpay for loss earnings and benefits.

And this ruling was also repeated by the Supreme Court in the 1993 case of *Garcia v Chairman, Commission on Audit*, thus:

Time and again this Court has unfolded the effects of a pardon upon the individual to whom it is granted. In *Monsanto v Factoran*, we have firmly established the general rule that while a pardon has generally been regarded as blotting out the existence of guilt so that in the eyes of the law the offender is as innocent as though he never committed the offense, it does not operate for all purposes. The very essence of a pardon is forgiveness or remission of guilt and not forgetfulness. It does not erase the fact of the commission of the crime and the conviction thereof. Pardon frees the individual from all the penalties and legal disabilities and restores to him all his civil rights. Unless expressly grounded on the person's innocence, it cannot bring back lost reputation for honesty, integrity and fair dealing. The pardoned offender regains his eligibility for appointment to public office which was forfeited by reason of the conviction of the offense. But since pardon does not generally result in automatic reinstatement because the offender has to apply for reappointment, he is not entitled to back wages.

For the sake of national reconciliation, I urge former President Estrada to accept pardon, because amnesty is usually granted with respect to political offenses, which I have defined in my book as "an ideologically motivated act, expressing political opposition, directed against the security of the state." Thus, he might not be qualified under the amnesty proclamation, because his conviction has been for plunder, which is a nonpolitical offense.

Further in the *Monsanto* case, the court ruled as follows:

While we are prepared to concede that pardon may remit all the penal consequences of a criminal indictment if only to give meaning to the fiat that a pardon being a presidential prerogative, should not be circumscribed by legislative action, we do not subscribe to the fictitious belief that pardon blots out the guilt of an individual and that once he is absolved he should be treated as if he were innocent. For whatever may have been the judicial

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dicta in the past, we cannot perceive how pardon can produce such moral changes to equate a pardoned convict in character and conduct with the one who has constantly maintained the mark of a good law-abiding citizen.

Pardon cannot mask the acts constituting the crime. These are historical facts which, despite the public manifestation of mercy and forgiveness implicit in pardon, ordinary prudent men will take into account in their subsequent dealings with the actor. Pardon granted after conviction frees the individual from all the penalties and legal disabilities and restores him to all his civil rights.

But unless expressly grounded on the person's innocence, which is rare, it cannot bring back lost reputation for honesty, integrity and fair dealing. This must be constantly kept in mind lest we lose track of the true character and purpose of the privilege.

For the sake of national reconciliation, I urge President Estrada to accept pardon because amnesty is usually granted with respect to political offenses, which I have defined in my book as "an ideologically motivated act, expressing political opposition, directed against the security of the state." The paradigmatic political offenses are coup d'etat, rebellion, sedition, inciting to rebellion or sedition. President Estrada might not be qualified under the amnesty proclamation, because his conviction has been for plunder, which is a nonpolitical offense.

But whether former President Estrada is willing to discuss amnesty or pardon with the administration, I believe that all the talkative people who have either been advising him or speaking for him should do him the justice of full legal research. Today, I humbly submit that such research reveals that both amnesty and pardon imply guilt on the part of the applicant.

#### **INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR EJERCITO ESTRADA**

Senator Ejercito Estrada asked how President Estrada's acceptance of pardon would result in national reconciliation, in light of the conclusion that an amnesty or a pardon implies guilt. Senator Defensor Santiago replied that it would put closure to the incident, although there is an implicit admission that the Sandiganbayan was correct in convicting the former President. On the other hand, she said that

if the former President continues with the case and files an appeal with the Supreme Court, then it is highly likely that the Supreme Court would take at least two years to decide the case. She pointed out that under the Constitution, the Supreme Court has the duty to decide all cases no longer than two years but it is public knowledge that from the time the notice of appeal is filed with the Sandiganbayan as the trial court, there can be interlocutory motions – motions that are not principal in nature – such as postponement or motion on the ground that one of the lawyers or the witnesses is sick.

Senator Defensor Santiago stated that if the former President's lawyers instead file a motion for new trial, or trial *de novo*, then the case might take another six years to finish, as did the present case. She reiterated that it would be best for former President Estrada to apply for pardon to put closure to a highly controversial case. She said, though, that she is willing to accept other views from other people with similar strength of conviction.

Senator Ejercito Estrada noted that based on surveys, people believe that President Estrada was not guilty of the charges against him. Considering that President Estrada would never admit guilt to the trumped-up charges of plunder, he asked what other options are available to him. Senator Defensor Santiago replied that, unfortunately, after judicious legal research, there is no other option; *dura lex sed lex*, "the law might be harsh, but it is the law," and it has to be obeyed. She said that while President Estrada can file a motion for reconsideration, generally, a court will not reconsider its own judgment because, in effect, it is an admission that it was wrong at least on certain points of fact or of the law. Moreover, she believed that a motion for new trial would certainly take its toll on the physical and emotional health of the appellant; likewise, the resolution to an appeal filed directly with the Supreme Court would take at least two years. Thus, she said that former President Estrada would continue to suffer mental anguish because he does not know what his ultimate fate would be. She opined that there is no remedy, even if people disagree with the court, unless they want to impeach the justices of the Sandiganbayan, for example, or take to the streets and start a revolution, which is a fact duly acknowledged by political science. She averred that these are the constitutional remedies available under the Constitution, and the Constitution has to prevail.

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Asked if she believes that Malacañang would grant President Estrada an absolute pardon, Senator Defensor Santiago replied that not being privy to the thinking of President Arroyo on the matter, she could only explain the consequences of an absolute pardon.

She stated that in strict technical language, former President Estrada becomes a convicted criminal if he has been found guilty of a crime. But an absolute pardon, she explained, means he does not have to serve the principal penalty of imprisonment and the other accessory penalties provided for in the Penal Code such as perpetual absolute disqualification from public office; disqualification from exercising the right of suffrage – the right to vote and be voted upon; and civil interdiction, which means that his authority as head of the family or as a guardian or as a husband with power to co-sign all legal documents concerning conjugal property; are all rescinded, and effectively, he is as free as any ordinary citizen to avail of all his liberties under the Constitution.

She stated that a conditional pardon, on the other hand, imposes certain conditions which the accused or the convict has to comply with before a pardon can take effect; normally, the condition is that the convict should not commit a crime defined in the Penal Code, which means that former President Estrada has to be very careful about what he says in public. She explained that a conditional pardon will not take effect until after the conditions have been complied with.

At this point, Senator Ejercito Estrada stated that while he totally disagrees with the decision of the Sandiganbayan because of its many loopholes, he has no choice but to respect it. He asked Senator Defensor Santiago if she thinks that President Estrada should also be acquitted of the charge of plunder relating to the *jueteng* case considering that his co-accused were acquitted. Senator Defensor Santiago replied that this would depend on the evaluation of evidence by the court. She observed that the fact one accused was convicted and the others were acquitted indicated that there was no conspiracy among the accused. The other implication, she said, is that since the Sandiganbayan reportedly said that there was no evidence to justify the allegation that former President Estrada received kickbacks from tobacco excise taxes, there were no public funds involved in the crime of plunder. She added that the decision implies that President Estrada is guilty of

plunder for receiving kickbacks from *jueteng* that constitute private funds. She said that she would have to study the decision at closer length.

## INTERPELLATION OF SENATOR BIAZON

Senator Biazon asked whether the difference between amnesty and pardon lies on the authority that grants it – the President, in case of a pardon; and the President and Congress, in case of an amnesty. Senator Defensor Santiago affirmed that the power to grant pardon is in the hands of the President, while the power to grant amnesty is a shared authority and power between the Executive and the legislature.

Replying to other queries, Senator Defensor Santiago said that to be granted amnesty or pardon, the beneficiary has to apply for it. She explained that a convict cannot be forced to accept a pardon in the same way that no power in government can force the President to issue one. She said that this was the ruling in a very old case, *U.S. v Wilson*, decided in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and which has been implicitly acknowledged and applied by the Philippine Supreme Court. She reiterated that a person cannot be forced to accept pardon because of two reasons: 1) pardon implies guilt; and 2) in the event of conditional pardon, acceptance or application for a pardon means that the person is willing to comply with conditions set forth therein.

Senator Defensor Santiago recalled that in *U.S. vs. Wilson*, Justice Kinney pointed out that some convicts would rather die than accept a pardon because the conditions are so humiliating. She surmised that Justice Kinney must have reflected on the circumstances of the U.S judicial system in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Nonetheless, she emphasized that just as no one can force the President to issue a pardon, no one can force a convict to accept it.

On whether a convict has to apply for a pardon, Senator Defensor Santiago explained that the normal procedure is that the convict, through his counsel, files an application which is referred to the Board of Pardon and Parole under the Department of Justice which then submits a list to the Executive for the President's approval.

Asked if the grant of amnesty could precede the application, Senator Defensor Santiago replied

in the affirmative, explaining that as the Constitution provides, a pardon can only be granted after final conviction. She added that there is an implication acknowledged by the Supreme Court that amnesty, unlike pardon, can be granted at any time, that is, before or after conviction.

On whether a pardon can be granted to someone only after a final conviction, Senator Defensor Santiago replied that the Constitution provides that pardon can be extended only after final conviction, meaning, it is final and executory which takes place 15 days from the promulgation of judgment. However, she explained that within the same period, the convict can either file a motion for reconsideration or move for a new trial.

Asked if the failure of the convict to exercise his legal options is tantamount to a waiver of his rights, Senator Defensor Santiago clarified that after the 15-day period, the convict loses all his rights because the judgment of the court becomes final and executory: "final" means there is nothing left for the accused to do and "executory" means the court can execute whatever penalty it has imposed.

On whether an application is a necessary requirement for the grant of amnesty, Senator Defensor Santiago replied that it depends on the terms of the amnesty proclamation issued by the President and concurred in by Congress but generally, she pointed out, there is a procedure prescribed in the proclamation that should be followed by the convict before he can avail of the benefits, absent which, the application is not necessary.

Senator Biazon said that he would raise his questions when the Senate considers the presidential amnesty proclamation.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Pangilinan, the session was suspended.

*It was 5:27 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 5:27 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR PANGILINAN**

Senator Pangilinan manifested that after conferring with Senator Defensor Santiago, her privilege speech and the interpellations thereon would not be referred to any committee.

#### **ADDITIONAL REFERRAL**

With the consent of Senator Pangilinan, at the instance of Senator Defensor Santiago, there being no objection, the Japan-Philippine Economic Partnership Agreement (JPEPA) was referred to the Committee on Trade and Commerce as the secondary committee.

#### **REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

The Deputy Secretary for Legislation read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

#### **BILLS ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 1401, entitled

#### **AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS**

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

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

Senate Bill No. 1402, entitled

#### **AN ACT TO PROMOTE DONATIONS IN GOOD FAITH OF MEDICINES, FOOD PRODUCTS OR SUPPLIES BY ESTABLISHMENTS AND OTHER ENTITIES, INCLUDING INDIVIDUALS, BY EXEMPTING THEM FROM ANY FORM OF LIABILITY ARISING THEREFROM**

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F.  
Trillanes IV

#### **To the Committee on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development**

Senate Bill No. 1403, entitled

AN ACT DECRIMINALIZING LIBEL BY MEANS OF WRITINGS OR SIMILAR MEANS REPEALING ARTICLE 355 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Public Information and Mass Media**

Senate Bill No. 1404, entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE THE LAWS ON PATENTS, TRADENAMES AND TRADEMARKS MORE RESPONSIVE TO THE HEALTH CARE NEEDS OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE BY CLARIFYING NON-PATENTABLE INVENTIONS, ALLOWING THE IMPORTATION AND EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF PATENTED MEDICINES, AND MODIFYING GOVERNMENT USE PROVISIONS FOR DRUGS OR MEDICINES, TO LOWER PRICES AND INCREASE ACCESS TO AND SUPPLY OF QUALITY DRUGS OR MEDICINES, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8293 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Compañera Pia S. Cayetano

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

Senate Bill No. 1405, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING MAY 7 OF EVERY YEAR AS HEALTH WORKER'S DAY

Introduced by Senator Compañera Pia S. Cayetano

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 1406, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE LEGITIMATION OF CHILDREN BORN TO PARENTS BELOW MARRYING AGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED

Introduced by Senator Compañera Pia S. Cayetano

**To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 1407, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER TWENTY-FIVE OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Introduced by Senator Compañera Pia S. Cayetano

**To the Committee on Youth, Women and Family Relations**

Senate Bill No. 1408, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE INCLUSION OF ATHLETES WITH DISABILITY OR DIFFERENTLY-ABLED ATHLETES IN THE GRANTING OF CASH AND OTHER NON-MONETARY BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9064, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Compañera Pia S. Cayetano

**To the Committees on Games, Amusement and Sports; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1409, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9280, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CUSTOMS BROKERS ACT OF 2004 *AB*

*AB*

Introduced by Senator Gordon

**To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1410, entitled

AN ACT CONSOLIDATING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS AND THE LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT AUTHORITY INTO THE NATIONAL RAILWAY AUTHORITY TO INTEGRATE AND REVITALIZE RAILWAY TRANSPORTATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS THEREFOR TO BUILD AN ADEQUATE AND EFFICIENT NATIONAL RAILWAY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gordon

**To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; Public Services; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1411, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1829, PENALIZING OBSTRUCTION OF APPREHENSION AND PROSECUTION OF CRIMINAL OFFENDERS

Introduced by Senator Gordon

**To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights**

Senate Bill No. 1412, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE MARITIME SAFETY, ENHANCE MARITIME SECURITY, AND SAFEGUARD AND PROTECT THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT BY STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD

Introduced by Senator Gordon

**To the Committees on National Defense and Security; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1413, entitled

AN ACT TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC BY REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION, ANNUAL INSPECTION AND MARKING OF COMMON CARRIERS USED ON LAND, AND THE WEARING OF UNIFORMS OF THEIR DRIVERS AND CONDUCTORS FOR PURPOSES OF IDENTIFICATION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Introduced by Senator Gordon

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

Senate Bill No. 1414, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS TO EXCLUSIVELY INVESTIGATE, PROSECUTE AND HANDLE CUSTOMS CASES, AMENDING SECTION 2401 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED BY SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9135, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Enrile

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1415, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 910, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Compañera Pia S. Cayetano

**To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1416, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THE ILLEGAL USE <sup>of</sup>

OF AFP (ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES) AND PNP (PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE) UNIFORMS, INSIGNIA OR DRESS AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE ARTICLE 179 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 1417, entitled

AN ACT FIXING THE AGE OF THE COMPOSITION OF THE KATIPUNAN NG KABATAAN AND THE SANG-GUNIANG KABATAAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 424 AND 428 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991", AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

**To the Committees on Local Government; and Youth, Women and Family Relations**

Senate Bill No. 1418, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN LAND ADMINISTRATION

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1419, entitled

AN ACT TRANSFERRING THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AS A SEPARATE AND DISTINCT ARMED UNIFORMED COMMISSIONED SERVICE, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5173, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

**To the Committees on National Defense and Security; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1420, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR CHEAPER MEDICINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

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

Senate Bill No. 1421, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM FOR AGRICULTURAL LANDS LOCATED IN SLOPING AREAS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; Local Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1422, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7900, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE HIGH-VALUE CROPS DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1995, BY ENCOURAGING THE ADOPTION OF COOPERATIVES SYSTEMS IN THE CONSOLIDATION OF SMALL LANDHOLDINGS AND PARTICIPATION OF THE CORPORATE SECTOR IN THE PRODUCTION OF HIGH VALUE CROPS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**To the Committees on Agriculture and Food; and Agrarian Reform**

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Senate Bill No. 1423, entitled

AN ACT PROMOTING AND ENHANCING  
THE DEVELOPMENT, UTILIZATION  
AND COMMERCIALIZATION OF  
RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

**To the Committees on Energy; Public Services;  
Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1424, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING ARNIS AS THE  
PHILIPPINE NATIONAL SPORT

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

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

Senate Bill No. 1425, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A SPECIAL  
POVERTY ALLEVIATION FUND TO  
BE USED TO FINANCE SCHOOL  
AND COMMUNITY-BASED SUPPLE-  
MENTAL FEEDING PROGRAMS AND  
RELATED POVERTY ALLEVIATION  
EFFORTS USING THE MINIMUM  
BASIC NEEDS (MBN) APPROACH  
IN THE POOREST OF THE POOR  
COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY  
AND FOR OTHER RELATED  
PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F.  
Trillanes IV

**To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare  
and Rural Development; Education, Arts and  
Culture; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1426, entitled

AN ACT REDUCING THE RATE OF  
AMUSEMENT TAX ON ADMISSION  
FEES OF THEATERS AND CINEMAS,  
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE  
PARAGRAPH (A) SECTION 140 OF  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE  
KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERN-

MENT CODE OF 1991, AND OF  
OTHER RELATED LAWS

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

**To the Committees on Local Government;  
and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1427, entitled

AN ACT PUNISHING GOVERNMENT  
OFFICIALS OR SUPERIORS FOR  
CRIMES OR OFFENSES COMMITTED  
BY THEIR SUBORDINATES UNDER  
THE PRINCIPLE OF COMMAND  
RESPONSIBILITY

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

**To the Committees on Justice and Human  
Rights; and National Defense and Security**

Senate Bill No. 1428, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING PARAGRAPH (A),  
SECTION 90 OF REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN  
AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong"  
Revilla Jr.

**To the Committees on Local Government;  
and Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 1429, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PLACEMENT  
OF NON-MOBILE BILLBOARDS  
INCLUDING THEIR SUPPORT  
STRUCTURES

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor  
Santiago

**To the Committee on Public Works**

Senate Bill No. 1430, entitled

AN ACT CREATING A NATIONAL  
WOMEN'S BUSINESS ENTERPRISE  
POLICY AND PRESCRIBING ~~AK~~

ARRANGEMENTS FOR DEVELOPING, COORDINATING AND IMPLEMENTING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Trade and Commerce; and Youth, Women and Family Relations**

Senate Bill No. 1431, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE, ARTICLES 804, 805, 810 AND 811, PROVIDING FOR THE USE OF VIDEO TAPES OR OTHER SIMILAR VISUAL RECORDING DEVICE FOR TESTAMENTARY DISPOSITION OF THE ESTATE OF THE DECEDENT

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 1432, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING INTERNET GAMBLING

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Games, Amusement and Sports**

Senate Bill No. 1433, entitled

AN ACT GRANTING WOMEN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY TO ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIP AND TO PRIZES OF SPORTS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1434, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 14 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SYNCHRONIZED ELECTION LAW OF 1991," ON THE PARTICULAR OFFICE WHERE CANDIDATES SHALL FILE THEIR STATEMENTS OF ELECTION CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURES AND PROVIDING ADMINISTRATIVE SANCTIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF SAID SECTION

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 1435, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF SAFETY STANDARDS FOR CHILD RESTRAINTS IN MOTOR VEHICLES AND REQUIRING THE USE OF SUCH RESTRAINTS BY CHILD PASSENGERS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 1436, entitled

AN ACT TO COMBAT ABUSE AND INCREASE PENALTIES FOR CRIMES AGAINST SENIORS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1437, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF AND GRANTING PROSECUTORIAL POWERS TO THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES ~~AS~~

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1438, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO CREDIT CARD HOLDERS BY SETTING A CEILING ON INTEREST RATES AND SURCHARGES AND PROHIBITING HIDDEN PENALTIES OR COSTS IMPOSED BY CREDIT CARD COMPANIES, BANKS, AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS ON PURCHASES AND CASH ADVANCES MADE THROUGH SUCH FACILITY

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

Senate Bill No. 1439, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF BREAST CARE CENTERS IN EVERY REGION NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; Local Government; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1440, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF GOVERNMENT AMBULANCES, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

**To the Committees on Health and Demography; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 1441, entitled

AN ACT UPGRADING THE BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES OF BARANGAY TANOD MEMBERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 393 (d) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong" Revilla Jr.

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

Senate Bill No. 1442, entitled

AN ACT PENALIZING THE COMMISSION OF THE ACT OF "KOTONG" COMMITTED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

**To the Committees on Public Order and Illegal Drugs; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 1443, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING RETAIL STORES THAT PROVIDE PLASTIC BAGS TO CONSUMERS TO IMPLEMENT A PLASTIC BAG COLLECTION AND RECYCLING PROGRAM

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; Trade and Commerce; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1444, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT CAPABILITY BY ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT COUNCIL AND INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN, APPRO-

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PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

**To the Committees on National Defense  
and Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1445, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 44 OF  
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHER-  
WISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Ramon "Bong"  
Revilla Jr.

**To the Committee on Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 1446, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING AND PENALIZING  
CRIMES AGAINST INTERNATIONAL  
HUMANITARIAN LAW AND OTHER  
SERIOUS INTERNATIONAL CRIMES,  
OPERATIONALIZING UNIVERSAL  
JURISDICTION, DESIGNATING  
SPECIAL COURTS, AND FOR  
RELATED PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Gordon

**To the Committees on Justice and Human  
Rights; and Foreign Relations**

Senate Bill No. 1447, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
MODERNIZATION OF THE NATIONAL  
MAPPING AND RESOURCE INFORM-  
ATION AUTHORITY (NAMRIA)

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

**To the Committees on Environment and  
Natural Resources; National Defense and  
Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1448, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT  
NUMBERED 9337, OTHERWISE

KNOWN AS EXPANDED VALUE  
ADDED TAX (EVAT)

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F.  
Trillanes IV

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1449, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 7157, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
THE "PHILIPPINE FOREIGN SERVICE  
ACT OF 1991", TITLE III, SECTION 30,  
BY DELETING THE REQUIREMENT  
OF CONFIRMATION BY THE  
COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS  
OF FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICERS  
WHO JOIN THE FOREIGN SERVICE  
THROUGH LATERAL ENTRY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor  
Santiago

**To the Committee on Foreign Relations**

Senate Bill No. 1450, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING GENDER  
DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOY-  
MENT ADVERTISING

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor  
Santiago

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment  
and Human Resources Development; and Youth,  
Women and Family Relations**

**ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS**

**BILLS ON FIRST READING**

Senate Bill No. 1451, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTING REFORMS IN  
LAND ADMINISTRATION

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor  
Santiago

**To the Committees on Environment and  
Natural Resources; Civil Service and Govern-  
ment Reorganization; and Finance**

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Senate Bill No. 1452, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, ALSO KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE, ARTICLE 1991, ON REPLACING THE WORD "DEPOSITOR'S" WITH "DEPOSITARY'S" IN ORDER FOR THE LAW TO REFLECT ITS INTENDED MEANING

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 1453, entitled

AN ACT THAT REQUIRES ALL PROVIDERS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS SERVICES TO ESTABLISH AND CARRY OUT PLANS FOR PROCUREMENT FROM BUSINESSES OWNED BY MINORITIES AND WOMEN

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Public Services; and Cultural Communities**

Senate Bill No. 1454, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PENAL CODE, ARTICLES 171 AND 172, IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR THE FALSIFICATION OF TORRENS CERTIFICATES OF TITLE

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Justice and Human Rights**

Senate Bill No. 1455, entitled

AN ACT REPEALING SECTION 781 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, ALSO KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE, ON THE GROUND OF SUPERFLUITY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 1456, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING B.P. BLG. 881, ALSO KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE, SECTION 6, ON FAILURE OF ELECTIONS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 1457, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 386, ALSO KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE, ARTICLE 737, MAKING IT CONSISTENT WITH THE OTHER PROVISIONS ON DONATIONS

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 1458, entitled

AN ACT AUTHORIZING CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO LEVY TAXES ON SAND, GRAVEL AND OTHER QUARRY RESOURCES AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 138 OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160 ALSO KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 1459, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, KNOWN AS THE

AB  
to

LABOR CODE, ARTICLE 280, TO CLARIFY THE INDICIA OF PROJECT EMPLOYMENT, REQUIREMENTS FOR REHIRING OF PROJECT EMPLOYEES, AND CONDITIONS FOR THEIR EMPLOYMENT AND TERMINATION

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development**

Senate Bill No. 1460, entitled

AN ACT EXPANDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION (SRA) SUGAR BOARD, AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 18

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Agriculture and Food**

Senate Bill No. 1461, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR LOCAL AUTONOMY IN THE DETERMINATION OF STATE POLICY ON GAMBLING, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, SECTIONS 2, 27 AND 133 (O)

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Local Government; and Games, Amusement and Sports**

Senate Bill No. 1462, entitled

AN ACT TO MAKE A SEPARATE COURSE ON ETHICS COMPULSORY AT ALL LEVELS OF GRADE SCHOOL, HIGH SCHOOL, AND EVERY DEGREE COURSE IN ANY COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 1463, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 3513 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1464, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Enrile

**To the Committee on Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1464, entitled

AN ACT IMPOSING HIGHER PENALTIES FOR VEHICULAR ACCIDENT

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Public Services**

Senate Bill No. 1465, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AGRICULTURE WEATHER OFFICE

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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

Senate Bill No. 1466, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING AVAILABILITY OF HANDGUNS ONLY TO PERSONS WITH KNOWLEDGE AND SKILL IN THEIR SAFE USE, MAINTENANCE AND STORAGE

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committee on Public Order and Illegal Drugs** #

Senate Bill No. 1467, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING THE ARCHIPELAGIC BASELINES OF THE PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3046, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5446

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

**To the Committees on Foreign Relations; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1468, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF POLITICAL DYNASTIES

Introduced by Senator Lacson

**To the Committee on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws**

Senate Bill No. 1469, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6675 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GENERICS ACT OF 1998

Introduced by Senator Gordon

**To the Committee on Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 1470, entitled

AN ACT ALLOWING APPLICANTS WHO ARE AT LEAST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF AGE TO TAKE GOVERNMENT LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 1471, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING AUTOMATIC PROMOTION OF GOVERNMENT

OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES UPON RETIREMENT FROM GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

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

Senate Bill No. 1472, entitled

AN ACT INTEGRATING THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF THE PHILIPPINES

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Health and Demography**

Senate Bill No. 1473, entitled

AN ACT MANDATING THE PAYMENT OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO GOVERNMENT RETIREES ON THE DATE OF THEIR RETIREMENT

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1474, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 13-A OF REPUBLIC ACT 8291 (GSIS ACT OF 1997) BY PRESCRIBING OTHER CONDITIONS FOR ENTITLEMENT TO THE RETIREMENT BENEFITS, UNDER SECTION 13 OF THE SAME ACT, FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OR OFFICIALS BEING PHASED OUT AND/OR NOT RETAINED BY HIS OFFICE/BUREAU/CORPORATION/DUE TO PRIVATIZING/ABOLISHING HIS OFFICE

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1475, entitled

AN ACT TO GRANT MONTHLY PENSION TO GOVERNMENT RETIREES UNDER R.A. 1616 WHO HAVE REACHED THE AGE OF SEVENTY (70) YEARS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1476, entitled

AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN PERMISSION OR WAIVER IN FAVOR OF THE OMBUDSMAN TO LOOK INTO ALL DEPOSITS OF WHATEVER NATURE WITH BANKS OR BANKING INSTITUTIONS BOTH WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE PHILIPPINES INCLUDING INVESTMENT BONDS ISSUED BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, ITS POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS AND INSTRUMENTALITIES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies**

Senate Bill No. 1477, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1185, OTHERWISE

KNOWN AS THE FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committees on Public Order and Illegal Drugs; and Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 1478, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND REFORMING THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committees on Local Government; Youth, Women and Family Relations; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1479, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING A NATIONAL PEACE POLICY THEREBY CREATING A COMMISSION ON PEACE

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

**To the Committees on Peace, Unification and Reconciliation; Civil Service and Government Reorganization; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1480, entitled

AN ACT IMPROVING PHILIPPINE COMMITMENT TO HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION AND PROTECTION BY PROVIDING THE NECESSARY MECHANISMS FOR THE PREVENTION OF THE OCCURRENCE AND PROTECTION FROM THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr. *HP*

**To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1481, entitled

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FURTHER INCENTIVES TO LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL ENTERPRISES TO THE END THAT BOTH PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOME WILL BE INCREASED

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

**To the Committees on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development; and Ways and Means**

Senate Bill No. 1482, entitled

AN ACT ALLOCATING TWENTY PERCENT (20%) OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE FEES REGISTRATION TO FUND SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

**To the Committees on Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; and Local Government**

Senate Bill No. 1483, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR STUDENTS

Introduced by Senator Gregorio B. Honasan II

**To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 1484, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 42 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 232, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "EDUCATION ACT OF 1982", BY IMPOSING A THREE-YEAR MORATORIUM ON TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEE INCREASE ON ALL EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND STIPULATING THEREAFTER

THAT TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEE INCREASE SHOULD NOT BE RAISED BEYOND THE CURRENT INFLATION RATE OF THE COUNTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**To the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture**

Senate Bill No. 1485, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER EXPANDING THE ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE COURT OF TAX APPEALS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF THE LAW CREATING THE COURT OF TAX APPEALS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

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

Senate Bill No. 1486, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKERS

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committees on Civil Service and Government Reorganization; Agriculture and Food; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1487, entitled

AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF SHAW BOULEVARD, IN MANDALUYONG CITY, TO JAIME CARDINAL SIN BOULEVARD

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

**To the Committee on Rules** *MS*

*MS*

Senate Bill No. 1488, entitled

AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AND STRENGTHENING FOSTER CARE FOR QUALIFIED CHILDREN, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committees on Youth, Women and Family Relations; Social Justice, Welfare and Rural Development; Ways and Means; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1489, entitled

AN ACT DEFINING AND PENALIZING THE CRIME OF ENFORCED OR INVOLUNTARY DISAPPEARANCE

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

**To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1490, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL INSURANCE COVERAGE AND BENEFITS FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES WHO ARE KILLED, WOUNDED OR INJURED IN THE LINE OF DUTY, PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE PREMIUMS AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

**To the Committees on National Defense and Security; Government Corporations and Public Enterprises; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1491, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 5 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9227, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT GRANTING

ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION IN THE FORM OF SPECIAL ALLOWANCES FOR JUSTICES, JUDGES AND ALL OTHER POSITIONS IN THE JUDICIARY WITH THE EQUIVALENT RANK OF JUSTICES OF THE COURT OF APPEALS AND JUDGES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Francis "Chiz" G. Escudero

**To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Civil Service and Government Reorganization**

Senate Bill No. 1492, entitled

AN ACT TO PRESERVE AND REHABILITATE THE FOREST BY BANNING ALL LOGGING OPERATIONS IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY GROWTH FORESTS AND RAINFORESTS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A TASK FORCE FOR THE PRESERVATION AND REHABILITATION OF FORESTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**To the Committees on Environment and Natural Resources; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1493, entitled

AN ACT STREAMLINING AND STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER PREPAREDNESS AND PREVENTION CAPABILITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

**To the Committees on National Defense and Security; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1494, entitled

AN ACT TO PROMOTE PUBLIC SAFETY EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

AMONG ELEMENTARY, HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE STUDENTS TO DEVELOP SAFETY AND SECURITY AWARENESS IN OUR CITIZENRY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; and Public Order and Illegal Drugs**

Senate Bill No. 1495, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE SCHOOL HEALTH AND NUTRITION PROGRAM (SHNP) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Manny Villar

**To the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture; Health and Demography; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1496, entitled

AN ACT TO DEFINE THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) DURING ELECTIONS

Introduced by Senator Biazon

**To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; and National Defense and Security**

Senate Bill No. 1497, entitled

AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4200, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT TO PROHIBIT AND PENALIZE WIRE TAPPING AND OTHER RELATED VIOLATIONS OF THE PRIVACY OF COMMUNICATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" BY INCREASING THE PENALTIES

PROVIDED THEREIN AND REGULATING THE OWNERSHIP, POSSESSION, SALE, IMPORTATION AND USE OF WIRETAPPING DEVICES, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Biazon

**To the Committees on Justice and Human Rights; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1498, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1638 AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "ESTABLISHING A NEW SYSTEM OF RETIREMENT AND SEPARATION FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" BY GRANTING THE RIGHT TO RECEIVE RETIREMENT BENEFITS TO RETIREES WHO HAVE REACQUIRED PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP

Introduced by Senator Biazon

**To the Committee on National Defense and Security**

Senate Bill No. 1499, entitled

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PRESIDENTIAL DEBATE COMMISSION

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**To the Committees on Constitutional Amendments, Revision of Codes and Laws; Public Information and Mass Media; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1500, entitled

AN ACT TO REQUIRE CERTAIN DISCLOSURES RELATING TO MATERIALLY ALTERED FILMS *AS*

*fb*



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor  
Santiago

**To the Committees on Public Information  
and Mass Media; and Trade and Commerce**

**RESOLUTIONS**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 131, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, ARTS AND CULTURE; AND THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH, WOMEN AND FAMILY RELATIONS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S US\$465.5 MILLION OR P26.48 BILLION CYBER EDUCATION PROJECT (CEP) FINANCED BY THE SAME CHINESE LOAN PACKAGE AS THE NATIONAL BROADBAND NETWORK (NBN) DEAL (WHICH AT PRESENT IS THE SUBJECT OF NATIONWIDE CONTROVERSY BECAUSE OF ALLEGED CORRUPTION AND ANOMALIES) DUE TO SERIOUS QUESTIONS OF GROSS OVERPRICING, MISALLOCATION OF PUBLIC FUNDS AND ITS RELEVANCE TO THE REAL NEEDS OF THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND THE FILIPINO YOUTH

Introduced by Senator M. A. Madrigal

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

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 132, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER SENATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE INCREASING NUMBER OF PREMATURE DEATHS DUE TO CARDIOVASCULAR ILLNESSES BROUGHT BY AIR POLLUTION

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor  
Santiago

**To the Committees on Health and Demography;  
and Environment and Natural Resources**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 133, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE POSSIBILITY OF IMPOSING AN ACROSS THE BOARD P3,000.00 INCREASE OR HIGHER IN THE RETIREMENT PENSION BENEFIT OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR RETIREES

Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

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

**REMINDER OF SENATOR PANGILINAN**


Senator Pangilinan reminded the Body that there would be an all-senators' caucus the following day.

**ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION**

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

*It was 5:54 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

  
EMMA LIRIO-REYES  
Secretary of the Senate *KK*  
*R P W*

Approved on September 18, 2007