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# ***Fulfilling Our Duties For The People***

**By**  
**SENATE PRESIDENT**  
**FRANKLIN M. DRILON**  
*(Delivered during Adjournment Sine Die  
of the Second Regular Session  
of the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress, June 10, 2015)*

MY ESTEEMED colleagues, good evening.

Today, as we adjourn *sine die* the Second Regular Session of the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress, allow me to report to our people what the Senate has accomplished.

For the fifth consecutive year, we passed the General Appropriations Act on time. **Republic Act No. 10651** authorizes a national budget of P2.606 Trillion for year FY 2015, a 15.1 percent increase over last year's appropriations.

This year's national budget reflects our top priority of promoting inclusive and sustained development through investments in poverty-reducing and job-generating interventions. To empower the poor to rise from survival to self-sufficiency, our government is expanding its programs, activities and projects for social protection and social services such as education, universal health care, and housing. The 2015 budget appropriates P53.9 billion for the construction of 31,728 classrooms and repair of water and sanitation facilities; P10 billion for the creation of 30,566 teaching and non-teaching positions; and P3.5 billion for the procurement of 70.5 million textbooks and other instructional materials.

To reduce out-of-pocket health expenditures of the poor, P37.2 billion is provided to subsidize the health insurance premiums of 15.4 million indigent families. The government is also investing P11 billion in socialized housing programs to provide in-need families – especially those living in danger zones – with safe and affordable homes.

To sustain economic growth that creates more jobs and livelihood opportunities for all, the budget allocates P707 billion to finance various public infrastructure projects and strategic support programs to key industries, such as agriculture, manufacturing and tourism. This signifies our government’s drive to push our economy towards the 7.0 to 8.0 percent growth mark for 2015 and 7.5 to 8.5 percent growth level for 2016.

To ensure continuous delivery of essential services to our people, we enacted **Republic Act No. 10652** which provides for a supplemental appropriation of P22.46 billion to fund urgent and important projects initiated in 2014 but cannot be funded by savings in the national budget for said year.

For the second regular session, we focused on measures with direct effects on the standard of living of our people. Among these are **Republic Act No. 10653**, which raised the cap for the amount of allowable deductions in the computation of gross income for 13<sup>th</sup> month pay and other productivity incentives from P30,000 to P82,000; **Republic Act No. 10645**, which mandates the automatic coverage of all Filipino senior citizens under the National Health Insurance Program of PhilHealth; **Republic Act No. 10649**, which provides for an increment in the burial assistance given to the bereaved family members of our deceased veterans; and **Joint Resolution No. 5**, which grants an increase in the subsistence allowance for officers and other personnel in the military and police force.

We likewise enacted measures that push the boundaries of the traditional modes of learning in order to promote wider access to quality education. **Republic Act No. 10647** institutionalizes a ladderized system of education to allow easier transitions and

progressions between a technical-vocational course and a college degree, and provide students job platforms at every exit in the educational ladder. **Republic Act No. 10648, or the *Iskolar ng Bayan Act***, mandates state universities and colleges to dedicate slots for public high school students who belong to the top ten places of their graduating classes. **Republic Act No. 10650** allows open distance learning as an alternative for students having no means of physically going to school.

On good governance, we have **Republic Act No. 10660**, amending the Sandiganbayan Law. The institutional reforms introduced by the law will strengthen the capability of our anti-graft and corruption court to effectively and speedily resolve cases against erring government officials and employees.

We also passed **Joint Resolution No. 3**, extending the deadline for filing claims involving human rights violations committed during martial law to give all legitimate claimants, especially in the far-flung areas of the country, full opportunity to file their claims.

We enacted measures that aim to protect industries relying on our natural resources. **Republic Act No. 10654** seeks to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in order to ensure the rational and sustainable development, management and conservation our country’s fishery and aquatic resources. **Republic Act No. 10659** aims to boost the competitiveness of our sugarcane industry and maximize the utilization of the country’s sugarcane resources.

Other measures passed include:

**R.A. No. 10646** Creating the Quezon City Development Authority (QCDA)

**R.A. No. 10655** Repealing the Crime of Premature Marriage under the Revised Penal Code

**Joint Res. No. 4** Approving the Transfer, Sale or Assignment of the Controlling Interest in the Capital

Stock of Asian Spirit, Inc. (Now Zest Airways, Inc.) to the Group of Alfredo M. Yao and the Subsequent Transfer, Sale or Assignment of the Controlling Interest in the Capital Stock of Zest Airways, Inc. to Air Asia, Inc.

**R.A. No. 10656** Postponing The Sangguniang Kabataan Elections To The Last Monday Of October 2016

**R.A. No. 10657** Regulating And Modernizing The Practice Of Chemistry In The Philippines

**R.A. No. 10658** Separating The City Of Biñan From The First Legislative District Of The Province Of Laguna To Constitute The Lone Legislative District Of The City Of Biñan

**R.A. No. 10661** Declaring November of Every Year as National Children's Month

In the advanced stages of the legislative process are 16 bills awaiting the approval of the President, most notable of which build on our previous financial achievements in order to help oil the wheels of our economy. Among these are the proposed **Philippine Competition Act**, which seeks to promote economic efficiency in trade, industry and commerce through the prohibition of anti-competitive agreements, abuse of dominant position, and anti-competitive mergers; and the proposed **Amendments to the Cabotage Law**, which aims to allow foreign vessels to call at multiple ports, and enable importers and exporters to co-load containers/cargoes in foreign ships going in and out of the Philippines. Liberalizing coastwise trading in the country opens the market to competition, brings down cost of transportation by sea, and enables the country to fully utilize the supply chains for products.

Moreover, a number of bills transmitted to Malacanang show our commitment to elevate the standards of our educational system. We have **Senate Bill No. 2277**, which establishes the Open High School System as an alternative program to provide access to secondary education through other means of instruction that allow students to study without having to regularly attend class; and

**Senate Bill No. 2212**, which seeks to help the Filipino youth become business-oriented by introducing entrepreneurship and financial subject to the school curriculum. Pending in the conference committee is the proposed **UNIFAST Law under Senate Bill No. 2679** to harmonize, reform, strengthen, expand, rationalize and refocus all the existing modalities of Student Financial Assistance Programs for tertiary education in both public and private institutions, whether nationally or locally funded.

We have likewise passed 16 bills on third reading that await the concurrence of the House of Representatives. Among such proposed measures is the proposed **Tax Incentives Monitoring and Transparency Act (TIMTA)**, which we recently approved on third reading, to foster transparency and accountability in the present system of granting fiscal incentives to registered business entities and qualified private individuals and corporations administered by Investment Promotion Agencies and other government agencies.

Likewise, we have approved the creation of a Department of Information and Communications Technology which shall be the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the government that will plan, develop, and promote the national Information and Communications Technology development agenda.

We have also concurred in the ratification of four treaties and approved 19 bills on second reading. In addition, our permanent committees, sub-committees and joint congressional oversight committees have conducted 356 public hearings, with the end in view of determining our nation's needs from the grassroots and experts in various endeavors relative to the work of legislation.

Before I end, let me thank the Senate Secretariat and our respective staff for the unwavering support and competent service.

To my esteemed colleagues, I commend all of you for your dedication to fulfill your sworn duty, undeterred by the issues hounding the institution. I am also thankful and deeply humbled by your continued trust and confidence in my leadership.

*God bless the Senate. God bless the Filipino. God bless the Republic of the Philippines.*

**Survey of  
Senate Accomplishments  
Sixteenth Congress  
Second Regular Session  
July 28, 2014 - June 10, 2015**

**REPUBLIC ACTS**

**R.A. No. 10645** AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MANDATORY PHILHEALTH COVERAGE FOR ALL SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 20103 (S. NO. 712/H. NO. 4512) [5 NOVEMBER 2014]

The amendment to the Expanded Senior Citizens Act mandates the automatic coverage of all Filipino senior citizens under the National Health Insurance Program of the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). The funds necessary for the enrollment of senior citizens not embraced in existing categories shall be sourced from the National Health Insurance Fund of the PhilHealth. As 15 percent of the population is projected to become senior citizens by 2015, this law benefits a substantial number of constituents who have devoted their productive years in the workforce.

**R.A. No. 10646** AN ACT CREATING THE QUEZON CITY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (QCDA), DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FOR ITS ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND CAPITALIZATION (S. NO. 2161/H. NO. 3899) [LAPSED INTO LAW ON 8 NOVEMBER 2014 WITHOUT THE SIGNATURE OF THE PRESIDENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE VI, SECTION 27(1) OF THE CONSTITUTION.]

The measure aims to address Quezon City’s housing, development and urban renewal concerns through the establishment of the Quezon City Development Authority (QCDA). The QCDA aims to provide adequate and affordable housing to marginal and low-income families in Quezon City, encourage the participation of the

private sector in housing ventures and urban renewal, promote greening and development of vacant, blighted and underutilized lands owned by the Quezon City government, and provide projects that will improve their quality of life of residents such as affordable means of transportation, energy, telecommunication, information technology and manufacturing.

To fund these activities, the QCDA shall have an authorized capital stock of Two Billion Pesos divided into two billion shares having a par value of One Peso each, which may be available for subscription by the Quezon City government.

**R.A. No. 10647** AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE LADDERIZED INTERFACE BETWEEN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING AND HIGHER EDUCATION (S. NO. 2272/H. NO. 3575) [21 NOVEMBER 2014]

The “Ladderized Education Act” seeks to create a seamless and borderless education and training system that will allow mobility in terms of flexible entry and exit between technical-vocational and college degree programs in the post-secondary school education system.

In the development of the ladderized education, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and Department of Education (DepEd) are mandated to closely coordinate and effectively implement a unified Philippine Qualification Framework that establishes equivalency pathways and access ramps allowing for easier transitions and progressions between technical-vocational education and training and higher education. The CHED, TESDA and DepEd shall likewise design harmonized guidelines and equivalency competency courses to enhance the delivery of high-quality technical-vocational and higher education courses, synchronize standards and upgrade curriculum design per discipline, and adopt a strategic implementation scheme.

**R.A. No. 10648** AN ACT PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS TO TOP GRADUATES OF ALL PUBLIC HIGH SCHOOLS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR (S. NO. 2275/H. NO. 4860) [27 NOVEMBER 2014]

The “*Iskolar ng Bayan* Act of 2014” aims to broaden access to higher education by institutionalizing a college scholarship

program for the top ten graduates of public high schools in the country, subject to the academic standards, application and admission policies and such other reasonable rules and regulations of state universities and colleges. The scholarship grant shall cover the full amount of tuition and other school fees for the first year of college. Thereafter, the regular student financial assistance and scholarship programs of the Commission on Higher Education shall cover the student-beneficiary if they qualify.

**R.A. No. 10649** AN ACT INCREASING THE BURIAL ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS FROM TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) TO TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS” AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR (H. NO. 694) [27 NOVEMBER 2014]

In recognition of the patriotic services rendered by Filipino veterans to the country during the turbulent times of war, the law grants an increase in the burial assistance given to the bereaved family members of departed Filipino veterans.

**R.A. No. 10650** AN ACT EXPANDING ACCESS TO EDUCATIONAL SERVICES BY INSTITUTIONALIZING OPEN DISTANCE LEARNING IN LEVELS OF TERTIARY EDUCATION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR (S. NO. 2274/H. NO. 4553) [9 DECEMBER 2014]

The “Open Learning and Distance Education Act” aims to further democratize access to quality education at the tertiary level through the establishment of distance education and open learning programs under the Non-Conventional Higher Education Division of the Commission on Higher Education and the National Institute for Technical Education and Skills Development of the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

Distance education pertains to a mode of educational delivery whereby the teacher and learner are separated in time and space, and the instruction is delivered through specially designed materials and methods using appropriate technologies and learning management systems and supported by organizational and administrative structures and arrangements. On the other hand, open



learning refers to a philosophy of learning that is learner-centered and flexible, enabling learners to learn at a time, place and pace which satisfies their circumstances and requirements.

**R.A. No. 10651** AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND FIFTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (H. NO. 4968) [23 DECEMBER 2014]

The 2015 Government Appropriations Act provides for a national budget of 2.606 Trillion Pesos, a 15.1 percent increase over last year's appropriations.

This year's national budget reflects our top priority of promoting inclusive and sustained development through investments in poverty-reducing and job-generating interventions. To empower the poor to rise from survival to self-sufficiency, our government is expanding its programs, activities and projects for social protection and social services such as education, universal health care and housing. The 2015 budget appropriates P53.9 billion for the construction of 31,728 classrooms and repair of water and sanitation facilities; P10 billion for the creation of 30,566 teaching and non-teaching positions; and P3.5 billion for the procurement of 70.5 million textbooks and other instructional materials.

**R.A. No. 10652** AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE SUM OF TWENTY-TWO BILLION FOUR HUNDRED SIXTY-SEVEN MILLION SIX HUNDRED EIGHT THOUSAND PESOS (P22,467,608,000) AS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR FY 2014 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (H. NO. 5237) [23 DECEMBER 2014]

To ensure continuous delivery of essential services to our people, the law provides for a supplemental appropriation of 22.46 Billion Pesos to fund urgent and important projects initiated in 2014 but cannot be funded by savings or through Unprogrammed Funds in the national budget for said year.

**R.A. No. 10653** AN ACT ADJUSTING THE 13<sup>TH</sup> MONTH PAY AND OTHER BENEFITS CEILING EXCLUDED FROM THE COMPUTATION OF GROSS INCOME FOR PURPOSES OF INCOME TAXATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 32(B), CHAPTER VI OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE

CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED (S. NO. 2437/H. NO. 4970) [12 FEBRUARY 2015]

Considering that the accelerated increase in the level of inflation for the last 18 years since the enactment of the Tax Code has virtually prevented workers from enjoying the fruits of their labor, the measure raised the cap for the amount of allowable deductions in the computation of gross income for 13<sup>th</sup> month pay and other productivity incentives from P30,000 to P82,000. It likewise authorizes the President to adjust the ceiling every three years based on the Consumer Price Index.

**R.A. No. 10654** AN ACT TO PREVENT, DETER AND ELIMINATE ILLEGAL, UNREPORTED AND UNREGULATED FISHING, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE PHILIPPINE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (S. NO. 2414/H. NO. 4536) [LAPSED INTO LAW ON 27 FEBRUARY 2015 WITHOUT THE SIGNATURE OF THE PRESIDENT, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE VI, SECTION 27(1) OF THE CONSTITUTION.]

The law strengthens the Philippines' legal and regulatory framework against IUU fishing and ensures the country's compliance with international conventions for the conservation and management of living marine resources. It provides for sanctions considered to have a real deterrent effect against IUU fishing. Another salient feature of the amendments to the Fisheries Code is the installation of a Monitoring, Control and Surveillance (MCS) system in all Philippine flagged fishing vessels regardless of fishing area and final destination of catch for an easier and more efficient monitoring of the vessels' compliance with the new fisheries regulations. The law likewise created the Fisheries Management Fund for the upgrading of laboratory facilities and equipment of the relevant fisheries government agencies, and for funding of livelihood and scholarship programs to fisher folks and their family.

**R.A. No. 10655** AN ACT REPEALING THE CRIME OF PREMATURE MARRIAGE UNDER ARTICLE 351 OF ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE (S. NO. 1647/H. NO. 5280) [13 MARCH 2015]

With the aim of abolishing laws that serve no purpose other than to perpetuate discrimination against women, the measure

repeals Article 351 of the Revised Penal Code, which punishes a woman who shall marry within 301 days from the time of her husband's death or her marriage's dissolution, or who shall marry before delivering a child from such previous marriage.

**R.A. No. 10656** AN ACT POSTPONING THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS TO THE LAST MONDAY OF OCTOBER 2016, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED "AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" (H. NO. 5209) [27 MARCH 2015]

In light of the ongoing legislative efforts to reform the law governing the *Sangguniang Kabataan* in order to revive its effectiveness in advancing the democratic ideals of service-oriented youth leaders, the law postponed the Sangguniang Kabataan elections and synchronized it to the barangay elections on 26 October 2016.

**R.A. No. 10657** AN ACT REGULATING AND MODERNIZING THE PRACTICE OF CHEMISTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR (R. A. NO. 754), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHEMISTRY LAW OF THE PHILIPPINES (S. NO. 914/H. NO. 5016) [27 MARCH 2015]

In view of the vast advancements in the field of Chemistry, the measure incorporates innovations to the previous law governing the professional practice of Chemistry in line with the latest international practice and standards. The law revises the definition of Chemistry, updates the scope of the professional practice, strengthens the Professional Regulatory Board of Chemistry, outlines the procedure and requirements for licensure examination and registration, and imposes heavier penalties for the practice of Chemistry without valid Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification.

**R.A. No. 10658** AN ACT SEPARATING THE CITY OF BIÑAN FROM THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA TO CONSTITUTE THE LONE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE CITY OF BIÑAN (H. NO. 3917) [27 MARCH 2015]

The law establishes the lone legislative district of the City of Biñan, consequently removing the same from the coverage of first legislative district of Laguna.

**R.A. No. 10659** AN ACT PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE SUGARCANE INDUSTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES (S. NO. 2400/H. NO. 4633) [27 MARCH 2015]

The "Sugarcane Industry Development Act" seeks to promote the competitiveness of the sugarcane industry and maximize the utilization of sugarcane resources. Under the measure, various Productivity Improvement Programs such as Block Farm, Farm Support, and Farm Mechanization shall be implemented. Moreover, the law mandates the Sugar Regulatory Administration, in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology, to intensify research on sugarcane high yielding or flood resistant varieties, pest control and prevention, latest farming, milling, refining and biomass co-generation technologies, soil analysis and fertility mapping of sugarcane areas, weather monitoring and climate change adaptation measures, sugar and sweetener consumption, and other viable products that can be derived from sugarcane.

**R.A. No. 10660** AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE FUNCTIONAL AND STRUCTURAL ORGANIZATION OF THE SANDIGANBAYAN, FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1606, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR (S. NO. 2138/H. NO. 5283) [16 APRIL 2015]

The measure empowers the Sandiganbayan to speedily resolve cases against erring government officials and employees through the introduction of innovations to the anti-graft court.

Among the salient features of the law are the creation of two new divisions, changes in the quorum requirement from all three to two members, transfer of so-called minor cases to the Regional Trial Court, and modification of the vote requirement for judgments and orders from unanimous to majority vote.

**R.A. No. 10661** AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL CHILDREN'S MONTH (S. NO. 332/H. NO. 1641) [29 MAY 2015]

To commemorate the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) by the United Nations General Assembly



in November 1989, the law declares November as the “National Children’s Month”. As part of the celebration, the Department of Social Welfare and Development, National Youth Council, and the Council for the Welfare of Children shall lead and prepare an annual program of activities.

**R.A. No. 10662** AN ACT NAMING A STRETCH OF THE NATIONAL HIGHWAY ALONG THE ILOILO DIVERSION ROAD/ILOILO CAPIZ ROAD (OLD ROUTE) WHICH BEGINS AT THE JUNCTION OF GENERAL LUNA TO THE AIRPORT ACCESS ROAD AND ENDS AT THE GATE OF THE ILOILO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, TRAVERSING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF PAVIA, STA. BARBARA AND CABATUAN, AND ILOILO CITY, AS “SENATOR BENIGNO S. AQUINO, JR. AVENUE” (H. NO. 4398) [3 JULY 2015]

To show gratitude for the unparalleled contribution of Senator Benigno Aquino S. Aquino, Jr. to Philippine democracy and freedom that we all Filipinos now enjoy, the law names after him the Iloilo Diversion Road/Iloilo Capiz Road (Old Route) which begins at the Junction of General Luna to the Airport Access Road and up to the Gate of the Iloilo International Airport, traversing the municipalities of Pavia, Sta. Barbara and Cabatuan, and Iloilo City, with a total length of 16.6153 kilometers.

The naming therefore of the road as “Senator Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Avenue” serves as a showcase of a vital segment in Philippine history. It is likewise be a constant reminder to the whole world that Filipinos adhere to democracy and freedom.

**R.A. NO. 10663** AN ACT NAMING AS THE “PRESIDENT CORAZON C. AQUINO AVENUE” THE CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD WHICH COMMENCES AT THE JUNCTION OF THE ILOILO-DUMANGAS COASTAL ROAD IN BALABAGO, JARO DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY, THEN FOLLOWS A GENERAL WESTWARD DIRECTION ALONG THE FLOODWAYS SOUTH BANK TOWARDS BUHANG, JARO: TACAS, JARO AND UNGKA II, PAVIA, THEN TRAVERSES SOUTHWARDS TO THE MANDURRIAO DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY-PAVIA-SAN MIGUEL TRI-BORDER, AND ENDS AT THE ILOILO-ANTIQUÉ ROAD, NEAR THE CENTER OF AREVALO DISTRICT, ILOILO CITY (H. NO. 4400) [3 JULY 2015]

This law names the newly constructed Iloilo Circumferential Road as “President Corazon C. Aquino Avenue,” a four-lane

thoroughfare that spans 14.3217 kilometers. The thoroughfare commences at the junction of the Iloilo-Dumangas Coastal Road in Balabago, Jaro District, and follows a general westward direction along the floodway’s south bank towards Buhang, Jaro, Tacas, Jaro and Ungka, Pavia. It then traverses southwards to the Mandurriao District-Pavia-San Miguel tri-border, and ends at the Iloilo-Antique Road near the center of Arevalo District.

Similar to the major thoroughfare’s design of linking key communities separated by geographical bounds, President Corazon C. Aquino’s administration aimed to unify various sects divided by conflicting socio-political views. During a time when discord abounded as rival political factions struggle for dominance, President Aquino remained steadfast in her mission to pursue reconciliation and unite our nation.

**R.A. NO. 10664** AN ACT DECLARING THE LAST FULL WEEK OF AUGUST AS ARMED FORCES OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE WEEK (H. NO. 945) [6 JULY 2015]

To give due recognition to the important role and contributions of past and present Filipino military officers and personnel, this law declares the last full week of August as “Armed Forces of the Filipino People Week”.

**R.A. NO. 10665** AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE OPEN HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR (S. NO. 2277/H. NO. 4085) [9 JULY 2015]

The “Open High School System Act” aims to widen access to secondary education through the establishment of the Open High School System (OHSS). The alternative program shall apply to public secondary educational institutions which shall practice open learning through self-instructional materials, multi-channel learning and school-family-community partnership. The OHSS shall be open to all youth from ages 18 years and below who have finished elementary education, or have qualified for the high school level under the Philippine Educational Placement Test.

## JOINT RESOLUTIONS

**Joint Res. No. 3** JOINT RESOLUTION EXTENDING THE PERIOD FOR FILING OF CLAIMS FOR REPARATION OF HUMAN

RIGHTS VIOLATIONS VICTIMS, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10368, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE HUMAN RIGHTS VICTIMS REPARATION AND RECOGNITION ACT OF 2013 (S. JT. RES. NO. 10/H. JI. RES. NO. 16) [17 FEBRUARY 2015]

The joint resolution extended the deadline for filing claims involving human rights violations committed during martial law, from November 2014 to May 2015. The rationale for such extension is to give all legitimate claimants, especially in the far-flung areas of the country, full opportunity to file their claims.

**Joint Res. No. 4** JOINT RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TRANSFER, SALE OR ASSIGNMENT OF THE CONTROLLING INTEREST IN THE CAPITAL STOCK OF ASIAN SPIRIT, INC. (NOW ZEST AIRWAYS, INC.) TO THE GROUP OF ALFREDO M. YAO AND THE SUBSEQUENT TRANSFER, SALE OR ASSIGNMENT OF THE CONTROLLING INTEREST IN THE CAPITAL STOCK OF ZEST AIRWAYS, INC. TO AIR ASIA, INC. (H. JOINT RES. NO. 10) [MARCH 13, 2015]

The joint resolution approved the transfer, sale or assignment of the controlling interest in the capital stock of Zest Airways, Inc. to Air Asia, Inc., in compliance with Zest Airway's franchise. The transfer of the controlling interest over Zest Airways to Air Asia would result to an improved air transport services through a larger aircraft fleet, an expanded route network and reasonable fares,

**Joint Res. No. 5** JOINT RESOLUTION INCREASING THE DAILY SUBSISTENCE ALLOWANCE OF ALL OFFICERS, ENLISTED PERSONNEL, CANDIDATE SOLDIERS, PROBATIONARY SECOND LIEUTENANTS, CADETS AND CIVILIAN ACTIVE AUXILIARIES OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP), COMMISSIONED AND NON-COMMISSIONED PERSONNEL OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP), BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP), BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP), CADETS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE ACADEMY (PNPA), PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG), THE CANDIDATE COAST GUARD MEN OF THE PCG AND THE UNIFORMED PERSONNEL OF THE NATIONAL MAPPING AND RESOURCE INFORMATION AUTHORITY (NAMRIA) FROM NINETY PESOS (P90.00) TO ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PESOS (P150.00) EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2015 (S. JOINT RES. 2/H. JOINT RES. 26) [27 MARCH 2015]

With the goal of enabling our soldiers and policemen to cope with the escalating cost of living, the resolution increases the subsistence allowance of all officers and enlisted personnel of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, all commissioned and non-commissioned personnel of the Philippine National Police, and other personnel in related services from P90.00 to P150.00 per day.

#### FOR APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT

**S. No. 1281** AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 18 OF EVERY YEAR AS 'JESSE ROBREDO' DAY, A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The proposed measure declares August 18 of each year as "Jesse Robredo Day", which shall be a special working holiday and to be celebrated in all elementary and secondary schools in the country.

The Department of Education shall plan and implement activities for the holiday and encourage students to continue Jesse Robredo's legacy of good governance and leadership.

**S. No. 2212** AN ACT PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND FINANCIAL EDUCATION AMONG FILIPINO YOUTH

The proposed "Youth Entrepreneurship Act" aims to promote youth entrepreneurship in all levels of education through the integration of entrepreneurial courses in school curricula, including subjects on financial literacy and accounting, agri-entrepreneurship, agribusiness management, securing capital and borrowing, business plan conception and drafting, management, marketing, design-thinking, social entrepreneurship and community organizing. The bill seeks to create an Entrepreneurship Education Committee, with the Department of Education as head, and Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, and Micro Small and Medium Enterprise Development Council as members. The committee shall ensure coherence and clear progression in the learning objectives and course design, study and standardize all current efforts of schools and institutions to teach entrepreneurial courses, and research current government efforts in foreign countries with the end view of applying relevant practices in our educational system.

**S. No. 2226** AN ACT PROTECTING THE AMATEUR NATURE OF STUDENT-ATHLETES IN THE PHILIPPINES BY REGULATING THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT AND PROHIBITING THE COMMERCIALIZATION OF STUDENT-ATHLETES

The proposed “Student-Athletes Protection Act” aims to protect and promote the rights of student-athletes, who are, first and foremost students, and ensure that they attain quality education while honing their skills and reaching their full potential as athletes in an amateur sports setting.

The bill seeks to regulate current practices deemed prejudicial to the interest of student-athletes, such as the imposition of an unreasonable residency requirement and grant of inordinate benefits and incentives.

The bill will ban the imposition of a residency requirement on high school student-athletes. On the other hand, residency requirement on college student-athletes shall be allowed for a maximum period of one year. It also seeks to prohibit commercialization of student-athletes by limiting the benefits and incentives to: tuition fee, miscellaneous school fees, books and other learning materials, board and lodging, uniform and equipment, a reasonable living allowance, and other similar benefits and incentives that would further enhance the student-athletes’ academic and athletic performance.

**S. No. 2282** AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL COMPETITION POLICY, PROHIBITING ANTI-COMPETITIVE AGREEMENTS, ABUSE OF DOMINANT POSITION AND ANTI-COMPETITIVE MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS, ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE COMPETITION COMMISSION AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

The proposed “Philippine Competition Act” seeks to promote economic efficiency in trade, industry and commerce by penalizing anti-competitive market practices and abuse of dominant positions. Under the bill, a Philippine Competition Commission shall be established to enforce a national policy on mergers and acquisitions, abuse of dominant positions and anti-competitive agreements.

The proposed measure likewise penalizes entities guilty of engaging in unfair business practices with fines reaching up to P250

million, with amounts adjusted for inflation every five years. Offenders of the act may also face up to seven years in prison.

**S. No. 2481** AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE FACILITIES OF NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7938

The proposed measure seeks to upgrade the facilities of the Northern Mindanao Medical Center by enhancing the hospital’s bed capacity from 300 to 600 beds.

**S. No. 2486** AN ACT ALLOWING FOREIGN VESSELS TO TRANSPORT AND CO-LOAD FOREIGN CARGOS FOR DOMESTIC TRANSSHIPMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The proposed amendments to the Cabotage Law aims to allow foreign vessels to call at multiple ports, and enable importers and exporters to co-load containers/cargos in foreign ships going in and out of the Philippines. However, the bill limits such authority granted to foreign vessels to carriage of foreign cargos.

Under existing law, only domestic vessels are allowed to engage in coastwise trading, which involves carrying cargos from one domestic port to another domestic port.

Liberalizing coastwise trading in the country opens the market to competition, brings down cost of transportation by sea, and enables the country to fully utilize the supply chains for products.

**S. No. 2488** AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN ABOARD MOTORCYCLES

To address the growing incidence of accidents involving small children onboard a two-wheeled motorcycle, the proposed “Children’s Safety on Motorcycles Act” seeks to prohibit children from riding as passengers on a motorcycle unless they can comfortably reach the standard foot peg of the vehicle.

**S. No. 2655** CONVERTING THE DAVAO REGIONAL HOSPITAL INTO DAVAO REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7179

The proposed measure seeks to convert the Davao Regional Hospital into a regional training center, to be known as Davao Regional Medical Center, by upgrading the hospital's bed capacity from 200 to 600 beds.

**H. No. 4073 AN ACT GRANTING CITIZENSHIP TO FARRELL ELDRIAN WU**

The proposed measure seeks to grant Farrell Eldrian Wu Philippine Citizenship, in recognition of his contribution to the country as the youngest medalist in the International Mathematical Olympiad and its Asia Pacific counterpart.

**PENDING WITH THE CONFERENCE COMMITTEE**

**S. No. 1386 AN ACT DEFINING THE ROLE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE) AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUS) AND ACCREDITED NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS) IN THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF THE PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE (PESO), AND THE OPERATION OF JOB OFFICES IN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 3, 5, 6, 7, AND 9 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8759, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT SERVICE OFFICE ACT OF 1999"**

The proposed measure seeks to establish a labor market information infrastructure at the grassroots level for a more efficient and effective access to employment. Among the salient features of the bill are the creation of Public Employment Service Office (PESO) to be operated by all local government units and linked with the Department of Labor and Employment, and the establishment of a unified database on the available jobs in the locality that the local government unit concerned must disseminate to the public.

**S. No. 2280 AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 968, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PROBATION LAW OF 1976", AS AMENDED**

The proposed measure seeks to cure the unjust situation faced by an accused in instances where an earlier conviction imposing a non-probationable penalty is, upon appeal, modified to

one with a probationable penalty. Under existing law, resort to appeal absolutely bars the accused from availing probation. Thus, the bill seeks to allow the admission to the program of an accused who appeals a judgment of conviction imposing a non-probationable penalty when the appellate court modifies the appealed judgment and imposes a probationable penalty.

**S. No. 2518 AN ACT REMOVING THE CONDITIONS FOR THE CONDONATION OF ALL UNPAID TAXES DUE FROM LOCAL WATER DISTRICTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 289-A OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED**

The bill seeks to remove the conditions that local water districts must comply with before their unpaid income taxes can be considered condoned. The proposed measure instead provides for the automatic exemption of local water districts from payment of such taxes. The removal of the conditions for condonation shall enable the local water districts to use the funds for capital equipment expenditure in expanding water services coverage and improving water quality.

**S. No. 2679 AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE AND UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION (UNIFAST), THEREBY RATIONALIZING ACCESS THERETO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

The proposed UNIFAST Law aims to harmonize, reform, strengthen, expand, rationalize and refocus all the existing modalities of Student Financial Assistance Programs for tertiary education in both public and private institutions, whether nationally or locally funded. Among the modalities under the bill are the Unified Government-funded Scholarship Program, which shall be instituted to promote an environment conducive for the development of bright and talented students, the Grants-In-Aid, which intends to improve equity and facilitate democratic access to quality education given income poverty and inequity, the National Student Loan Program, which shall provide short-term and long-term student loans to qualified beneficiaries, and the Socialized Tuition Fees, which shall establish affordability brackets based on information about the applicant's personal circumstances, family income, family characteristics of the applicants, and the socio-economic characteristics of their households, among others.

**S. Jt. Res. No. 12** JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, HIS EXCELLENCY BENIGNO S. AQUINO III, TO ADDRESS THE PROJECTED ELECTRICITY IMBALANCE IN THE LUZON GRID AND PROVIDING THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS THEREFOR

In view of the projected critical electricity situation in the summer of 2015 in Luzon, the joint resolution seeks to authorize the President of the Philippines to address the imbalance of the supply of and demand for electricity in the Luzon grid for 2015 and 2016 under the terms and conditions embodied in said resolution.

**APPROVED ON THIRD READING BY THE SENATE/  
PENDING IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR  
CONCURRENCE**

**S. No. 510** AN ACT DECLARING THE FIFTH DAY OF OCTOBER OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL TEACHERS' DAY

In observance of the World Teachers' Day proclaimed by UNESCO to fall on October 5 of every year, the proposed measure declares such day of each year as "National Teachers' Day", which shall be a special working holiday. All heads of government agencies and instrumentalities, government-owned and controlled corporations, local government units, and employers in the private sector shall encourage employees to participate in activities conducted within the premises of their offices in celebration of the special working holiday.

**S. No. 1733** AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE PEOPLE'S RIGHT TO INFORMATION AND THE CONSTITUTIONAL POLICIES OF FULL PUBLIC DISCLOSURE AND HONESTY IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The proposed "People's Freedom of Information Act" seeks to implement a policy of full public disclosure of all government transactions involving public interest, with appropriate safeguards on matters of national security and ample protection for the right of individuals to privacy. It likewise aims to promote the meaningful and increased participation of the people in government decision-making and public accountability.

To ensure the effective implementation of the bill, it guarantees access of every Filipino citizen to any information of

public concern under the control of a government agency regardless of the physical form or format in which they are contained, subject to certain exceptions.

The bill also mandates all government agencies to disclose specific information and ensure the availability of timely, true, accurate and updated key information requested by any citizen.

**S. No. 2042** AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING, USE OF CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR DESTRUCTION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

In conformity with the Philippines' obligations under the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction, the proposed "Chemical Weapons Prohibition Act" aims to proscribe the development, production, manufacture, acquisition, possession, stockpiling, retention, transfer or use of chemical weapons, or engagement in any other activities prohibited under said Convention, and impose penalties for the commission of prohibited acts under the bill.

The bill establishes the Philippine National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention which shall, among others, liaise with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons and other parties on matters relating to the Convention, conduct inspections of sites involving scheduled chemicals or other chemical production facilities, and cause or direct the investigation and prosecution of violators.

**S. No. 2055** AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF FORESTRY IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SIXTY-TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE, KNOWN AS "THE FORESTRY PROFESSION LAW", APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Considering the immense developments in the field of Forestry due to changes in the physical environment and conditions of natural resources, the proposed "Forestry Profession Act" seeks to revise the law governing the professional practice of Forestry in line with the latest global practice and standards. The bill revises



the definition of Forestry, updates the scope of activities and services falling under the professional practice, strengthens the Professional Regulatory Board for Foresters, outlines the procedure and requirements for licensure examination and registration, and imposes heavier penalties for the practice of Forestry without valid Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification.

**S. No. 2103** AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED 1536, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE METALLURGICAL ENGINEERING LAW OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To maintain the global competitiveness of our metallurgical engineers, the proposed “Metallurgical Engineering Act” aims to update the law governing the practice of Metallurgical Engineering in line with the cutting edge advancements in the field. The bill amends the definition of Metallurgical Engineering, revises the scope of activities and services falling under such professional practice, further empowers the Professional Regulatory Board of Metallurgical Engineering, outlines the procedure and requirements for licensure examination and registration, and imposes heavier penalties for the practice of Metallurgical Engineering without valid Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification.

**S. No. 2269** AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 4(B) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7898, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE AFP MODERNIZATION ACT, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10349, ESTABLISHING THE “REVISED AFP MODERNIZATION PROGRAM”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To prevent the country’s acquisition of phased out and obsolete arms and weapons for the armed forces, the proposed amendments to the AFP Modernization Act seeks to restrict the purchase of such major equipment and weapons system to those still being used by the armed forces in the country of origin or by the armed forces of another country.

**S. No. 2278** AN ACT MANDATING THE COMPLETION OF THE LAND ACQUISITION AND DISTRIBUTION (LAD) COMPONENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM (CARP) BY JUNE 30, 2016 PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6657,

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW”, AS AMENDED

The proposed measure seeks to allow the issuance of Notices of Coverage over all remaining agricultural lands under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law until 30 June 2016. It likewise provides for the budgetary mechanisms for the completion of the Land Acquisition and Distribution process.

**S. No. 2401** AN ACT ESTABLISHING ENABLING MECHANISMS FOR MEANINGFUL YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN NATION BUILDING, STRENGTHENING THE SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN, CREATING THE MUNICIPAL, CITY AND PROVINCIAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT COUNCILS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The proposed Youth Development and Empowerment Act seeks to reform our *Sangguniang Kabataan* by installing features to insulate such governance framework from the clutches of partisan politics. The innovations under the bill include adjustment of the brackets for officers and voters, disqualification of aspiring officer to hold office if related to any incumbent elected national, local or barangay official within a prescribed degree of consanguinity or affinity, and appropriation of *Sangguniang Kabataan* funds in lump sum which shall be disbursed solely for youth development and empowerment purposes.

**S. No. 2419** AN ACT BANNING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE JUDICIAL AND BAR COUNCIL (JBC) WHO HAS ALREADY SERVED TWO FULL TERMS

To protect the judiciary from political pressure, the proposed Judiciary Independence Enhancing Act limits the tenure of the regular members of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) to two full terms of office. Such ban aims to ensure that no regular member of the JBC shall indefinitely sit in the council and control the selection of nominees to the judiciary.

**S. No. 2422** AN ACT INCREASING THE PRESCRIPTIVE PERIOD FOR VIOLATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3019, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT”, FROM FIFTEEN (15) YEARS TO TWENTY (20) YEARS, AMENDING SECTION 11 THEREOF



The bill seeks to increase the prescriptive period for violations of the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act from 15 to 20 years. The proposal to extend the period to file criminal action under the law aims to ensure that corrupt public officers and employees will definitely be held accountable for their offenses to the public.

**S. No. 2426** AN ACT TO INCLUDE ETHNIC ORIGIN IN THE NATIONAL SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE PHILIPPINE STATISTICS AUTHORITY

The proposed measure seeks to formally include the ethnicity and ethno-linguistic variable in the collection of data by the National Census for the purpose of obtaining accurate data on indigenous people (IP) and indigenous cultural communities (ICCs), which shall constitute as basis for the formulation of policies governing the IP and effective implementation of the Indigenous People's Rights Act.

**S. No. 2434** AN ACT STRENGTHENING, MODERNIZING AND ALIGNING THE PRACTICE OF AGRICULTURAL ENGINEERING IN THE COUNTRY INTO THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PRACTICE OF AGRICULTURAL AND BIOSYSTEMS ENGINEERING, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To foster the modernization of the agricultural and fisheries sector, the proposed "Philippine Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering Act" seeks to elevate the standards in the practice of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering in the country. The bill defines Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, sets the scope of activities and services falling under such professional practice, creates the Professional Regulatory Board of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering, outlines the procedure and requirements for licensure examination and registration, and imposes penalties for the practice of Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering without valid Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification.

**S. No. 2436** AN ACT TO REGULATE AND MODERNIZE THE PRACTICE OF PHARMACY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Mindful of the vital role played by pharmacists in the delivery of quality healthcare services in the country, the proposed measure aims to update the law governing the practice of Pharmacy in line

with the latest advancements in the field. The bill amends the definition of Pharmacy, revises the scope of activities and services falling under such professional practice, further empowers the Professional Regulatory Board of Pharmacy, outlines the procedure and requirements for licensure examination and registration, and imposes heavier penalties for the practice of Pharmacy without valid Certificate of Registration and Professional Identification.

**S. No. 2622** AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9367, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "BIOFUELS ACT OF 2006"

To mitigate the narrow reserve margin and augment the power supply during periods of natural gas supply shortages, the proposed measure seeks to exempt power plants from compliance with the minimum biodiesel blend prescribed under the Biofuels Act, subject to certain requirements and limitations.

**S. No. 2669** AN ACT INSTITUTING A SYSTEM FOR TAX INCENTIVES MANAGEMENT AND TRANSPARENCY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The proposed Tax Incentives Monitoring and Transparency Act, more commonly known as TIMTA, aims to foster transparency and accountability in the present system of granting fiscal incentives to business entities through the publication of a Tax Incentives Information under the annual Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing. Such disclosure is designed to help relevant government agencies plug in fiscal leakages in the current system and harmonize the grant of assorted tax incentives.

**S. No. 2686** AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The proposed measure seeks to create a Department of Information and Communications Technology tasked to implement the country's information and communications technology (ICT) development agenda, in light of the increasing reliance of most business sectors on ICT services.

To expedite delivery of basic government services, the bill mandates the DICT to, among others, integrate all government ICT

resources and networks under a harmonized framework, and set up public stations offering free internet service to the public.

**S. No. 2789** AN ACT INCLUDING RESPONSIVE, EMPOWERED AND SERVICE-CENTERED YOUTH IN THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL IN ALL LEVELS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10121, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2010

The proposed amendment to the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act aims to promote involvement of the youth in disaster risk reduction and management programs. Under the bill, the Chairman of the National Youth Commission shall be part of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) to voice out the concerns and proposals of the Filipino youth on disaster prevention and management, relief and rescue efforts, and climate change education.

**APPROVED ON SECOND READING  
(For Approval on Third Reading)**

**S. No. 2712** AN ACT AMENDING, THEREBY STRENGTHENING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM (NIPAS) ACT OF 1992, DECLARING AND ESTABLISHING AS PROTECTED AREAS AND BUFFER ZONES THE PARCELS OF LAND DESIGNATED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586, PROVIDING FOR THEIR MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The proposed amendments to the National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act aim to officially declare various protected areas that require immediate security and conservation, in order to complete the land classification process under the law.

Under the NIPAS Act, integration of additional areas into the system undergo a careful inclusion procedure, which commences with the conduct of suitability assessments, publication and public hearings, then leads to the issuance of a Presidential proclamation and culminates in the final declaration and classification of the land by Congress as a national park. Since 1992, 113 have been declared

through Presidential proclamations as protected areas under the law. However, only 13 protected areas have finally proceeded to be legislated as such in the more than 20 years since the NIPAS Act was enacted.

**H.B. 4420** AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 9 AS NATIONAL INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY AND MANDATING ITS MEANINGFUL OBSERVANCE

To advance the rights and collective well-being of indigenous peoples, the proposed measure declares August 9 of each year as the National Indigenous Peoples Day, which shall be a special working holiday and to be celebrated in all elementary and secondary schools in the country. The National Commission on Indigenous Peoples shall promulgate rules for the meaningful observance of such holiday.

**PENDING SECOND READING**

**A. Period of Amendments**

**S. No. 2581** AN ACT MANDATING AND STRENGTHENING THE CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR ALL REGULATED PROFESSIONS, CREATING CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

To align the level of competence of professionals with international standards of practice, the proposed measure mandates the implementation of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programs for all regulated professions. Under the bill, attendance to CPD Programs will be a requirement for the renewal of the Professional Identification cards of all registered and licensed professionals.

**S. No. 2626** AN ACT CREATING A LOCAL HOUSING BOARD IN ALL CITIES AND FIRST TO THIRD CLASS MUNICIPALITIES, PROVIDING FOR ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

This bill seeks to create Local Housing Boards (LHB) in all cities, first, second and third class municipalities tasked to formulate, develop, and recommend policies to the *Sanggunian* on

the provision of decent and affordable housing, and establishment of resettlement areas.

**S. No. 2270** AN ACT ENSURING THE FUNDAMENTAL EQUALITY OF MEN AND WOMEN UNDER THE LAWS ON MARRIAGE AND FAMILY RELATIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 209, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FAMILY CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The proposed measure aims to amend various provisions of the Family Code to ensure the fundamental equality of men and women in our laws on marriage and family relations. The bill removes the preference given to the decision of the husband or father, as the case may be, that in case of disagreement over the matters pertaining to the administration of the community property, grant of parental consent for a child's marriage, exercise of parental authority over common children, and the exercise of legal guardianship over the property of unemancipated common children. The bill directs both spouses and parents, as the case may be, to exert earnest efforts to enter into a compromise and only upon failing such shall the court decide the case.

#### **B. Period of Interpellations**

**S. No. 12** AN ACT PROVIDING BARANGAY OFFICIALS INCLUDING BARANGAY TANODS, MEMBERS OF THE LUPON NG TAGAPAMAYAPA, BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS AND BARANGAY DAY CARE WORKERS A RETIREMENT BENEFIT

Recognizing the indispensable role of the barangay officials and employees as front liners in the delivery of basic services to the people, the proposed measure aims to grant retirement benefits to qualified Punong Barangays, members of the Sangguniang Barangay, Barangay Treasurers and Secretaries, Barangay Tanods, members of the Lupon ng Tagapamayapa, Barangay Health Workers, and Barangay Day Care Workers. To fund the benefits proposed under the bill, a Barangay Retirement Fund shall be established.

**S. No. 21** AN ACT INSTITUTING THE MAGNA CARTA OF FILIPINO SEAFARERS

To improve the working conditions, terms of employment and career prospects of Filipino seafarers, the bill provides for a

Magna Carta that enumerates seafarer's rights and their duties, sets the standard employment agreement for seafarers, and provides for mechanisms for settlement of disputes and procedures for termination of employment.

**S. No. 29** AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCRIMINATION ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF ANY INDIVIDUAL ON THE BASIS OF MERELY OF AGE

The proposed "Anti-Age Discrimination in Employment Act" seeks to promote equal employment opportunity for all by eliminating discrimination in the workplace solely on the basis of age. The bill prohibits and penalizes acts of age discrimination committed by employers, labor contractors, and labor organizations against employees, such publication by an employer of advertisements suggesting preferences, limitations, specifications and discrimination based on age, refusal of a labor contractor to refer an individual for employment because of the latter's age, and denial by a labor group to grant membership because of age.

However if the age is a bona fide occupational qualification reasonably necessary in the normal operation of the particular business, the proposed measure allows setting of age limitations.

**S. No. 129** AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES BY ADDING A NEW ARTICLE 287-A REDUCING THE RETIREMENT AGE OF RACE HORSE JOCKEYS FROM SIXTY (60) TO FIFTY-FIVE (55)

The bill seeks to lower the compulsory retirement age of professional racehorse jockeys to 55 years, given the physical demands and risks their profession entails.

**S. No. 136** AN ACT REFORMING THE NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM AND PROVIDING STANDARDS FOR THE TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OF APPRENTICES, AND REGULATORY STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION OF APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

To boost the participation of enterprises and encourage the enrollment of youth in trainings for approved apprenticeable occupations, the proposed "Apprenticeship Training Act" aims to

establish a reformed apprenticeship program that will ensure the availability of qualified manpower in critical and in-demand skills through the participation of employers and workers, and government and non-government agencies.

**S. No. 161** AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SECURITY OF TENURE FOR ALL CASUAL AND CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE RENDERED THE PRESCRIBED YEARS OF SERVICE IN THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

This bill proposes to give all incumbent casual and contractual government employees who have rendered at least five (5) years of continuous service in the national government or ten (10) years of continuous service in the case of local government units, security of tenure. All affected positions currently held by covered employees shall be deemed necessary and/or desirable for the efficient operation of the government and shall be marked as co-terminus with the incumbents. Also, all covered employees may not be separated or terminated from their positions except for just or lawful cause and with due process of law.

**S. No. 480** AN ACT INCREASING THE QUARTERS ALLOWANCE OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED PERSONNEL OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES

In view of the hike in prevailing rates for the lease of houses and living quarters, the proposed measure seeks to adjust the quarters allowance given to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) officers and enlisted personnel to a reasonable level befitting the rank. The increase shall be sourced from 50% of the net government share in the proceeds of the Malampaya Fund, 20% of the annual share of the AFP Modernization Program on the income derived from the leases, joint ventures and other similar transactions on properties in Metro Manila entered into by the Bases Conversion and Development Authority, annual savings of the Department of National Defense and the AFP, and the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund.

**S. No. 498** 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

This bill seeks to grant additional insurance coverage and financial benefits to members of the armed forces who perish or suffer injuries in the line of duty.

**S. No. 886** AN ACT TO DEFINE THE ROLE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) DURING ELECTIONS

In line with the Constitution provision that the armed forces shall be insulated from partisan politics, the proposed measure seeks to limit the role of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to maintaining peace and order during elections when there are no available units of the Philippine National Police (PNP) or when there is a need to augment the PNP units in certain areas as determined by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC) through a resolution approved by a majority of its Commissioners. However, when a member of the AFP is deputized in the transportation of ballots, their role is limited to providing security to ensure the safety of election personnel tasked to transport these ballots and the integrity of election paraphernalia.

**S. No. 1185** AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, AS AMENDED, ALLOWING THE CONVERSION OF A MUNICIPALITY WHICH HAS A LAND AREA OF AT LEAST FIFTY (50) SQUARE KILOMETERS OR INHABITANTS OF AT LEAST TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND (25,000) INTO A COMPONENT CITY IF IT HAS AN ANNUAL AVERAGE LOCALLY GENERATED INCOME OF AT LEAST TWO HUNDRED TWENTY MILLION PESOS (P220,000,000.00) FOR THE LAST TWO CONSECUTIVE YEARS BASED ON 2012 CONSTANT PRICES

This bill seeks to amend the present law by allowing the conversion of a municipality which has a land area of at least fifty (50) square kilometers or inhabitants of at least twenty five thousand (25,000) into a component city if it has an annual average locally generated income as certified to by the Department of Finance, of at least two hundred twenty million pesos (P220,000,000.00) for the last two consecutive years based on 2012 constant prices.

**S. No. 1719** AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MINIMUM CONTENTS OF A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT OF ELECTIONS TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO CONGRESS BY THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Records show that the basic electoral data contained in the report submitted by the COMELEC are not comprehensive. Interested parties, candidates, and researchers find the voluminous report of very limited value. Thus, there is a need to direct the COMELEC to prepare and submit a comprehensive report on the conduct of each election, plebiscite, initiative, referendum and recall to the President and to Congress.

Among others the report shall contain a narrative assessment of the elections conducted, cost of administering the particular political exercise, basic electoral data on voters, precincts, candidates, number of ballots, election returns and other accountable forms, number of election related incidents of violence, offenses and violations of the election laws. The COMELEC shall submit the comprehensive report not more than one after the holding of a regular or special election.

**S. No. 2134** AN ACT REORGANIZING THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6939, CREATING THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The proposed “Cooperative Development Authority Charter Act” seeks to reorganize the Cooperative Development Authority to carry out a broader scope of functions and responsibilities, thereby consolidating those provided for under the Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008 and under the bill. The proposed measure likewise provides for the establishment of the Board of Directors and the Office of the Administrator, and outlines their respective compositions, powers and functions.

**S. No. 2209** AN ACT ESTABLISHING RESOURCE CENTERS FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO ENHANCE AND ENSURE DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To provide Indigenous Cultural Communities (ICCs) and/ Indigenous Peoples (IPs) equal access to basic services and ensure

protection of their rights, the bill seeks to establish Resource Centers for indigenous cultural communities located in strategic places, as determined by the National Commission on Indigenous People. Such Resource Center shall offer Statistical Service, Human Development Index Service and Domains Management Service.

**S. No. 2210** INSTITUTIONALIZING THE POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PRESENT) PROGRAM AND PROMOTING SOCIAL ENTERPRISES WITH THE POOR AS PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS

The proposed “Poverty Reduction through Social Entrepreneurship Act” seeks to improve the position of the poor, marginalized and basic sectors through the Poverty Reduction through Social Entrepreneurship (PRESENT) Program. The PRESENT Program shall identify and develop key Social Enterprises (SEs) and resource institutions as partners in providing transactional and transformational services towards poverty reduction.

The bill seeks to strengthen the existing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Development Council, which shall be renamed as the National Enterprise Development Council, and shall expand its powers, duties and functions in order to effectively spur the growth and development of SEs in the country and to carry out the policy declared under the proposed measure. The bill also likewise proposes the establishment of a Center for Social Enterprise Development, which shall be in charge of implementing policies for enterprise development.

To support the capacity building and sustainability of the PRESENT Program, the bill provides for the creation of the Social Enterprise Development Fund.

**S. No. 2235** AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 443, 454, 463 AND 477 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

This bill amends the Local Government Code by creating additional officials in the municipal government, city government and provincial government such as a Municipal Building Official, a City Building Official, and a Provincial Building Official, respectively. Such building officials shall be primarily responsible for the



enforcement of the provisions of the National Building Code of the Philippines, its amendments, referral codes, the implementing rules and regulations issued thereof and the enforcement of orders and decisions made pursuant thereto, within their respective territorial jurisdiction.

**S. No. 2239** REQUIRING ALL FRANCHISE HOLDERS OR OPERATORS OF TELEVISION STATIONS AND PRODUCERS OF TELEVISION PROGRAMS TO BROADCAST OR PRESENT THEIR PROGRAMS WITH CLOSED CAPTIONS OPTIONS

To enable persons with hearing disabilities to fully understand television programs, the proposed measure requires franchise holders or operators of television stations and producers of television programs to broadcast their programs with closed captions options.

**S. No. 2271** ESTABLISHING A FRAMEWORK FOR FILM AND TELEVISION TOURISM IN THE PHILIPPINES, MARKETING THE INDUSTRY GLOBALLY AND PROVIDING EMPLOYMENT FOR THE SECTOR

The proposed "Philippine Film and Television Tourism Act" seeks to treat the film and television tourism as a special investment tool for national development through the creation of the Philippine Film and Television Tourism Authority (PFTTA). The bill likewise establishes the Inter-Agency Committee on Film and Television Committee, which shall be the governing board and policy-making body of the PFTTA.

**S. No. 2361** AN ACT REPEALING SECTION 55 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 881, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED, AND MANDATING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO PROVIDE FOR THE OFFICE SPACES OF ITS FIELD OFFICES

In order to address the abridgement of the constitutionally guaranteed independence of COMELEC, this bill directs the Commission on Election to provide office spaces to its field offices. At present, local government units (LGU) are mandated to provide a suitable place for the respective offices of the provincial supervisor and the election registrar and their staff, and that in the event the LGU fails to provide such, rentals thereon shall be chargeable to the

funds of the LGU concerned, thus making the election officers and poll personnel vulnerable to harassment by local leaders.

**S. No. 2582** AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1286, KNOWN AS THE "NUTRITION AND DIETETICS DECREE OF 1977", APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES

The proposed measure seeks to repeal the current law governing the practice of Nutrition and Dietetics to align such field with the latest global practices. The bill defines the practice and scope of Nutrition and Dietetics, creates a Professional Regulatory Board of Nutrition and Dietetics and provides for its regulatory, licensure and administrative functions as well as its rule-making and quasi-judicial powers, and institutes licensing mechanisms for nutritionists-dietitians.

**S. No. 2653** AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE PHILIPPINE PLAN OF ACTION TO ELIMINATE TUBERCULOSIS AS A PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

In line the emerging threats brought about by tuberculosis, this bill seeks to provide for a national program for the elimination of tuberculosis in the country. The Secretary of Health is tasked to establish a comprehensive action plan to eliminate tuberculosis. This plan shall consist of strategies and targets in addressing the issue; prevention, cure, and support system; development and application of technologies; developing linkages both local and international; mobilization of anti-tuberculosis services.

**S. No. 2671** AN ACT ADOPTING AN OMNIBUS COMPENSATION AND POSITION CLASSIFICATION OF CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AND THE BASE PAY SCHEDULE OF MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

To attract, retain and motivate a corps of competent civil servants, the bill modifies the Compensation and Position Classification System and Base Pay Schedule of government employees to be at par with those in the private sector with due regard to the financial capability of the government.



The proposed measure applies to all positions for civilian government personnel in the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches, and the Constitutional Commissions, whether regular, casual or part-time basis.

**S. No. 2675** AN ACT DECLARING THE COCONUT LEVY ASSETS AS A TRUST FUND, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION, AUTHORIZING THE PRIVATIZATION AND MANAGEMENT OFFICE TO DISPOSE THE COCONUT LEVY ASSETS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The bill seeks to consolidate the benefits due to coconut farmers, especially the poor and marginalized, under various statutes and to expedite the delivery thereof in order to attain a balanced, equitable, integrated and sustainable growth and development of the coconut industry. The bill provides for the creation of a Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund, which shall be exclusively use for the development of the coconut industry. The funds shall immediately be subjected to audit to determine and ascertain the amount, value, description and nature of such funds, properties, assets, records, choses in action, and other rights, claims, or causes of action pertaining thereto.

**S. No. 2693** 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, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 41 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 292 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987, AS AMENDED BY R.A. 6733

The proposed measure seeks to authorize the Punong Barangay to administer oath of office of any government official, including the President of the Philippines.

**S. No. 2709** AN ACT GRANTING SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS TO THE SURVIVING LEGITIMATE SPOUSE OF A DECEASED RETIRED MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF SOLICITOR GENERAL

Patterned after the survivorship benefits granted to the heirs of those who served in the judiciary, the proposed measure seeks to provide for survivorship benefits in favor of the surviving legitimate spouse or dependent children of deceased retired officials in the Office of Solicitor General.

**S. No. 2720** AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A COMPREHENSIVE NURSING LAW TOWARDS QUALITY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

To address the major challenges faced by Filipino nurses, the bill seeks to institute measures to uphold the dignity of nurses by ensuring a just and humane condition of work, and continuous professional growth. The proposed measure creates a Professional Regulatory Board of Nursing tasked to determine the scope of the nursing examination or PNLE (Philippine Nurse Licensure Examination), and set the requirements for the admission and licensure to practice.

**S. No. 2752** AN ACT STRENGTHENING NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED IN MICROFINANCE ACTIVITIES FOR THE POOR

The proposed measure supports the laudable goals of non-government organizations (NGOs) with the primary purpose of implementing a microenterprise development strategy and providing microfinance programs, products, and services for the poor. Under the bill, Microfinance NGOs shall be given ready access to any form of technical assistance by the government, and shall be exempt from the payment of all national and local taxes.

**S. No. 2762** AN ACT PREVENTING THE PROLIFERATION OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION BY MANAGING THE TRADE IN STRATEGIC GOODS, THE PROVISION OF RELATED SERVICES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The bill aims to establish a sound regulatory and organizational structure that will address both our need to pursue economic advancement in global trade and to strengthen our country's internal security. Under this proposed measure, a National Strategic Goods List shall be created, which would describe with specificity the strategic goods subject to control and authorization.

A permanent committee under the National Security Council (NSC) will also be created and will be known as the NSC Strategic Management Committee. This committee would serve as the central authority on all matters relating to strategic trade management, particularly focusing on the country's international commitment towards the promotion of a secured and safe environment for trade in strategic goods.

**S. No. 2763** AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF ABSENTEE VOTING FOR QUALIFIED MEMBERS OF THE ELECTORAL STAFF OF NATIONAL CANDIDATES AND ACCREDITED NATIONAL POLITICAL PARTIES AND PARTY-LISTS, AND ELECTION LAWYERS

As the functions of electoral staff coincide with the elections and prevent them from actually voting, the proposed measure seeks to extend the right to vote to the electoral staff of national candidates, except candidates for district representative and accredited national political parties and party-lists. This right to vote likewise extends to members of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines, who may not have the opportunity to vote on the day of the election due to the performance of their functions.

**S. No. 2778** AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE REGULATION OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4226, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE HOSPITAL LICENSURE ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Under the proposed measure, the Health Facilities and Services Regulatory Bureau (HFSRB) shall act as the regulatory agency pertaining to licensing and operation of health facilities and services in the Philippines. The HFSRB shall establish and prescribe rules, regulations, standards and specifications in all cases related to the issued certificate of license of health facilities and other related facilities and administer and enforce the same. Furthermore, it shall have the power to inspect and monitor all health facilities to insure their continuing compliance. It shall also have the full discretion on the implementation of fees and charges relative to the operation of health facilities and services.

**S. No. 2785** AN ACT PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS AND PENALIZING THE ACTS OF ARBITRARY INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

The bill aims to promote and protect the rights of internally displaced persons and penalize acts of arbitrary internal displacement. Under the proposed measure, internal displacement refers to the involuntary or coerced movement or relocation of persons, families, of communities from their areas of habitual abode and source of substance within the national borders, as a result of or in order to

avoid or minimize the effects of armed conflict, situations of generalized and/or organized violence, violations of human rights, implementation of development projects, natural, human-induced and human-made hazards.

**S. No. 2794** PROVIDING FOR A NEW ANTI-CARNAPPING LAW OF THE PHILIPPINES

The proposed measure seeks to impose heavier penalties against those found guilty of carnapping. Persons convicted with carnapping shall be penalized by imprisonment between 20 to 40 years. The penalty of life imprisonment shall be imposed when the occupant of the carnapped motor vehicle is killed during the illegal activity. The bill also introduces several acts which shall be considered offenses such as identity transfer (cannibalizing in the present lingo), the so called "Kambal Registration", unlawful use of vehicle plates; and the act of replacing original serial numbers or motor vehicle plates.

**S. No. 2831** AN ACT INSTITUTING THE PHILIPPINE HALAL EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION PROGRAM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE PHILIPPINE HALAL EXPORT DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION BOARD, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The bill seeks to protect the interests of the different stakeholders of the Halal industry. In line with this, the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Program is establish, which shall refer to the comprehensive set of objectives, targets, strategies and activities for the growth of Halal industries producing or providing products, processes and services and resulting to increased exports of Halal products.

To ensure that the objectives of this proposed measure is properly carried out, a Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Board shall be created. The Halal Board shall be the policy-making body on Halal export development and shall set the overall direction for the implementation of the Philippine Halal Export Development and Promotion Program. It shall be attached to the Department of Trade and Industry.

**S. No. 2834** AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE ATMOSPHERIC,

**GEOPHYSICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (PAGASA), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

The bill seeks to address the urgent need to equip Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical And Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) with state-of-art facilities and cutting-edge analytical methodologies, fully utilizing the technological advances available globally. It also seeks to raise the research and development capability, adopting a rationalized and integrated approach with focus on improvement of operations for specialized services and cost recovery. Lastly, the proposed measure aims to augment the financial rewards of working in PAGASA, in order to boost the productivity of current personnel and likewise attract newcomers to join the agency.

**S. No. 2835 AN ACT PROTECTING SEAFARERS AND OTHER WORKERS SIMILARLY SITUATED AGAINST AMBULANCE CHASING AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF**

The proposed measure seeks to protect our seafarers against ambulance chasing or the act of soliciting from them or their heirs, the pursuit of any claim against an employer for the purpose of recovery of monetary claim or benefit, including legal interest, arising from accident, illness or death, in exchange of an amount which shall be retained or deducted from the claims or benefit awarded to them. The bill declares null and void a stipulation in any contract between the seafarers and any person who represents them before any tribunal, granting the latter fees exceeding ten percent (10%) of the compensation or benefit awarded to the former.

**S. No. 2836 AN ACT REDUCING THE RETIREMENT AGE OF SURFACE MINE WORKERS FROM SIXTY (60) TO FIFTY (50) YEARS AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 293 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

The bill seeks to lower the retirement age of underground or surface mining employees from 60 to 50 years, as these workers are exposed to the hazardous elements and risks while they sort out the minerals extracted from the mining pits.

**S. No. 2837 AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE OPERATIONS OF THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION, AMENDING**

**FOR THIS PURPOSE ARTICLES 219 AND 221 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES**

The measure seeks to strengthen the operations of the NLRC by authorizing the Commission and its eight divisions to be assisted by Commission Attorneys, who shall be members of the Philippine bar with at least one-year experience or exposure in the field of labor-management relations. There shall be as many Commissioners as may be necessary for the effective and efficient operation of the Commission but in no case more than five assigned to the office of the Chairman and each commissioner.

**S. No. 2838 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ARCHIPELAGIC SEA LANES IN THE PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGIC WATERS, PRESCRIBING THE RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF FOREIGN SHIPS AND AIRCRAFT EXERCISING THE RIGHT OF ARCHIPELAGIC SEA LANES PASSAGE THROUGH THE ESTABLISHED ARCHIPELAGIC SEA LANES AND PROVIDING FOR THE ASSOCIATED PROTECTED MEASURES THEREIN**

The proposed measure defines archipelagic sea lane in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS). The exercise of the Right of Archipelagic Sea Lanes Passage shall be in accordance with the provisions of UNCLOS. Foreign ships and aircraft in exercise of this right shall, among others: refrain from any threat or use of force against the sovereignty, territorial integrity, or political independence of the Republic of the Philippines; and shall not conduct any fishing operation or exploitation of its marine resources.

**H. No. 4660 AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THIRTY (30) DAYS JUDICIAL LEAVE PRIVILEGES ANNUALLY TO ALL JUDGES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURTS (METC), MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS IN CITIES (MTCC), MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURTS (MTC), MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURTS (MCTC) AND SHARI'A CIRCUIT COURTS**

This measure seeks to provide judges of the Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts in Cities, Municipal Trial Courts, Municipal Circuit Trial Courts and Shari'a Circuit Courts, thirty-day judicial leave with pay, annually, in addition to the fifteen-day vacation leave and fifteen-day sick leave privileges provided for under existing

laws. The judicial leave privilege shall be noncumulative and nonconvertible to cash.

**H. No. 4889** AN ACT DEFINING THE MARITIME ZONES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES

Under the proposed measure, the maritime zones of the Philippines shall be comprised of its internal waters, archipelagic waters, territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. The Philippines shall exercise sovereignty over them in accordance with the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, and other existing laws and treaties.

**ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS  
(Concurrence to Treaties)**

**Res. No. 82** RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK (PSR-1333) [18 MAY 2015]

Through this resolution the Senate concurs in the ratification of the Social Security Agreement between the Philippines and Denmark. The Agreement seeks to reduce or eliminate border, nationality or other restrictions that prevent covered workers from receiving benefits under the social security legislation of the Philippines and Denmark.

It also aims to guarantee the portability of pensions of qualified Filipino and Danish citizens, which will be very beneficial especially for the lives and security of the vast number of Filipino citizens working on Danish vessels around the world. Moreover, the Agreement applies the principles of equality of treatment, export of benefits, and totalization of creditable periods to enable covered workers to access social security benefits such as sickness, maternity, paternity, occupational diseases, invalidity, old age, and survivors' pension. As to its implementation: On the part of the Philippines, through the Philippine Social Security Act, the Government Service Insurance Act and the Portability and Employees' Compensation Act; and on the part of Denmark, through Act on the Highest, the Intermediate, and the Increased Ordinary and Ordinary Anticipatory Pension, and its regulations; and the Labour Marker Supplementary Pensions Act and its regulations.

**Res. No. 83** RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (PSR-1335) [18 MAY 2015]

The Agreement seeks to reduce or eliminate border, nationality or other restrictions that prevent covered workers from receiving benefits under the social legislation of the Philippines and Portugal. It also adopts the fundamental principles of international coordination of social security legislations, namely: equality of treatment, export of benefits, and totalization of creditable periods to enable covered workers to access social security benefits such as sickness, maternity, paternity, occupational diseases, invalidity, old age, and survivor's pension. Under these principles, a Filipino who works in Portugal and contributes to the social security scheme of Portugal will be entitled to benefits under the same conditions as nationals of Portugal; the Filipino worker will also be allowed to export benefits he/she is entitled to wherever he/she decides to reside, whether in the Philippines or Portugal. As to the implementation of the Agreement: On the part of the Philippines, through the Philippine Social Security Act, the Government Service Insurance Act, the Portability and Employees' Compensation Act, and the State Insurance Fund; and on the part of Portugal, through its social security schemes applicable to employed and self-employed persons and to optional affiliated schemes of the Portuguese insurance systems.

**Res. No. 85** RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE ACCESSION TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY (PSR-1331) [25 MAY 2015]

Through this resolution the Senate concurs in the accession to the Nagoya Protocol adopted on 29 October 2010, on access to genetic resources and benefits sharing arising from its utilization. The Protocol strengthens the Convention on Biological Diversity which was signed on 5 June 1992.

Under the Protocol, member States shall make sure that the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources held by indigenous communities are shared in a fair and equitable way under

agreed terms through appropriate domestic legislations and policy measures. The Protocol also propagates the mechanism of incentives and rewards in the benefit sharing of genetic resources, which will contribute to the development of biodiversity. Moreover, through this mechanism the Philippines can obtain resources for the conservation of its own genetic resources and at the same time ensure the protection of the rights and well-being of its indigenous communities.

**Res. No. 86** RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE PARTNERSHIPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (PEMSEA) ESTABLISHING THE PEMSEA RESOURCE FACILITY CENTER (PSR-1332) [25 MAY 2015]

Through this resolution the Senate concurs in the ratification of the Agreement, which was signed on 31 July 2012, between the Philippines and PEMSEA establishing the PEMSEA Resource Facility Center. PEMSEA is an organization composed of 12 countries and 19 non-country partners that serves as the regional coordinating mechanism for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia. The Agreement establishes the principal office of PEMSEA in the Philippines and grants privileges, immunities, and facilities to its office, officials, staff, and consultants. The PEMSEA Resource Facility Center will undertake, among others; work and projects on coastal and ocean governance, habitat protection, restoration and management, water use, pollution and waste reduction management.

## Performance of the Senate Sixteenth Congress

Second Regular Session  
July 28, 2014 -- June 10, 2015

### SIGNED INTO LAW

#### A. Republic Acts (21)

- 1. R.A. No. 10645** An Act Providing For The Mandatory Philhealth Coverage For All Senior Citizens, Amending For The Purpose Republic Act No. 7432, As Amended By Republic Act No. 9994, Otherwise Known As The "Expanded Senior Citizens Act Of 20103 (S. No. 712/H. No. 4593) [November 5, 2014]
- 2. R.A. No. 10646** An Act Creating the Quezon City Development Authority (QCDA), Defining Its Powers And Functions, Providing For Its Organizational Structure And Capitalization (S. No. 2161/H. No. 3899) [Lapsed into law on November 8, 2014 without the signature of the President, in accordance with Article VI, Section 27(1) of the Constitution.]
- 3. R.A. No. 10647** An Act Strengthening The Ladderized Interface Between Technical-Vocational Education And Training And Higher Education (S. No. 2272/H. No. 3575) [November 21, 2014]
- 4. R.A. No. 10648** An Act Providing Scholarship Grants to Top Graduates of All Public High Schools in State Universities and Colleges and Appropriating Funds Therefor (S. No. 2275/H. No. 4860) [November 27, 2014]



- 5. R.A. No. 10649** An Act Increasing the Burial Assistance for Veterans From Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) to Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00), Amending for The Purpose Republic Act No. 6948, As Amended, Otherwise Known as “An Act Standardizing and Upgrading the Benefits for Military Veterans and Their Dependents” and Appropriating Funds Therefor (H. No. 694) [November 27, 2014]
- 6. R.A. No. 10650** An Act Expanding Access to Educational Services by Institutionalizing Open Distance Learning in Levels of Tertiary Education and Appropriating Funds Therefor (S. No. 2274/H. No. 4553) [December 9, 2014]
- 7. R.A. No. 10651** An Act Appropriating Funds For The Operation Of The Government Of The Republic Of The Philippines From January One To December Thirty-One, Two Thousand And Fifteen, And For Other Purposes (H. No. 4968) [December 23, 2014]
- 8. R.A. No. 10652** An Act Appropriating The Sum Of Twenty-Two Billion Four Hundred Sixty-Seven Million Six Hundred Eight Thousand Pesos (P22,467,608,000) As Supplemental Appropriations For FY 2014 And For Other Purposes (H. No. 5237) [December 23, 2014]
- 9. R.A. No. 10653** An Act Adjusting The 13<sup>th</sup> Month Pay And Other Benefits Ceiling Excluded From The Computation Of Gross Income For Purposes Of Income Taxation, Amending For The Purpose Section 32(B), Chapter VI Of The National Internal Revenue Code Of 1997, As Amended (S. No. 2437/H. No. 4970) [February 12, 2015]

- 10. R.A. No. 10654** An Act to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated Fishing, Amending Republic Act No. 8550, Otherwise Known as “The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998”, and for Other Purposes (S. No. 2414/H. No. 4536) [Lapsed into law on February 27, 2015 without the signature of the President, in accordance with Article VI, Section 27(1) of the Constitution.]
- 11. R.A. No. 10655** An Act Repealing The Crime Of Premature Marriage Under Article 351 Of Act No. 3815, Otherwise Known As The Revised Penal Code (S. No. 1647/H. No. 5280) [March 13, 2015]
- 12. R.A. No. 10656** An Act Postponing The Sangguniang Kabataan Elections To The Last Monday Of October 2016, Amending For The Purpose Republic Act No. 9164, As Amended, Entitled “An Act Providing For Synchronized Barangay And Sangguniang Kabataan Elections, Amending Republic Act No. 7160, As Amended, Otherwise Known As The ‘Local Government Code Of 19912 And For Other Purposes” (H. No. 5209) [March 25, 2015]
- 13. R.A. No. 10657** An Act Regulating And Modernizing The Practice Of Chemistry In The Philippines, Repealing For The Purpose Republic Act Numbered Seven Hundred Fifty-Four (R. A. No. 754), Otherwise Known As The Chemistry Law Of The Philippines (S. No. 914/H. No. 5016) [March 27, 2015]
- 14. R.A. No. 10658** An Act Separating The City Of Biñan From The First Legislative District Of The Province Of Laguna To Constitute The Lone Legislative District Of The City Of Biñan (H. No. 3917) [March 27, 2015]



- 15. R.A. No. 10659** An Act Promoting And Supporting The Competitiveness Of The Sugarcane Industry And For Other Purposes (S. No. 2400/H. No. 4633) [March 27, 2015]
- 16. R.A. No. 10660** An Act Strengthening Further The Functional And Structural Organization Of The Sandiganbayan, Further Amending Presidential Decree No. 1606, As Amended, And Appropriating Funds Therefor (S. No. 2138/H. No. 5283) [April 16, 2015]
- 17. R.A. No. 10661** An Act Declaring November of Every Year as National Children’s Month (S. No. 332/H. No. 1641) [May 29 2015]
- 18. R.A. No. 10662** An Act Naming the Stretch of the National Highway Along the Iloilo | Diversion Road/Iloilo Capiz Road (Old Route) which begins at the Junction of General Luna to Airport Access Road and Ends at the Gate of the Iloilo International Airport, Traversing the Municipalities of Pavia, Sta. Barbara and Cabatuan and Iloilo City, as “Senator Benigno S. Aquino, Jr. Avenue (H. No. 4398) [3 July 2015]
- 19. R.A. No. 10663** An Act naming as “Corazon C. Aquino Avenue” the Circumferential Road which commences at the Junction of the Iloilo-Dumangas Coastal Road in Balabago, Jaro District, Iloilo City, then follows a General Westward Direction along the Floodways South Bank towards Buhang, Jaro: Tacas , Jaro and Ungka II, Pavia, then Traverses Southwards to the Mandurriao District, Iloilo City-Pavia-San Miguel Tri-Border, and ends at the Iloilo Antique Road, near the center of Arevalo District, Iloilo City (H. No. 4400) [3 July 2015]

- 20. R.A. No. 10664** An Act Declaring the Last Full Week of August as Armed Forces of the Filipino People Week (H. No. 945) [6 July 2015]
- 21. R.A. No. 10665** An Act Establishing the Open igh School System in the Philippines and Appropriating Funds Therefor (S. No. 2277/H. No. 4085) [9 July 2015]

***B. Joint Resolutions (3)***

- 1. Joint Res. No. 3** Joint Resolution Extending The Period For Filing Of Claims For Reparation Of Human Rights Violations Victims, Under Republic Act No. 10368, Otherwise Known As The Human Rights Victims Reparation And Recognition Act Of 2013 (S. Jt. Res. No. 10/H. Jt. Res. No. 16) [February 17, 2015]
- 2. Joint Res. No. 4** Joint Resolution Approving The Transfer, Sale Or Assignment Of The Controlling Interest In The Capital Stock of Asian Spirit, Inc. (Now Zest Airways, Inc.) To The Group of Alfredo M. Yao and the Subsequent Transfer, Sale or Assignment of the Controlling Interest in the Capital Stock of Zest Airways, Inc. to Air Asia, Inc. (H. Joint Res. No. 10) [March 13, 2015]
- 3. Joint Res. No. 5** Joint Resolution Increasing The Daily Subsistence Allowance Of All Officers, Enlisted Personnel, Candidate Soldiers, Probationary Second Lieutenants, Cadets And Civilian Active Auxiliaries Of The Armed Forces Of The Philippines (AFP), Commissioned And Non-Commissioned Personnel Of The Philippine National Police (PNP), Bureau Of Fire Protection (BFP), Bureau Of Jail Management And Penology (BJMP), Cadets Of The Philippine National Police

Academy (PNPA), Philippine Coast Guard (PCG), The Candidate Coast Guard Men Of The PCG And The Uniformed Personnel Of The National Mapping And Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) From Ninety Pesos (P90.00) To One Hundred And Fifty Pesos (P150.00) Effective January 1, 2015 (S. Joint Res. 2/H. Joint Res. 26) [March 27, 2015]

**FOR APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT (15)**

- 1. S. No. 1281**      Declaring August 18 Of Every Year As 'Jesse Robredo' Day, A Special Working Holiday
- 2. S. No. 2212**      Promoting Entrepreneurship and Financial Education Among Filipino Youth
- 3. S. No. 2226**      Protecting The Amateur Nature Of Student-Athletes In The Philippines By Regulating The Residency Requirement And Prohibiting The Commercialization Of Student-Athletes
- 4. S. No. 2282**      Promoting Fair Competition to Protect Consumer Welfare, Advance Domestic International Trade and Sustained Economic Development By, Among Others, Regulating Monopolies, Anti-Competitive Agreements, Abuse of Dominant Position, and Anti-Competitive Mergers, Establishing The Fair Competition Commission
- 5. S. No. 2481**      Improve The Facilities Of Northern Mindanao Medical Center, Amending For The Purpose Republic Act No. 7938
- 6. S. No. 2486**      Allowing Foreign Vessels to Transport and Co-load Foreign Cargos for Domestic Transshipment

- 7. S. No. 2488**      Providing For The Safety Of Children Aboard Motorcycles
- 8. S. No. 2655**      Converting The Davao Regional Hospital Into Davao Regional Medical Center, Increasing Its Bed Capacity And Appropriating Funds Therefor, Amending For The Purpose Republic Act No. 7179
- 9. H. No. 1248**      Changing The Name Of Gubat District Hospital To Salvador R. Encinas District Hospital In Gubat, Sorsogon
- 10. H. No. 4073**      Granting Citizenship to Farrell Eldrian Wu
- 11. H. No. 4307**      Establishing The Siargao Island Sports Academy And Training Center In The Municipality Of Dapa, Province Of Surigao Del Norte
- 12. H. No. 4308**      Establishing The Davao Del Norte Regional Sports Academy To Be Located In The Davao Del Norte Sports and Tourism Complex
- 13. H. No. 4461**      Establishing The Talisay Sports Academy And Training Center In The City Of Talisay, Province Of Cebu
- 14. H. No. 4537**      Granting Philippine Citizenship To Peter Leslie Wallace
- 15. H. No. 4605**      Establishing The Alfonso Sports Academy And Training Center In The Municipality Of Alfonso, Seventh Congressional District, Province Of Cavite

**PENDING CONFERENCE COMMITTEE (5)**

- 1. S. No. 1386**      Defining The Role Of The Department Of Labor And Employment (DOLE) And The Local Government Units (LGUs) And

- Accredited Nongovernmental Organizations (NGOs) In The Establishment And Operation Of The Public Employment Service Office (PESO), And The Operation Of Job Offices In Educational Institutions, Amending For The Purpose Sections 3, 5, 6, 7, And 9 Of Republic Act No. 8759, Otherwise Known As “Public Employment Service Office Act Of 1999”
- 2. S. No. 2280** Amending Presidential Decree No. 968, Otherwise Known As The “Probation Law Of 1976”, As Amended
- 3. S. No. 2518** Removing The Conditions For The Condonation Of All Unpaid Taxes Due From Local Water Districts, Amending For The Purpose Section 289-A Of The National Internal Revenue Code, As Amended
- 4. S. No. 2679** Providing For A Comprehensive And Unified Student Financial Assistance System For Tertiary Education (UniFAST), Thereby Rationalizing Access Thereto
- 5. S. Jt. Res. No. 12** Authorizing The President Of The Philippines, His Excellency Benigno S. Aquino III, To Address The Projected Electricity Imbalance In The Luzon Grid

**APPROVED ON THIRD READING BY THE SENATE/PENDING IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (22)**

- 1. S. No. 510** Declaring The Fifth Day Of October Of Every Year As The National Teachers’ Day
- 2. S. No. 1733** Implementing The People’s Right To Information And The Constitutional

- Policies Of Full Public Disclosure And Honesty In The Public Service
- 3. S. No. 2042** Prohibiting the Development, Production, Stockpiling, Use of Chemical Weapons and Providing for Their Destruction and Providing Penalties
- 4. S. No. 2055** Regulating the Practice of Forestry in the Philippines, Repealing for the Purpose Republic Act Numbered Sixty-two Hundred Thirty-nine, Known as “The Forestry Profession Law”
- 5. S. No. 2103** Regulating the Practice of Metallurgical Engineering in the Philippines, Repealing for This Purpose Presidential Decree Numbered 1536, Otherwise Known as the Metallurgical Engineering Law of the Philippines
- 6. S. No. 2269** Amending Section 4 (B) Of Republic Act No. 7898, Otherwise Known As The AFP Modernization Act, As Amended By Republic Act No. 10349, Establishing The ‘Revised AFP Modernization Program’
- 7. S. No. 2278** Mandating the Completion of the Land Acquisition and Distribution (LAD) Component of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) by June 30, 2016 Pursuant to Republic Act No. 6657, Otherwise Known as The Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law, as Amended

- 8. S. No. 2401** Establishing Enabling Mechanisms For Meaningful Youth Participation In Nation Building, Strengthening The Sangguniang Kabataan, Creating The Municipal, City And Provincial Youth Development Councils

<b>9. S. No. 2419</b>	Banning the Re-appointment of a Regular Member of the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC) Who Has Already Served Two Full Terms
<b>10. S. No. 2422</b>	Increasing The Prescriptive Period For Violations Of Republic Act No. 3019, Otherwise Known As 'The Anti-Graft And Corrupt Practices Act', From Fifteen (15) Years To Twenty (20) Years, Amending Section 11 Thereof
<b>11. S. No. 2426</b>	Include Ethnic Origin In The National Survey Conducted By The Philippine Statistics Authority
<b>12. S. No. 2434</b>	Strengthening, Modernizing And Aligning The Practice Of Agricultural Engineering In The Country Into The Internationally Recognized Practice Of Agricultural And Biosystems Engineering
<b>13. S. No. 2436</b>	Regulate And Modernize The Practice Of Pharmacy In The Philippines
<b>14. S. No. 2622</b>	Amending Republic Act No. 9367, Otherwise Known as the Biofuels Act of 2006
<b>15. S. No. 2669</b>	Instituting a System for Tax Incentives Management and Transparency
<b>16. S. No. 2686</b>	Creating the Department of Information and Communications Technology
<b>17. S. No. 2789</b>	Including Responsive, Empowered and Service-Centered Youth in the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council in All Levels, Amending For The Purpose Republic Act No. 10121, Otherwise Known As The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010

<b>18. H. No. 586</b>	Creating The Registry Of Deeds For The Province Of Zamboanga Sibugay To Be Situated In The Municipality Of Ipil
<b>19. H. No. 1042</b>	Naming The Diversion Road In Tacloban City, Leyte As Gov. Benjamin 'Kokoy' T. Romualdez Diversion Road
<b>20. H. No. 3750</b>	Separating The City Of Batangas From The Second Legislative District Of The Province Of Batangas To Constitute The Lone Legislative District Of The City Of Batangas
<b>21. H. No. 4292</b>	Establishing The Misamis Occidental Sports Academy In The Capital City Of Oroquieta, Province Of Misamis Occidental
<b>22. H. No. 4769</b>	Converting The Municipality Of General Trias In The Province Of Cavite Into A Component City To Be Known As The City Of General Trias

**APPROVED ON SECOND READING  
(For Approval on Third Reading) (19)**

<b>1. S. No. 2712</b>	Amending, Thereby Strengthening Republic Act No. 7586, Otherwise Known As The National Integrated Protected Areas System (NIPAS) Act Of 1992, Declaring And Establishing As Protected Areas And Buffer Zones The Parcels Of Land Designated By The President Of The Republic Of The Philippines Pursuant To Republic Act No. 7586, Providing For Their Management
<b>2. H. No. 159</b>	Creating Four (4) Additional Branches Of The Regional Trial Court In The Cities Of Alaminos, Dagupan And San Carlos And In The Municipality Of Lingayen, All Situated In The Province Of Pangasinan,

Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (A) Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**3. H. No. 606**

Creating Five (5) Additional Branches Of The Regional Trial Court And Five (5) Additional Branches Of The Metropolitan Trial Court In The National Capital Judicial Region To Be Stationed In Pasay City, Metro Manila, Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (D) And Section 27 Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**4. H. No. 1771**

Creating Two (2) Additional Branches Of The Regional Trial Court And Two (2) Additional Branches Of The Municipal Trial Court In Cities In The Third Judicial Region To Be Stationed In San Jose City, Province Of Nueva Ecija, Further Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (C) And Section 29 Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**5. H. No. 1772**

Creating Two (2) Additional Branches Of The Regional Trial Court In The Third Judicial Region To Be Stationed In The Science City Of Munoz And In The Municipality Of Rizal, Province Of Nueva Ecija, Further Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (C) Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**6. H. No. 1980**

Creating Two (2) Additional Branches Of The Regional Trial Court In The Tenth Judicial Region To Be Stationed At Initao, Province Of Misamis Oriental, Further

Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (K) Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**7. H. No. 2094**

Creating An Additional Regional Trial Court Branch In The Third Judicial Region To Be Stationed In The City Of Meycauyan, Province Of Bulacan, Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (C) Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**8. H. No. 2186**

Converting The Existing 5th Municipal Circuit Trial Court Of Carmona-General Mariano Alvarez, Cavite Into A Municipal Trial Court With Seat At The Municipality Of Carmona And Creating A Separate Municipal Trial Court For The Municipality Of General Mariano Alvarez, Amending For The Purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**9. H. No. 2260**

Creating Two (2) Additional Branches Of The Municipal Trial Court In Cities And Two (2) Additional Branches Of The Regional Trial Court In The First Judicial Region To Be Stationed In The City Of Baguio, Further Amending For The Purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, As Amended, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980

**10. H. No. 2409**

Creating Two (2) Additional Municipal Trial Courts In Cities For Angeles City, One (1) Municipal Trial Court For Magalang And One (1) Municipal Trial Court In Cities For The City Of Mabalacat, All In The Province Of Pampanga, Thus Amending For The Purpose Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known

As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**11. H. No. 2701**

Creating An Additional Branch Of The Regional Trial Court In The Fifth Judicial Region To Be Stationed In Sorsogon City, Province Of Sorsogon, Further Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (F) Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**12. H. No. 2739**

Creating An Additional Branch Of The Regional Trial Court To Be Stationed In The City Of Guihulngan, Province Of Negros Oriental, Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (H) Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**13. H. No. 3396**

Creating Nineteen (19) Additional Branches Of The Regional Trial Court In The National Capital Judicial Region To Be Stationed In Quezon City, Metro Manila, Further Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (D) Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**14. H. No. 4420**

Declaring August 9 As National Indigenous Peoples Day And Mandating The Meaningful Observance

**15. H. No. 4427**

Creating An Additional Legislative District In The Province Of Cebu To Be Known As The Seventh Legislative District

**16. H. No. 4483**

Creating Two (2) Additional Branches Of The Regional Trial Court In The National Capital Judicial Region To Be Stationed In Paranaque City, Metro Manila,

Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (D) Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**17. H. No. 4484**

Creating Two (2) Additional Branches Of The Regional Trial Court In The Province Of Ilocos Sur To Be Stationed In The City Of Vigan And In The Municipality Of Sto. Domingo, Further Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (A) Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**18. H. No. 4491**

Creating Three (3) Additional Branches Of The Regional Trial Court In The Sixth Judicial Region To Be Stationed In The City Of Bacolod, Province Of Negros Occidental, Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (G) Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**19. H. No. 4494**

Creating A Branch Of The Regional Trial Court In The Province Of Bulacan To Be Stationed In The City Of San Jose Del Monte, Further Amending For The Purpose Section 14, Paragraph (C) Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 129, Otherwise Known As The Judiciary Reorganization Act Of 1980, As Amended

**PENDING SECOND READING (43)**

**A. Period of Amendments (3)**

**1. S. No. 2270**

Ensuring The Fundamental Equality Of Men And Women Under The Laws On Marriage And Family Relations, Amending For The Purpose Executive Order No. 209, Otherwise Known As The Family Code Of The Philippines



**2. S. No. 2581** Mandating And Strengthening The Continuing Professional Development Program For All Regulated Professions, Creating Continuing Professional Development Council

**3. S. No. 2626** Creating A Local Housing Board In All Cities And First To Third Class Municipalities

**B. Period of Interpellations (40)**

**1. S. No. 12** Providing Barangay Officials Including Barangay Tanods, Members of the Lupon ng Tagapamayapa, Barangay Health Workers and Barangay Day Care Workers a Retirement Benefit

**2. S. No. 21** Instituting The Magna Carta Of Filipino Seafarers

**3. S. No. 29** Prohibiting the Discrimination on the Employment of Any Individual on the Basis of Merely of Age

**4. S. No. 129** Amending Presidential Decree No. 442, As Amended, Otherwise Known As The Labor Code Of The Philippines By Adding A New Article 287-A Reducing The Retirement Age Of Race Horse Jockeys From Sixty (60) To Fifty-Five (55)

**5. S. No. 136** Reforming The National Apprenticeship Program And Providing Standards For The Training And Employment Of Apprentices, And Regulatory Standards For Accreditation Of Apprenticeship Programs

**6. S. No. 161** Providing for Security of Tenure for All Casual and Contractual Employees of the Government Who Have Rendered the Prescribed Years of Service in the

**7. S. No. 480** Increasing The Quarters Allowance Of Officers And Enlisted Personnel Of The Armed Forces Of The Philippines

**8. S. No. 498** 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

**9. S. No. 886** Define the Role of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) During Elections

**10. S. No. 1185** Amending Section 450 Of Republic Act No. 7160, Otherwise Known As The Local Government Code Of 1991, As Amended, Allowing The Conversion Of A Municipality Which Has A Land Area Of At Least Fifty (50) Square Kilometers Or Inhabitants Of At Least Twenty-Five Thousand (25,000) Into A Component City If It Has An Annual Average Locally Generated Income Of At Least Two Hundred Twenty Million Pesos (P220,000,000.00) For The Last Two Consecutive Years Based On 2012 Constant Prices

**11. S. No. 1719** Providing For The Minimum Contents Of A Comprehensive Report Of Elections To The President And To Congress By The Commission On Elections

**12. S. No. 2134** Reorganizing The Cooperative Development Authority, Repealing For The Purpose Republic Act No. 6939, Creating The Cooperative Development Authority

- 13. S. No. 2209**      Establishing Resource Centers For Indigenous Cultural Communities/ Indigenous Peoples To Enhance And Ensure Delivery Of Essential Services
- 14. S. No. 2210**      Institutionalizing the Poverty Reduction Through Social Entrepreneurship (PRESENT) Program and Promoting Social Enterprises With the Poor as Primary Stakeholders
- 15. S. No. 2235**      Amending Sections 443, 454, 463 And 477 Of Republic Act No. 7160, Otherwise Known As 'The Local Government Code Of 1991'
- 16. S. No. 2239**      Requiring All Franchise Holders Or Operators Of Television Stations And Producers Of Television Programs To Broadcast Or Present Their Programs With Closed Captions Options
- 17. S. No. 2271**      Establishing A Framework For Film And Television Tourism In The Philippines, Marketing The Industry Globally And Providing Employment For The Sector
- 18. S. No. 2361**      Repealing Section 55 Of Batas Pambansa Blg. 881, Otherwise Known As The Omnibus Election Code Of The Philippines, As Amended, And Mandating The Commission On Elections To Provide For The Office Spaces Of Its Field Offices
- 19. S. No. 2582**      Regulating The Practice Of Nutrition And Dietetics In The Philippines, Repealing For The Purpose Presidential Decree No. 1286, Known As The 'Nutrition And Dietetics Decree Of 1977'
- 20. S. No. 2653**      Establishing A Comprehensive Philippine Plan Of Action To Eliminate Tuberculosis As A Public Health Problem

- 21. S. No. 2671**      Adopting An Omnibus Compensation And Position Classification Of Civilian Personnel And The Base Pay Schedule Of Military And Uniformed Personnel In The Government
- 22. S. No. 2675**      Declaring The Coconut Levy Assets As A Trust Fund, Providing For Its Management And Utilization, Authorizing The Privatization And Management Office To Dispose The Coconut Levy Assets
- 23. S. No. 2693**      Authorizing The Punong Barangay To Administer The Oath Of Office Of Any Government Official, Including The President Of The Republic Of The Philippines, Amending For The Purpose Section 41 Of Executive Order No. 292 Otherwise Known As The Administrative Code Of 1987, As Amended By R.A. 6733
- 24. S. No. 2709**      Granting Survivorship Benefits To The Surviving Legitimate Spouse Of A Deceased Retired Member Of The Office Of Solicitor General
- 25. S. No. 2720**      Providing For A Comprehensive Nursing Law Towards Quality Health Care System
- 26. S. No. 2752**      Strengthening Non-Government Organizations Engaged In Microfinance Activities For The Poor
- 27. S. No. 2762**      Preventing The Proliferation Of Weapons Of Mass Destruction By Managing The Trade In Strategic Goods, The Provision Of Related Services
- 28. S. No. 2763**      Providing For A System Of Absentee Voting For Qualified Members Of The Electoral Staff Of National Candidates And Accredited National Political Parties And Party-Lists, And Election Lawyers

- 29. S. No. 2778** Strengthening The Regulation Of Health Facilities And Services In The Philippines, Repealing For The Purpose Republic Act No. 4226, Otherwise Known As The Hospital Licensure Act
- 30. S. No. 2785** Protecting The Rights Of Internally Displaced Persons And Penalizing The Acts Of Arbitrary Internal Displacement
- 31. S. No. 2794** Providing For A New Anti-Carnapping Law Of The Philippines
- 32. S. No. 2831** Instituting The Philippine Halal Export Development And Promotion Program, Creating For The Purpose The Philippine Halal Export Development And Promotion Board
- 33. S. No. 2834** Providing for The Modernization of the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)
- 34. S. No. 2835** Protecting Seafarers And Other Workers Similarly Situated Against Ambulance Chasing
- 35. S. No. 2836** Reducing The Retirement Age Of Surface Mine Workers From Sixty (60) To Fifty (50) Years Amending For The Purpose Article 293 Of Presidential Decree No. 442, As Amended, Otherwise Known As The Labor Code Of The Philippines
- 36. S. No. 2837** Strengthening The Operations Of The National Labor Relations Commission, Amending For This Purpose Articles 219 And 221 Of Presidential Decree No. 442, As Amended, Otherwise Known As The Labor Code Of The Philippines
- 37. S. No. 2838** Establish The Archipelagic Sea Lanes In The Philippine Archipelagic Waters,

- 38. H. No. 1841** Prescribing The Rights And Obligations Of Foreign Ships And Aircraft Exercising The Right Of Archipelagic Sea Lanes Passage Through The Established Archipelagic Sea Lanes And Providing For The Associated Protected Measures Therein
- 38. H. No. 1841** Changing the Name of Batasan Hills National High School in Barangay Batasan Hills, City of Quezon, Metro Manila to Corazon C. Aquino National High School
- 39. H. No. 4660** Providing For Thirty (30) Days Judicial Leave Privileges Annually To All Judges Of The Metropolitan Trial Courts (MeTC), Municipal Trial Courts In Cities (MTCC), Municipal Trial Courts (MTC), Municipal Circuit Trial Courts (MCTC) And Shari'a Circuit Courts
- 40. H. No. 4889** Defining The Maritime Zones Of The Republic Of The Philippines

**ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS (50)**

***A. Resolutions Concurring in the Ratification of Treaties and/or International Agreements/Conventions (4)***

- 1. Res. No. 82** Resolution Concurring In The Ratification Of The Agreement On Social Security Between The Republic Of The Philippines And The Kingdom Of Denmark (PSR-1333) [May 18, 2015]
- 2. Res. No. 83** Resolution Concurring In The Ratification Of The Agreement On Social Security Between The Portuguese Republic And The Republic Of The Philippines (PSR-1335) [May 18, 2015]
- 3. Res. No. 85** Resolution Concurring In The Accession To The Nagoya Protocol On Access To

Genetic Resources And The Fair And Equitable Sharing Of Benefits Arising From Their Utilization To The Convention On Biological Diversity (PSR-1331) [May 25, 2015]

**4. Res. No. 86**

Resolution Concurring in the Ratification of the Agreement Between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (Pemsea) Establishing the Pemsea Resource Facility Center (PSR-1332) [May 25, 2015]

**B. Simple Resolutions (42)**

**1. Res. No. 45**

Resolution Informing the House of Representatives that a Quorum is Present in the Senate, and That This Body Has Entered Upon the Exercise of Its Functions For the Second Regular Session of the Sixteenth Congress of the Philippines (PSR-768) [July 28, 2014]

**2. Res. No. 46**

Resolution Informing His Excellency, the President of the Philippines, That a Quorum is Present in the Senate, and That This Body Has Entered Upon the Exercise of Its Functions for the Second Regular Session of the Sixteenth Congress of the Philippines (PSR-769) [July 28, 2014]

**3. Res. No. 47**

Resolution Congratulating and Commending the Metrobank Foundation's Outstanding Teachers of 2014 (PSR-836 & 858) [September 1, 2014]

**4. Res. No. 48**

Resolution Honoring and Commending the Outstanding Philippine Soldiers (TOPS) of 2014 (PSR-792) [September 1, 2014]

**5. Res. No. 49**

Resolution Commending and Congratulating the Philippines' Ten Outstanding Police Officers in Service (C.O.P.S.) of 2014 as Selected and Sponsored by Metrobank Foundation, PS Bank and the Rotary Club of New Manila East (PSR-827) [September 1, 2014]

**6. Res. No. 50**

Resolution Congratulating and Commending Filipino Junior Golfers Harmie Nicole Constantino, Carl Jano Corpus, Annyka Chanel Pineda-Cayabyab, Andrew Chua and the Rest of the Philippine Contingent for Emerging Victorious in the 2014 Veritas World Junior International Golf Tournament at the Brookside Golf Club in Pasadena, California on July 19-24, 2014 (PSR-843) [September 3, 2014]

**7. Res. No. 51**

Resolution Congratulating and Commending Filipino Junior Archer Gabriel Luis Moreno for Winning the Country's First Gold Medal in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Olympic Games on 24 August 2014 in Nanjing, People's Republic of China (PSR-861 & 871) [September 3, 2014]

**8. Res. No. 52**

Resolution Commending and Honoring the Filipino UN Peacekeepers in Golan Heights for Demonstrating Exemplary Courage and Resolve in the Recent Standoff Against Syrian Rebels, Successfully Carrying Out Their Peacekeeping Missions, and Reflecting the Professionalism and Competence of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (PSR-876, 877, 881 & 899) [September 8, 2014]

**9. Res. No. 53**

Resolution Expressing the Sense of the Senate to Join the Community of Nations

and Parliaments Around the World in Commemorating the Seventh International Day of Democracy on September 15, 2014 with the Theme, “Engaging Youth on Democracy” (PSR-912) [September 15, 2014]

**10. Res. No. 54**

Resolution Commending the *Integrity Initiative*, a Private Sector-Driven Effort, Which Aims to Both Institutionalize Integrity Standards Among All Sectors of Society, and Fight the Culture of Corruption, and Urging the Government to Require All Private Firms Engaging in Business with It to Sign the *Initiative’s Integrity Pledge*, Which Is a Commitment to Adhere to Ethical Business Practices and to Support a National Campaign Against Corruption (PSR-868) [September 16, 2014]

**11. Res. No. 55**

Resolution Commending Businessman and Inventor Rogelio ‘Vonz’ Santos Jr., Architect Royal Christopher L. Pineda, and Designer Antonio ‘Budji’ C. Layug for Having Initiated the *Butterfly House Project*, a Design-Led Approach to Provide Affordable, Habitable, Durable, and Convenient Emergency Shelters for Displaced Families, in Lieu of the Traditional Tents and Bunk Houses; and Urging the Government to Support Such Good Design by Creating An Environment That Values and Utilizes Filipino Innovation as a Problem-Solving Mechanism (PSR-879) [September 22, 2014]

**12. Res. No. 56**

Resolution Honoring and Commending the Contributions of Veteran Filipino Broadcast Journalists Angelo Castro, Jr. and Harry Gasser in Elevating the Standards of Philippine Broadcast Media (PSR-644) [September 22, 2014]

**13. Res. No. 57**

Resolution Commending the Collaborative Efforts of the Provincial Government of Davao Oriental Together with the Protected Area Management Board and the Local Community for the Conservation of the Mount Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary in Light of its Successful Inscription in the List of World Heritage Sites Maintained by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization World Heritage Committee (PSR-735) [September 22, 2014]

**14. Res. No. 58**

Resolution Congratulating and Commending the Important Contribution of the Graduates of Escuela Taller De Intramuros in the Conservation and Restoration of the Country’s Rich Cultural Heritage (PSR-825) [September 22, 2014]

**15. Res. No. 59**

Resolution Commending The Local Government And Community Of The Municipality Of Pandan In Antique For Their Active Role In The Conservation And Preservation Of The Bugang River As The Cleanest Inland Body Of Water In The Philippines, Thus Serving As A Model In The Successful Adoption Of A Community-Based Eco-Tourism Approach In Safeguarding The Country’s Water Resources (PSR-766) [September 22, 2014]

**16. Res. No. 60**

Resolution Commending The *Gawad Sa Manlilikha Ng Bayan Awardees* For Their Immense Contribution And Tireless Dedication In The Promotion Of The Country’s Rich Cultural Heritage For The Current And Future Generation Of Filipinos (PSR-765) [September 24, 2014]



- 17. Res. No. 61** Resolution Congratulating and Commending Dumingag, Zamboanga Del Sur Mayor Nacienceno “Jun” Mejos Pacalioga Jr. For Winning The One World Award 2012 On 14 September 2012 In Lagau, Germany (PSR-807) [October 21, 2014]
- 18. Res. No. 62** Resolution Commemorating the Life and Legacy of Former Health Secretary Alberto ‘Quasi’ G. Romualdez in Health Reform and His Invaluable Contributions to the Health Sector (PSR-927) [October 27, 2014]
- 19. Res. No. 63** Resolution Expressing the Profound Sympathy and Sincere Condolence of the Senate on the Death of the Honorable Juan M. Flavier, Former Senator of the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Congress (1985-2007) (PSR-1014) [November 17, 2014]
- 20. Res. No. 64** Resolution Expressing The Deep Sympathy And Sincere Condolence Of The Senate Of The Philippines On The Death Of The Honorable Vicente T. Paterno, Senator Of The Eight Congress (1987-1992), Businessman And Economist (PSR-1027) [November 25, 2014]
- 21. Res. No. 65** Resolution Commending Francisco Sionil Jose for His Distinguished Contribution to Literature and Journalism (PSR-1045) [December 9, 2014]
- 22. Res. No. 66** Resolution Congratulating and Commending Jamie Herrell for Honoring the Philippines with the Prestigious Miss Earth 2014 Title on 29 November 2014 at the University of the Philippines Theater in Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines (PSR-1039) [December 9, 2014]

- 23. Res. No. 67** Resolution Recognizing The 66th Anniversary Of The Universal Declaration Of Human Rights And The Celebration Of The International Human Rights Day (PSR-1052) [December 10, 2014]
- 24. Res. No. 68** Resolution Congratulating and Commending University of the Philippines Professor and Scientist, Dr. Alonzo Gabriel, for Being Named Among the Top Ten Outstanding Young Persons of the World by the Junior Chamber International (PSR-875) [December 15, 2014]
- 25. Res. No. 69** Resolution Expressing the Full Support of the Senate to the Review of Peacekeeping Operations and Special Political Missions Conducted by the United Nations in Light of Changes in the Geopolitical Landscape and Risks Faced by United Nations International Missions (PSR-1044) [January 21, 2015]
- 26. Res. No. 70** Resolution Urging the Elected Leaders of the Country and Our People Themselves to Heed the Call of Pope Francis to Live Simply and In “*Outstanding Honesty, Integrity and Commitment to the Common Good*” so That Together, We Can Do Justice to Everyone and Serve the Least of Our Brethren in Commemoration of the “Year of the Poor” (PSR-1110) [January 21, 2015]
- 27. Res. No. 71** Resolution Expressing the Sense of the Senate in Recognizing the Enduring Friendship and Dynamic Bilateral Relations of the Republic of the Philippines With the Republic of Korea and Expressing Gratitude to the Korean People and Their Government for Their

Continuing Contribution to the National Development of the Philippines (PSR-1111) [January 26, 2015]

**28. Res. No. 72**

Resolution Congratulating the City of Vigan, Ilocos Sur for Being Named One of the New 7 Wonders Cities and Commending the City for Being a Model for Heritage Conservation and Utilization (PSR-1053, 1057, 1085 & 1130) [January 28, 2015]

**29. Res. No. 73**

Resolution Congratulating And Commending The Recipients Of “The Outstanding Young Men” (TOYM) Of The Philippines 2014 Award Honored By The Junior Chamber International - Philippines, Inc. TOYM Foundation, Inc., And Gerry Roxas Foundation, Inc. (PSR-1116 & 117) [February 10, 2015]

**30. Res. No. 74**

Resolution Expressing The Sense Of The Senate Of The Philippines To Declare 06 March 2015, As A “National Day Of Healing For Unity And Peace” (PSR-1204) [March 3, 2015]

**31. Res. No. 75**

Resolution Expressing the Full Support and Active Participation of the Senate of the Philippines in the Observance of the International Women’s Day (PSR-1205) [March 10, 2015]

**32. Res. No. 76**

Resolution Supporting the Goals of International Women’s Day on March 8, 2015 Especially in Light of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (PSR-1218) [March 10, 2015]

**33. Res. No. 77**

Resolution to Honor Empowered and Outstanding Women for Their Valuable Contributions in the Different Areas of

Society in Celebration of Women’s Month (PSR-1237) [March 16, 2015]

**34. Res. No. 78**

Resolution Expressing The Sense Of The Senate To Request The Government Peace Negotiating Panel To Secure From The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) And/Or International Monitoring Team (IMT) A Copy Of The MILF Investigation Report On The January 25 Mamasapano Incident And To Formally Request The MILF And/Or IMT The Copy of The Same Report (PSR-1240) [March 17, 2015]

**35. Res. No. 79**

Resolution Commending And Congratulating Grandmaster Wesley So For Placing Eight In The World Chess Ranking With 2700 ELO Rating In the World Chess Federation (FIDE) Making Him The Highest-Rated Filipino Grandmaster in History (PSR-1220) [March 17, 2015]

**36. Res. No. 80**

Resolution Expressing The Deepest Sympathy And Condolences Of The Senate Of The Philippines To The Republic Of Nepal For The Tragic Loss Of More Than Eight Thousand (8,000) Lives And Widespread Destruction Brought About By A 7.8 Magnitude Earthquake Off Kathmandu On 25 April 2015 (PSR-1301) [May 12, 2015]

**37. Res. No. 81**

Resolution Expressing The Deep Sympathy And Sincere Condolence Of The Senate Of The Philippines On The Untimely Demise Of The Philippine Envoy To Pakistan Honorable Domingo D. Lucenario Jr. (PSR-1328 & 1329) [May 12, 2015]

**38. Res. No. 84**

Resolution Congratulating And Commending Iconic Actress Nora

Cabaltera Villamayor Popularly Known As Nora Aunor For Being Honored The Lifetime Achievement Award By The Asean International Film Festival And Awards (Aiffa) At The Borneo Convention Centre In Kuching, Malaysia On 11 April 2015 (PSR-1270) [May 20, 2015]

**39. Res. No. 87** Resolution Honoring Former Senate President Pro- Tempore Leticia Ramos Shahani Who Continues To Serve the Nation and The Filipino People With Utmost Dedication and Excellence, Recognizing Her Remarkable Contribution as Legislator, Diplomat, Educator, Women's Rights Advocate and Civil Society Leader (PSR-1396) [June 10, 2015]

**41. Res. No. 88** Resolution Declaring As Read and Approved the Journal of the 85<sup>th</sup> Session of the Senate (PSR-1398) [June 10, 2015]

**42. Res. No. 89** Resolution Authorizing The Production And Distribution Of One Hundred Fifty (150) Printed And Digital Copies Each Of The Journal And The Record Of The Senate For The Second Regular Session Of The Sixteenth Congress Of The Philippines (PSR-1399) [June 10, 2015]

### ***C. Concurrent Resolutions (4)***

**1. Ct. Res. No. 5** Concurrent Resolution Providing for the Senate and the House of Representatives to Hold a Joint Session to Hear the Message of the President of the Republic of the Philippines (HCR-6) [July 28, 2014]

**2. Ct. Res. No. 6** Concurrent Resolution Creating a Joint Committee of the Senate and the House of Representatives to Notify the President of the Philippines that Congress, Now Convened For Its Second

Regular Session of the Sixteenth Congress of the Philippines, Is Ready to Hear His State of the Nation Address in a Joint Session of Both Houses (SCR-5) [July 28, 2014]

**3. Ct. Res. No. 7** Concurrent Resolution Providing for the Legislative Calendar for the Second Regular Session of the Sixteenth Congress of the Philippines (HCR-7/ SCR-6) [August 4, 2014]

**4. Ct Res. No. \_\_\_\_** Concurrent Resolution Providing for the Adjournment of the Second Regular Session of the Sixteenth Congress of the Philippines Not Later Than Twelve O'clock, Midnight, Today, June 10, 2015 (SCR-7) [June 10, 2015]

**CUMULATIVE STATISTICAL DATA**  
**SIXTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**Second Regular Session**  
**(July 28, 2014 to June 10, 2015)**

Signed into law	<b>20</b>
For Approval of the President	<b>19</b>
A. Senate Bills	9
B. House Bills	10
Pending Conference Committee	<b>5</b>
Approved on Third Reading by the Senate/ Pending in the House of Representatives	<b>22</b>
A. Senate Bills	17
B. House Bills	5
Approved on Second Reading (For Approval on Third Reading)	<b>19</b>
A. Senate Bills	1
B. House Bills	18
Committee Reports Submitted and are Pending Second Reading	<b>43</b>
A. Period of Amendments	3
B. Period of Interpellations	40
Adopted Resolutions	<b>50</b>
A. Concurrence to Treaty	4
B. Simple Resolutions	42
C. Concurrent Resolutions	4

# THE SENATE COMMITTEES: *RESPONSIVE TO THE PEOPLE'S NEED*

The Second Regular Session of the 16th Congress displayed the Philippine Senate's resolve to accomplish its tasks despite various challenges. Senate President Drilon in his opening address at the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Session of the present Congress stressed: *"we will prioritize legislation that would stimulate the economy and generate more jobs; promote fair competition in business; increase the take-home pay of our workers; strengthen our campaign against graft and corruption and criminality; expand access to health and education; and protect our country's territorial sovereignty."*

In keeping with this call, the Senate kept itself busy in trying to help improve the lot of the Filipino people. The various committees undertook several hearings, TWGs and consultations especially on pressing national concerns. All in all, the various committee hearings/TWGs/undertakings totalled 414 hours and 6 minutes.

## **COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND PUBLIC HEARINGS**

The different Senate Committees (including the oversight/joint committees and subcommittees) conducted a total of 373 (347 by the standing committees and 26 by the oversight committees) public hearings, technical working group meetings (TWGs) bicameral conferences and meetings for the second regular session of the 16<sup>th</sup> Congress covering the period July 28, 2014 to July 7, 2015 going into the merits of various bills and resolutions. The hearings and meetings threshed out and probed matters and issues of national importance as a result of various bills, privilege speeches and resolutions filed in aid of legislation.

## **THE PERMANENT COMMITTEES**

Thirty – four (34) of the 39 standing committees, conducted a total of three-hundred forty seven (347) public hearings/meetings/ consultations/ bicameral conferences/ TWGs.

Among the most active were the following:



The *Committee on Finance* including its subcommittees which had sixty (60) hearings/bicameral conferences/briefing;

The *Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations (Blue Ribbon)* which had thirty-six (36) public hearings (14 by the main and 22 by the Sub-Committee on P.S. Res. Nos. 826 and 1114)

The *Committee on Trade, Commerce and Entrepreneurship* which conducted twenty-eight (28) public hearings/TWGs/briefings/bicameral conferences;

The *Committee on Local Government* also conducted twenty-two (22) public hearings/TWGs/meeting/executive meeting;

The *Committee on Justice and Human Rights* which conducted twenty-one (21) public hearings/TWGs;

The *Committee on Education, Arts and Culture* conducted eighteen (18) public hearings/TWGs/bicameral conferences;

The *Committee on Agriculture and Food* which had sixteen (16) public hearings/TWGs/consultative meeting/bicameral conferences;

The five sub-committees of the *Committee on Public Services* conducted a total of fifteen (15) public hearings/TWGs/bicameral conference;

The *Committee on Public Order and Dangerous Drugs* conducted fourteen (14) public hearings/meetings;

The *Committee on Cooperatives* had twelve (12) public hearings/TWGs;

The *Committee on Civil Service and Government Reorganization* which conducted nine (9) public hearings/TWG;

The Committees on *Health and Demography; Labor and Employment; and Ways and Means* all conducted eight (8) public hearings/meetings/TWGs each;

The *Committee on Energy* had seven (7) public hearings/bicameral conferences; and

The *Committees on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies; Economic Affairs; and Environment and Natural Resources* each had six (6) public hearings/TWGs/meetings each.

The activities of the other committees are listed on the attached report furnished by the Legislative Committee Support Services B.

## THE SPECIAL/OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES

Nine Oversight Committees conducted a total of twenty six (26) public hearings and organizational meetings. The most active of which were the:

- *Jt. Congressional Oversight Committee on the Automated Election System* which had ten (10) public hearings/organizational meeting;
- *Jt. Congressional Oversight Committee Cooperatives* conducted seven (7) hearings/meetings;
- The *Select Oversight Committee on the Local Government Code of 1991*; and the *Jt. Oversight Committee on Public Expenditures* both conducted two (2) meetings/hearings each;
- The five other oversight committees had one meeting/hearing each.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS FILED

A total of one hundred twenty six (126) Committee Reports were filed for the period. Among the said reports are

- Committee Report No. 90 on HBN 4968 "AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY - ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND FIFTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES" which was signed into law as RA 10651 on December 23, 2014;
- Committee Report 84 on SB 2437 AN ACT ADJUSTING THE 13TH MONTH PAY AND OTHER BENEFITS CEILING EXCLUDED FROM THE COMPUTATION OF GROSS INCOME FOR PUR-

POSES OF INCOME TAXATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 32 (B), CHAPTER VI OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED 2630 AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND FOURTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES which was signed into law as RA 10653 on February 18, 2015;

- Committee Report No. 128 on SBN 2751 THE BUDGET IMPOUNDMENT CONTROL ACT which is pending second reading;

- Committee Report No. 171 on HB 4889/ SBnos. 39 and 174 “AN ACT DEFINING THE MARITIME ZONES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES” which was sponsored by Senator Juan Edgardo Angara on March 3, 2015;

- Committee Report No. 74 on SBN 2400 AN ACT PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING THE COMPETITIVENESS OF THE SUGARCANE INDUSTRY, ESTABLISHING THE SUGARCANE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES which was signed into law as RA 10659 on March 27, 2015

- Committee Report No. 161 on SBN 2789 AN ACT INCLUDING RESPONSIVE, EMPOWERED AND SERVICE-CENTERED YOUTH IN THE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT COUNCIL IN ALL LEVELS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10121, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2010 which is pending the concurrence of the House of Representatives;

- Committee Report No. 148 on SBN 2778 AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE REGULATION OF HEALTH FACILITIES AND SERVICES IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4226, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE HOSPITAL LICENSURE ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES which is pending second reading; and

- Committee Report No. 117 on *Expanded National Integrated Protected Areas System Act of 2015* (23 Senate NIPAS Bills and 10 House NIPAS Bills) approved on Second Reading with amendments.

In addition to these, the Senate adopted **four (4)** resolutions on various treaties, conventions and agreements. Two other treaties are already in the plenary. They are:

Resolution No. 82 (PSR No. 1333) on : *RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK (ADOPTED, May 18, 2015);*

RESOLUTION No. 83 (PSR 1335) *CONCURRING IN THE RATIFICATION OF THE AGREEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY BETWEEN THE PORTUGUESE REPUBLIC AND THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (ADOPTED, May 18, 2015);*

Resolution No. 85 (PSR No.1331) on: (NAGOYA PROTOCOL) *RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE ACCESSION TO THE NAGOYA PROTOCOL ON ACCESS TO GENETIC RESOURCES AND THE FAIR AND EQUITABLE SHARING OF BENEFITS ARISING FROM THEIR UTILIZATION TO THE CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY; ADOPTED, MAY 25, 2015; AND*

Resolution No 86 (PSR No. 1332) : *Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (Pemsea). ADOPTED May 25, 2015;*

Resolution No. -1334: *Convention on International Civil Aviation (Article 3 Bis); PENDING SECOND READING, SPECIAL ORDER; and*

Resolution No. 1336 on : *Montreal Convention for the Unification of Certain Rules for International Carriage by Air; PENDING SECOND READING, SPECIAL ORDER*

#### **BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

A total of **sixteen (16)** bicameral conference committee meetings were conducted, among them are the following:

- *Disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 4968 (FY 2015 General Appropriations Bill);*

- *Disagreeing Provisions of Senate Bill No. 2400 and HOUSE BILL NO. 4633 (SUGARCANE INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT ACT);*

- *Disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2414 AND HOUSE BILL NO. 4536 (AMENDMENTS TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550, "THE FISHERIES CODE OF 1998");*

- *Disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2679 and House Bill No. 4591 (UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION ACT [UniFAST ACT]);*

- *Disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2272 and House Bill No. 3575 (LADDERIZED EDUCATION ACT); Senate Bill No. 2274 and House Bill No. 4553 (OPEN LEARNING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION ACT) and Senate Bill No. 2275 and House Bill No. 4860 (ISKOLAR NG BAYAN ACT);*

- *Disagreeing provisions of Senate Joint Resolution No.12 and House Joint Resolution No. 21 Re: AUTHORITY GRANTED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO ADDRESS THE PROJECTED ELECTRICITY IMBALANCE/SHORTAGE IN THE LUZON GRID; and*

- *Disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2282 and House Bill No. 5286 (FAIR COMPETITION ACT OF 2015);*

## MEMBERS OF THE SENATE

SONNY M. ANGARA	2013–2019
PAOLO BENIGNO “BAM” AQUINO IV	2013–2019
MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY	2013–2019
ALAN PETER COMPAÑERO S. CAYETANO	2013–2019
PIA S. CAYETANO	2010–2016
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO	2010–2016
FRANKLIN M. DRILON	2010–2016
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA	2010–2016
JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO	2013–2019
JUAN PONCE ENRILE	2010–2016
FRANCIS “CHIZ” G. ESCUDERO	2013–2019
TEOFISTO “TG” GUINGONA III	2010–2016
GREGORIO B. HONASAN II	2013–2019
MANUEL “LITO” M. LAPID	2010–2016
LOREN B. LEGARDA	2013–2019
FERDINAND “BONGBONG” R. MARCOS JR.	2010–2016
SERGIO R. OSMEÑA III	2010–2016
AQUILINO “KOKO” L. PIMENTEL III	2013–2019
GRACE L. POE	2013–2019
RALPH G. RECTO	2010–2016
RAMON “BONG” REVILLA JR.	2010–2016
VICENTE C SOTTO III	2010–2016
ANTONIO “SONNY” F. TRILLANES IV	2013–2019
CYNTHIA A. VILLAR	2013–2019