

*FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session*

10 JUL 28 P4:12

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

P.S. RESOLUTION NO. 53

Introduced by:

Senator Francis N. Pangilinan

***A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE LIVE STREAMING
OF SENATE PROCEEDINGS IN THE PLENARY
AS WELL AS HEARINGS AND MEETINGS OF THE
SENATE COMMITTEES TO PROVIDE ACCURATE INFORMATION
IN REAL TIME TO THE PUBLIC***

WHEREAS, Section 40 of Rule XIV on Senate Sessions of the 1987 Rules of the Senate of the Philippines provides that the Senate shall meet in session at three o'clock in the afternoon on week days, except when the Senate decides otherwise. When the session is on going, no committee meeting or hearing shall be held;

WHEREAS, under the 1987 Rules of the Senate, every committee shall determine the frequency of its regular meetings. Special meetings may be called by the Chairman of the committee or by one third of its members, but notice, including the agenda, place and time of the meeting, shall be given three (3) days in advance to every member of the committee;

WHEREAS, live streaming of the House and Senate proceedings is recognized in other states and/or countries such as Vermont in New England, Arizona, New York, Colorado, Oregon, Oklahoma, Montana and Arkansas in the United States and in Canada. The streaming and recording of the Senate proceedings will encourage greater participation from the public. It is a known fact that most of the times, issues and discussions raised during the plenary sessions and committee hearings/meetings are misinterpreted which cause the unnecessary confusion to the public. With the age of high technology devices, live streaming of the Senate proceedings would lead to a more informed participation among the members of the Senate and the general public;

WHEREAS, live feed from the legislature without editing or commentary will provide accurate information to the public. This will also promote transparency and accountability of legislators in the proceedings in the Senate. Advances in technology can expand the opportunities for the proper dissemination of what is happening in real time during plenary session and committee hearings at the Senate. Technological innovation such as live streaming will give the community the chance to have access to the public proceedings in the Senate, and even the Filipinos abroad can witness the actual proceedings and debates/discussion on issues affecting their conditions and state of affairs in their employment in other countries;

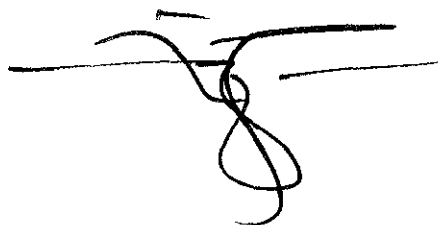
WHEREAS, the on-line live streaming process is first-hand information to the public. This will allow a more dynamic link to the public at all times. The live streaming and audio web cast provides equal opportunity to all since the gallery in the plenary hall cannot accommodate each and every person who wants to witness the Senate proceedings. It will also be educational and informative to the youth. Needless to state, most of the visitors in the gallery in plenary hall are students who are very interested on how the Senators work to pass bills into laws;

WHEREAS, no less than the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the right of the people to public information on matters of public concern. Access to official records, and to documents and papers pertaining to official acts, transactions, or decisions, as well as to government research data used as basis for policy development, shall be afforded the citizen, subject to such limitations as may be provided by law. By recording and live streaming the proceedings in the Senate, this may also be used to validate the transcripts of proceedings being provided to the public;

WHEREAS, the Constitution also vests the power to the House Representatives and the Senate to promulgate and determine its own rules of proceedings. In order to ensure the cost-effective and accurate recording and live streaming of the Senate sessions and committee hearings, a feasibility study can be conducted by the appropriate committee on the recording and live streaming of Senate proceedings and meetings and/or hearings of the Senate committees;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, as it is hereby resolved, that the Senate of the Philippines calls for the live streaming of Senate proceedings in the plenary as well as hearings and meetings of the Senate committees to provide accurate information in real time to the public.

ADOPTED,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned below the word 'ADOPTED'.