

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 612, jointly submitted by the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture and the Committee on Local Government, on House Bill No. 10116, introduced by Congressman Valdez, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SULTANKUDARAT POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval without amendment.

Sponsor: Senator Angara

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The Secretary. Committee Report No. 613, submitted by the Committee on Labor, Employment and Human Resources Development, on Senate Bill No. 1084, prepared by the Committee with Senators Herrera, Maceda, Mercado, Romulo, Tamano, Alvarez, Angara, Aquino, Estrada, Gonzales, Guingona, Jr., Lina, Jr., Osmeña, Paterno, Pimentel, Jr., Rasul, Saguisag, Shahani, Ziga and Laurel as authors, entitled

AN ACT TO RATIONALIZE WAGE POLICY DETERMINATION BY ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval in consolidation with Senate Bill Nos. 968, 993 and 1071.

Sponsors: Senators Herrera, Maceda, Mercado, Romulo, Tamano, Alvarez, Angara, Estrada, Gonzales, Guingona, Jr., Lina, Jr., Osmeña, Paterno, Pimentel, Jr., Rasul, Saguisag, Shahani, Ziga and Laurel

Dissenting: Senators Paterno and Enrile

The President Pro Tempore. Referred to the Calendar for Ordinary Business.

The President Pro Tempore. Senator Herrera is recognized.

Senator Herrera. Mr. President, I would like to manifest that the name of Senator Aquino should be included.

The President Pro Tempore. Senator Aquino's name should be included as Sponsor.

The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

Senator Mercado. Mr. President, on a matter of personal privilege, I ask that we recognize Senator Mamintal Tamano.

The President Pro Tempore. Senator Tamano is recognized.

At this juncture, the President Pro Tempore relinquished the Chair to the Senate President.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF SENATOR TAMANO
(On the Philippines and the State of Palestine)

Senator Tamano. Mr. President, distinguished Colleagues, I beg your indulgence in standing here and speaking on the need for us to recognize the State of Palestine formally. Although this is a matter which is really of great importance in the conduct of our foreign relations, particularly our relations with the Muslim World, it has become a matter of personal privilege to your humble servant because I am daily deluged by representations from all sectors of the Muslim community in the Philippines, asking me as their representative in the Senate to make strong representation with our national leaders; that we must act on this urgent matter. It is an urgent matter, Mr. President, because on Monday, the United Nations will decide on the admission of Palestine to the World Health Organization, and it will be embarrassing for our country if we are again out of step with the majority of the Members of the United Nations at a time when we need very much the goodwill of the Muslim community, particularly the Arab countries.

At this point, Mr. President, I rise to commend our distinguished Colleagues, Senator Leticia Ramos Shahani, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, and Senator Wigberto Tañada, for cosponsoring a Senate resolution calling for the *de jure* recognition by the Republic of the Philippines of the new State of Palestine as proclaimed in the Palestinian National Council in Algiers on 15 November 1988.

The action of Senators Shahani and Tañada is, indeed, in accordance with the ideals of justice, freedom and self-determinations, which are among the cherished traditions of our people.

While I wholeheartedly support this long-delayed initiative which indicates the awakening of our national leaders to the need for the Philippines to adopt an even-handed attitude towards the protagonists in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I must state here