

# RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2003

ROLL CALL

## OPENING OF THE SESSION

*At 3:56 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.*

**The President.** The 22nd session of the Senate in the Third Regular Session of the Twelfth Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Joker P. Arroyo.

After the prayer, the Senate Choir will lead us in the singing of the national anthem. The Choir will also render a song, entitled *Tagumpay Nating Lahat*.

*Everybody rose for the prayer.*

## PRAYER

**Senator Arroyo.**

The election season has prematurely started.

The Senate inevitably will be drawn into the political fever.

Despite internal conflicts so natural in a deliberative body, we need Your help and guidance, O Lord, that in the midst of all these, we can be united for the common good.

When things seem to pull us in a dozen different directions all at once, pushing us to the brink of despair and hopelessness, we believe in Your power, Lord, and Your desire to give us aid;

So come to us, Lord, and join Your helping hands with ours.

Amen.

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.

**The President.** The Chamber expresses its gratitude to the Senate Choir for that beautiful rendition of the Philippine National Anthem and the song, entitled *Tagumpay Nating Lahat*.

Thank you very much.

The Secretary will now please call the roll.

**The Secretary, reading:**

Senator Edgardo J. Angara .....	Present
Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta .....	Present
Senator Joker P. Arroyo .....	Present
Senator Robert Z. Barbers .....	Present
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon .....	Present
Senator Noli "Kabayan" de Castro .....	Present
Senator Luisa "Loi" P. Ejercito Estrada .....	Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier .....	Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan .....	Present
Senator Robert S. "JAWO" Jaworski .....	Present
Senator Panfilo M. Lacson .....	Absent
Senator Loren B. Legarda .....	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. ....	Present
Senator John Henry R. Osmeña .....	Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III .....	Absent
Senator Francis N. Pangilinan .....	Present
Senator Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr. ....	Present
Senator Ralph G. Recto .....	Present
Senator Ramon B. Revilla .....	Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III .....	Present
Senator Manuel B. Villar Jr. ....	Present*
The President .....	Present

**The President.** With 19 senators present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

## THE JOURNAL

**Senator Legarda.** Mr. President, I move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal* of the 21st session, September 10, 2003, and consider it approved.

**The President.** Is there any objection? [*Silence*] There being none, the motion is approved.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE OFFICIAL VISIT OF THREE JUDGES ASSOCIATIONS

**Senator Legarda.** We would like to acknowledge the presence of the Philippine Judges Association, the Philippine Trial Judges League, Incorporated, the Metropolitan and City Judges Association of the Philippines, present here in the gallery today.

\* Arrived after the roll call

*Hindi man lamang kinuwestiyon ng one or two senators, one or two days after and then on the third or fourth day, maybe they meet and say, "Let us admit this because other people might be suspected of being behind this." Kasama na sa script iyon. The following day, may umangkin na para huwag nating ma-trace kung sino ang pinanggalingan.*

In the end, we will be able to find out, Mr. President. I think so. I am sure because the businesses of these newspapers are clear. It is not a State secret. If a person pays for a certain advertisement, normally, a newspaper would tell or say who paid for a particular advertisement because it has records to this effect. *Kaya madaling ma-trace ito kung tutuusin.*

But again, to answer the question of the gentleman, at the risk of being charged again by other people that we are going into investigations, I will leave it to the discretion of the Senate President. I think he is capable of coming out with a solution in order to protect the integrity and the reputation of this institution.

**Senator Barbers.** I agree, Mr. President, with the distinguished gentleman.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.

**The President.** Thank you.

There being no other interpellations, we now proceed to the Reference of Business, if there is no objection. *[There was none.]*

The Secretary will read the Reference of Business.

#### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

#### MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

**The Secretary.**

September 11, 2003

HON. FRANKLIN M. DRILON  
Senate President  
Philippine Senate  
Pasay City

Dear Senate President Drilon:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 26(2) of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Senate Bill No. 2651, under Committee Report No. 293, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL MEASUREMENT SYSTEM INFRASTRUCTURE ESTABLISHING THEREFOR A PHILIPPINE METROLOGY BOARD AND OTHER PURPOSES,

to address the urgent need of fulfilling our international commitment to establish a national measurement system infrastructure consistent with the Meter Convention where the Philippines is an active participant.

Best wishes.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

cc: Hon. JOSE C. DE VENECIA JR.

Speaker  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City

**The President.** Referred to the Committee on Rules

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

**The Secretary.**

September 9, 2003

The Honorable  
FRANKLIN M. DRILON  
President of the Senate  
GSIS Bldg., Financial Center  
Pasay City 1308

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on September 8, 2003, agreed to a conference on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 4235, entitled

AN ACT PROHIBITING AND PENALIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN IN ANY PUBLIC OR PRIVATE UNDERTAKING OR OCCUPATION WHICH IS CONSIDERED HAZARDOUS TO THEIR LIFE, SAFETY, HEALTH AND MORALS, OR WHICH UNDULY INTERFERES WITH THEIR NORMAL DEVELOPMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

which was approved on April 23, 2002 and Senate Bill No. 2155, entitled

AN ACT ADOPTING A MAGNA CARTA FOR THE WORKING CHILD PROVIDING FOR STRONGER DETERRENCE AND PROTECTION AGAINST CHILD LABOR AND IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR ITS VIOLATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

which was passed by the Senate on September 3, 2003 and has accordingly designated Representatives Roseller L. Barinaga, Crispin B. Beltran, Ma. Blanca Kim Bernardo-Lokin, Cielo Krisel Lagman-Luistro, Gilbert C. Remulla and Bellaflor J. Angara-Castillo as its conferees.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO  
Secretary General

The Secretary.

September 10, 2003

The Honorable  
FRANKLIN M. DRILON  
President of the Senate  
GSIS Bldg., Financial Center  
Pasay City 1308

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on September 9, 2003, agreed to a conference on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 5351, entitled

AN ACT MODERNIZING THE PRACTICE OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN THE PHILIPPINES THEREBY REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6966, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF LIBRARIANSHIP AND PRESCRIBING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF LIBRARIANS," PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

which was approved on December 17, 2002 and Senate Bill No. 2579, entitled

AN ACT MODERNIZING THE PRACTICE OF LIBRARIANSHIP IN THE PHILIPPINES THEREBY REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO.

6966, ENTITLED "AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF LIBRARIANSHIP AND PRESCRIBING THE QUALIFICATIONS OF LIBRARIANS," AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

which was passed by the Senate on September 8, 2003 and has accordingly designated Representatives Eladio "Boy" Jala, Salacnib F. Bateria, Edgar M. Chatto and Carlos M. Padilla as its conferees.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO  
Secretary General

The Secretary.

September 10, 2003

The Honorable  
FRANKLIN M. DRILON  
President of the Senate  
GSIS Bldg., Financial Center  
Pasay City 1308

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on September 9, 2003, agreed to a conference on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 5977, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE USE OF PHILIPPINE TROPICAL FABRIC FOR OFFICIAL UNIFORMS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

which was approved on August 4, 2003 and Senate Bill No. 2637, entitled

AN ACT PRESCRIBING THE USE OF PHILIPPINE TROPICAL FABRIC FOR OFFICIAL UNIFORMS OF PUBLIC OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

which was passed by the Senate on September 8, 2003 and has accordingly designated Representatives Eladio "Boy" Jala, Cielo Krisel B. Lagman-Luistro, Edgar M. Chatto and Carlos M. Padilla as its conferees.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO  
Secretary General