



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
**Senate**  
Pasay City

# Journal

**SESSION NO. 45**  
Wednesday, December 7, 2016

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
**FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

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**CALL TO ORDER**

At 3:24 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III, called the session to order.

**PRAYER**

Sen. Cynthia A. Villar led the prayer lifted from the prayer of Pope Saint John XXIII, to wit:

O sweet Child of Bethlehem,  
Grant that we may share with all our hearts  
in this profound mystery of Christmas.

Put into the hearts of men  
and women the peace for which they  
sometimes seek so desperately  
and which You alone can give to them.

Help them to know one another better,  
and to live as brothers and sisters,  
children of the same Father.

Reveal to them also Your beauty,  
holiness and purity.

Awaken in their hearts  
love and gratitude for Your  
infinite goodness.

Join them all together in Your love.  
And give us Your heavenly peace.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Your Son who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God,  
forever and ever, Amen.

**ROLL CALL**

Upon direction of the Senate President, the Secretary of the Senate, Atty. Lutgardo B. Barbo, called the roll, to which the following senators responded:

Angara, S.	Lacson, P. M.
Aquino, P. B. IV B.	Legarda, L.
Binay, M. L. N. S.	Pangilinan, F. N.
De Lima, L. M.	Pimentel III, A. K.
Drilon, F. M.	Recto, R. G.
Escudero, F. J. G.	Sotto III, V. C.
Gatchalian, W.	Trillanes IV, A. F.
Gordon, R. J.	Villanueva, E. J.
Honasan, G. B.	Villar, C. A.
Hontiveros, R.	Zubiri, J. M. F.

With 20 senators present, the Chair declared the presence of a quorum.

Senator Poe was on official mission abroad, “attending the Open Government Partnership Global Summit in Paris, France in her capacity as the



Philippine Senate's Permanent Representative to the Philippine Open Government Partnership (PH-OGP)."

Senators Cayetano and Pacquiao arrived after the roll call.

Senator Ejercito was under preventive suspension.

#### **APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body dispensed with the reading of the Journal of Session No. 44 (December 6, 2016) and considered it approved.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

At this juncture, Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests:

- Barangay captains from Cagayan de Oro City headed by Kapitan Marlo Tabac and ABC President Alam S. Lim; and
- Students and the Supreme Student Government of Dalandanan National High School.

Senate President Pimentel welcomed the guests to the Senate.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GORDON**

Senator Gordon said that he was not able to respond to the roll call of the previous day because at 2:30 p.m., after the hearing of the Committee on Accountability of Public Officers and Investigations, he was called to his office for a meeting with some members of the House of Representatives to discuss the conflicting opinions on the matter of the proposed increase in SSS pensions.

He clarified that he knew that he should be in the session hall when the roll call was made but, at that time, he said, they were calling the Speaker of the House and the Executive Secretary and he thought it would be bad manners to leave.

He stressed that his absence was not deliberate as he was deep in work and did not anticipate that the session would be adjourned early.

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

Senator Pangilinan suggested that Senator Gordon's attendance be reflected in the Journal as "on official mission" instead of "absent."

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR SOTTO**

Senator Sotto informed the Body of Senator Legarda's desire to call for an all-senators' caucus to discuss the 2017 budget.

#### **MANIFESTATION OF SENATOR GORDON**

Senator Gordon expressed hope that his manifestation earlier be reflected in the Journal. He said that it does not augur well with him to be marked absent when he was actually working.

Senate President Pimentel said that Senator Gordon's manifestation would be reflected and recorded in the day's Journal.

Senator Gordon said that, in fact, everybody was inviting him to watch the championship game between Ateneo and La Salle but he did not go because his duties in the Senate were far more important than a basketball game.

#### **SUSPENSION OF SESSION**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, the session was suspended.

*It was 3:32 p.m.*

#### **RESUMPTION OF SESSION**

At 4:35 p.m., the session was resumed.

#### **ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE PRESENCE OF GUESTS**

Senator Sotto acknowledged the presence in the gallery of the following guests of Senator Trillanes:

- From the Philippine Association of Speech Pathologists — Dr. Rowena Ynion, Dr. Jocelyn Marzan, Mae Sadicon, Dane Raymundo, Gigi Mojica and Fernando Ligot; and



- From the Philippine Association of Food Technologists – Dr. Leonora Francisco and Prof. Blanca Villarino.

## REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary of the Senate read the following matters and the Chair made the corresponding referrals:

### MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

Letter of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, dated 1 December 2016, submitting for the Senate's consideration and concurrence the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines to Improve International Tax Compliance and to Implement the FATCA (Foreign Account Tax Compliance Act), which was signed on 13 July 2015 in Manila.

#### To the Committee on Foreign Relations

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

Senate Bill No. 1267, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL DATABASE SYSTEM AND THE NATIONAL DATABASE AUTHORITY, PROVIDING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian

**To the Committees on Science and Technology; Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance**

Senate Bill No. 1270, entitled

AN ACT DECLARING THE LAST MONDAY OF JANUARY AS "NATIONAL BIBLE DAY" AND PRONOUNCE THE SAME A REGULAR HOLIDAY AND EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel "Manny" D. Pacquiao

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

### RESOLUTIONS

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 247, entitled

RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN, CHILDREN, FAMILY RELATIONS AND GENDER EQUALITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO ASSESS THE STATUS, EFFECTIVENESS, AND LIMITATIONS OF LAWS PROVIDING FOR THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN AND THEIR IMPLEMENTATION, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 603, REPUBLIC ACTS 7610, 8353, 9208, 9231, 9262, 9344, AND 9775

Introduced by Senator Risa Hontiveros

**To the Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 248, entitled

A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE UP PEP SQUAD AND THE FILIPINIANA DANCE GROUP FOR BAGGING SIX MEDALS IN THE 2<sup>ND</sup> ASIAN CHEERLEADING AND DANCE-SPORT CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Introduced by Senator Emmanuel "Manny" D. Pacquiao

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 249, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MIXED MARTIAL ARTIST EDUARD FOLAYANG FOR WINNING THE ONE CHAMPIONSHIP LIGHTWEIGHT TITLE AT THE SINGAPORE INDOOR STADIUM IN KALLANG, SINGAPORE ON 11 NOVEMBER 2016

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Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committee on Rules**

Proposed Senate Resolution No. 250, entitled

RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MATH ATHLETES FROM XAVIER SCHOOL, PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, MAKATI HOPE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL, AND PAREF SOUTH-RIDGE SCHOOL FOR BRINGING HOME 3 GOLD, 7 SILVER, AND 17 BRONZE MEDALS IN THE WORLD MATH TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA ON NOVEMBER 23 TO 26, 2016

Introduced by Senator Zubiri

**To the Committee on Rules**

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Letters from the *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*, transmitting to the Senate copies of the following certified and authenticated BSP issuances in compliance with Section 15(a) of Republic Act No. 7653 (The New Central Bank Act):

Circular Letter Nos. CL-2016-092, 093 and 094 dated 14, 17 and 22 November 2016;

Memorandum No. M-2016-016, 017 and 018 dated 16, 18 and 25 November 2016; and

Circular No. 930 dated 18 November 2016.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Committee Report No. 14, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Health and Demography; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1268, with Senators Pangilinan, Trillanes IV, Risa Hontiveros and Legarda as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE SALARY OF, AND ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES FOR, GOVERNMENT PHYSICIANS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 57 and 526.

Sponsor: Senator Trillanes IV

**To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

Committee Report No. 15, prepared and submitted jointly by the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 1269, with Senators Trillanes IV and Legarda as authors thereof, entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE AND PRACTICE OF FOOD TECHNOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill No. 565.

Sponsor: Senator Trillanes IV

**To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

Committee Report No. 16, submitted jointly by the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; and Finance, on Senate Bill No. 462, introduced by Senators Trillanes IV and Risa Hontiveros, entitled

AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

recommending its approval with amendments.

Sponsor: Senator Trillanes IV

**To the Calendar for Ordinary Business**

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**SPECIAL ORDER**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 14 on Senate Bill No. 1268 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

**COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 14  
ON SENATE BILL NO. 1268**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 1268 (Committee Report No. 14), entitled

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE  
IN THE SALARY OF, AND ADDI-  
TIONAL INCENTIVES FOR, GOVERN-  
MENT PHYSICIANS AND APPRO-  
PRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Sotto, only the title of the bill was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

The Chair recognized Senator Trillanes for the sponsorship.

**SPONSORSHIP SPEECH  
OF SENATOR TRILLANES**

On behalf of the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation, Senator Trillanes submitted for the consideration of the Body Senate Bill No. 1268 under Committee Report No. 14, entitled "An Act Providing for an Increase in the Salary of, and Additional Incentives for, Government Physicians, and Appropriating Funds Therefor."

*Following is the full text of Senator Trillanes' sponsorship speech:*

Article II, Section 18 of the 1987 Constitution declares that, "The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare." Being one of the prime movers of the healthcare sector, our doctors have a vital role in ensuring that our country has a healthy citizenry. In return, our government must make sure that

they are given adequate care and protection so they can properly perform their functions.

However, based on current data and trends, there has been a continuous exodus of Filipino physicians going abroad to seek better paying jobs. Some gave up their license to become nurses abroad, while others opted to serve in areas and institutions where there are better opportunities that would support their economic needs.

Furthermore, according to the data of the Department of Health, doctors are unevenly distributed in the country, with their concentration in key cities and urban areas. Moreover, according to the Philippine Health System Review by the Asia Pacific Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, "attracting and retaining" health workers in underserved areas, such as those in rural and poor communities, remain to be a key challenge in the field, despite the country being a major exporter of healthcare workers.

According to the Department of Health, this outflow of doctors has resulted in an alarming ratio of one doctor to 33,000 Filipinos. This could get worse if we do not provide our doctors with better working conditions and more decent pay and benefits commensurate to their degree of training and qualifications. At present, the minimum base pay that our government doctors are currently receiving is P28,417 per month, under Salary Grade 16.

It is in this light that your Committee is pushing for the passage of Senate Bill No. 1268. Through this legislative measure, we are seeking to raise the starting salary grade level of our government doctors and give them additional incentives to further encourage them to continue delivering vital and essential healthcare services in our country and to continuously serve our countrymen instead of seeking employment abroad.

The following are the salient features of this proposed measure:

- The Act shall increase the minimum base pay to not lower than Salary Grade 24, equivalent to P56,510, pursuant to Department of Budget and Management (DBM) and Department of Health (DOH) Joint Circular No. 2013-1, entitled "Revised Standards on Organizational Structure and Staffing Pattern of Government Hospitals";
- The Act also provides for an annual Loyalty Service Pay, equivalent to 75% of the prevailing one month basic salary, to doctors

who have rendered at least three years of government service;

- The Act likewise provides for monthly allowances, including transportation, representation, food and medical needs allowances for all government doctors assigned to Geographically Isolated and Depressed Areas (GIDA) and conflict areas;
- Finally, the Act provides for an educational grant not exceeding P200,000 for all government doctors who have rendered at least five years of continuous government service. This grant could be used to cover the tuition fees and other expenses for any medical course or training availed of, whether here or abroad; Provided, that those who would avail of the grant shall participate in a Return of Service Program.

Our doctors spent long years in studying and have worked hard with duties that go beyond the normal eight-hour workload. Consistent with our aim of uplifting the welfare of our government workers, it is also our sworn duty to look after the welfare of those looking after and taking care of the health and well-being of our people through the enactment of the aforementioned salary increase and incentives.

Your Committee is earnestly pushing for the passage of this measure to help improve the living and working conditions of our government doctors. It is our fervent hope that this measure would also help entice our doctors to remain and practice in the country, especially in rural areas, and would eventually help improve and enhance the delivery of basic health services in the country.

In view of the foregoing, I urge our colleagues to support the immediate passage of this measure.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1268**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

#### **SPECIAL ORDER**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 15 on Senate Bill No. 1269 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 15 ON SENATE BILL NO. 1269**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 1269 (Committee Report No. 15), entitled

#### **AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE AND PRACTICE OF FOOD TECHNO- LOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Sotto, only the title of the bill was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

The Chair recognized Senator Trillanes for the sponsorship.

#### **SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR TRILLANES**

On behalf of the Committee on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation, Senator Trillanes submitted for the consideration of the Body Senate Bill No. 1269 under Committee Report No. 15, otherwise known as "Philippine Food Technology Act of 2016."

*Following is the full text of Senator Trillanes' sponsorship speech:*

The right to food is a basic human right, and it is the duty of the State to ensure that the people have access to safe and sufficient food supply. Having a supply of nutritious and quality food is essential in building a healthy citizenry, especially in view of the problems brought about by various challenges, including food-borne diseases, droughts, natural disasters, population growth and consumer trends.

Our food technologists have a critical role of fulfilling this duty of the State. They are key partners in attaining food security, particularly in implementing the Food Security Law which was passed in 2013. They have the distinct knowledge and the necessary skills and training for the integration of scientific disciplines, including engineering, and the biological, chemical,

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physical, sensory and social sciences in order to ensure good accessibility, availability, sustainability, quality and safety. It is the duty of our food technologists to implement food safety programs and activities from farm to fork, in the process assuring the public of high level of food safety, promoting of fair trade and facilitating global competitiveness of Philippine food products.

Despite the significant role of food technology in the country's food security, it has yet to be formally recognized by the government as a profession. A number of universities offer courses on food technology, but its practice is not yet properly regulated by the government. The graduates of such courses are not being issued licenses to practice; instead, they are only accredited by recognized food technology organizations. It is in this regard that we seek to address the problem by legislating this measure that would provide for the registration, licensure, and regulation of the practice of food technology as a profession in the country.

Specifically, this measure pushes for the following:

- First, to define the scope of practice of the food technology profession, which would include the specification of raw materials and supervision of their procurement; supervision of food processing operation; evaluation of the microbiological, physical, chemical, sensory and functional properties of food; certification of the analysis of microbiological, physical, chemical, sensory and functional properties of food; technical transactions in sale, trading of food, food ingredients and additives, and machineries, equipment and implements used in safe and quality food production and distribution; conduct of basic and applied research towards development and/or improvement of the safety and quality of food products, among others;
- Second, to create a Board of Food Technology under the administrative supervision of the Professional Regulation Commission;
- Third, to mandate the institution of a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for food technologies;
- Fourth, to provide for a policy of reciprocity that would pave the way for Filipino food technologists to practice abroad, provided that we also afford the same privilege to the citizens of the receiving country; and
- Fifth, to integrate the food technology profession into one national professional organization through the Accredited Integrated Professional Organization (AIPO) to be

recognized by the PRC through the Board of Food Technology.

With the fast pace of technological developments and growing global competitiveness in the food technology sector, this measure is relevant in honing and producing highly capable and globally competitive Filipino food technologists.

In view of the foregoing, I urge our colleagues to support the immediate passage of this measure.

#### **SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 1269**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

#### **SPECIAL ORDER**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body approved the transfer of Committee Report No. 16 on Senate Bill No. 462 from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 16 ON SENATE BILL NO. 462**

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body considered, on Second Reading, Senate Bill No. 462 (Committee Report No. 16), entitled

#### **AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**

Pursuant to Section 67, Rule XXIII of the Rules of the Senate, with the permission of the Body, upon motion of Senator Sotto, only the title of the bill was read without prejudice to the insertion of its full text into the Record of the Senate.

The Chair recognized Senator Trillanes for the sponsorship.

#### **SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF SENATOR TRILLANES**

On behalf of the Committee on Civil Service,

*Trillanes*

Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation, Senator Trillanes submitted for the consideration of the Body Senate Bill No. 462, otherwise known as "Speech Language Pathology Act of 2016."

The full text of Senator Trillanes' sponsorship speech follows:

The State recognizes the vital role of speech language pathologists in nation building. They are highly educated professionals who are devoted to serving those who may have difficulty with communication, speech, and language, or swallowing disorders or diseases. Speech language pathologists work with people to enhance their well-being and to better engage in their day-to-day activities. It is but proper for the government to uplift the standards and push for the development of this profession through a regulatory framework that fosters continuing professional growth.

In 1978, the Speech Language Pathology course was first offered in the country. Since then, the number of graduates of this course has significantly grown and the number of graduates and/or practitioners are expected to grow further in the next five years, particularly because of the impact of our commitment to the ASEAN integration.

However, at present, 38 years after it was officially introduced to the country as a course, the practice of Speech Language Pathology has not yet been officially recognized by the country as a profession and is not yet properly regulated by the government. There is lack of legal framework for the licensure, government accreditation and registration of speech language pathologists in the country. It is in this light that this committee seeks for the early passage of this measure.

This measure seeks to align the regulatory framework for speech language pathology with the current international standards of practice. The provisions in this measure are consistent with other professional regulatory laws that we have passed in the previous congresses.

Once passed into law, this measure will create a mechanism for licensure and registration of speech language pathologists; it will also establish a Professional Regulatory Board of Speech Language Pathology which shall supervise and regulate the registration, licensure and practice of speech language pathology in the Philippines.

This measure also seeks to mandate the institution of a Continuing Professional Development Program for speech language pathologists; allow the practice of foreign speech language pathologists provided that the country of which one is a subject, national or citizen also grants the same privileges to Filipino speech language pathologists; and, integrate the professionals in the field into one accredited and integrated professional organization of speech language pathologists.

This Representation believes in the importance of promoting the profession of speech language pathology because of its potential contribution to a healthier and stronger citizenry. This measure would undoubtedly complement the talent and skills of Filipino speech language pathologists not only to make them more globally competitive, but also to enable them to render greater service to our country and people.

May I also manifest that Senate Bill No. 1238 authored by Senator Angara on a similar subject be incorporated under Committee Report No. 16.

In view of the foregoing, I urge our colleagues to support the immediate passage of this measure.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF SENATE BILL NO. 462

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Body suspended consideration of the bill.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

Upon motion of Senator Sotto, there being no objection, the Chair declared the session adjourned until three o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, December 12, 2016.

*It was 5:02 p.m.*

I hereby certify to the correctness of the foregoing.

  
**ATTY. LUTGARDO B. BARBO**  
*Secretary of the Senate*  
 12/12

Approved on December 12, 2016