

RECORD OF THE SENATE

MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2001

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:33 p.m. the Senate President, Hon. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., called the session to order.

The President. The 54th session of the Third Regular Session of the Eleventh Congress is hereby called to order.

Let us all stand for the opening prayer to be led by Sen. Rodolfo G. Biazon. The prayer will be read in his behalf by Sen. Vicente C. Sotto III.

After the reading of the prayer, the Musikapelle will lead us in the singing of the national anthem. The Choir will also render another song, entitled *May Ibong Kakanta-kanta*.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Sotto. Let us all put ourselves in the presence of the Almighty.

Lord, as we continue our work today as a lawmaking body, we implore You, the Supreme Lawmaker, to guide and teach us the path to more meaningful efforts towards nation-building and development.

We ask You to help us in finding ways in healing the wounds of a deeply divided society with justice as the true meaning of reconciliation.

We thank You for the recent national and local elections so that the seeds of democracy that we have planted may grow and the voice of the people be truly heard and heeded.

We beseech You to help us make this week a productive one for us and the whole country, bearing in mind the need to find ways to alleviate and eventually eradicate poverty that afflicts the majority of our people.

And lastly, Lord, we pray for Your mercy; that we, as a country and as a people, could finally realize and appreciate the gift of life and freedom that every human being deserves.

Amen.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Everybody remained standing for the singing of the national anthem.

The President. We would like to thank Musikapelle for that beautiful song.

ROLL CALL

We will now ask the Secretary to please call the roll.

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta	Present
Senator Robert Z. Barbers	Present*
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon	**
Senator Renato L. Compañero Cayetano	Present
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng ...	Present*
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago	Absent
Senator Franklin M. Drilon	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Present
Senator Juan M. Flavier	Present
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan	Absent
Senator Robert S. Jaworski	Absent
Senator Loren Legarda-Leviste	Absent
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Present
Senator Blas F. Ople	Present
Senator John Henry R. Osmeña	Present
Senator Sergio R. Osmeña III	Present*
Senator Ramon B. Revilla	Present
Senator Vicente C. Sotto III	Present
Senator Francisco S. Tatad	Present
The President	Present

The President. With 12 senators present, there is a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary will read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Secretary.

May 31, 2001

* Arrived after the roll call
** On official mission

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE ISLANDS OF SIARGAO AND BUCAS GRANDE AS PROTECTED LANDSCAPES AND SEASCAPES, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,

due to the critical importance of protecting and maintaining outstanding remarkable areas and biologically important public lands for posterity.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

cc: Hon. Feliciano R. Belmonte Jr.
Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

The President. Referred to the Committee on Rules

The Secretary.

May 28, 2001

HON. AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.
Senate President
Philippine Senate
Pasay City

Dear Senate President Pimentel:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 26 (2) of the Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of the following bills, to wit:

1. HB No. 12722 - known as the "San Isidro Protected Seascape Act of 2000;
2. HB No. 12882 - known as the "Mt. Guiting-Guiting Natural Park Act of 2000; and
3. HB 12669 - known as the "Hinulugan Taktak National Park and Convention Center,

due to the critical importance of protecting and maintaining outstanding remarkable areas and biologically important public lands for posterity.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

cc: Hon. Feliciano R. Belmonte Jr.
Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

The President. Referred to the Committee on Rules

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The Secretary.

May 31, 2001

The Honorable
AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.
President of the Senate
Financial Center
Pasay City 1308

Mr. President:

I have been directed to inform the Senate that the House of Representatives on May 30, 2001 passed House Bill No. 12887, entitled

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MEASUREMENT INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM FOR STANDARDS AND MEASUREMENTS,

to which it requests the concurrence of the Senate.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General

The President. Referred to the Committees on Science and Technology; Trade and Commerce; and Finance

BILL ON FIRST READING

The Secretary. Senate Bill No. 2282, entitled

AN ACT FIXING THE DATE OF THE PLEBISCITE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE AMENDMENTS TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6734 AND SETTING THE DATE OF THE REGULAR ELECTIONS FOR ELECTIVE OFFICIALS OF THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO ON THE LAST MONDAY OF NOVEMBER 2001, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9054, ENTITLED "AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN AND EXPAND THE ORGANIC ACT FOR THE AUTONOMOUS

REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6734, ENTITLED 'AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO,' AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Introduced by Senator Pimentel Jr.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Rules, with the request that this be acted upon soonest because the last possible date for the plebiscite is June 30, 2001 when this Chamber will be on recess.

COMMUNICATIONS

The Secretary. Letters from Pacifico A. Guillen, OIC, PENR Officer of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources dated April 6 and 24, 2001, submitting to the Senate the reports for the quarter ending March 2001 under Fund 102 NRMP, ADB/OECF Loan 1 and 2; and the reports for the quarter ending March 31, 2001 under General Fund 101, Fund 101-EMB and Fund 158-CARP.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Finance

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON S. NO. 2191/
H. NO. 10732
(Governance of Basic Education Act of 2001)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move to constitute the Senate panel to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 2191 and its House counterpart.

For that purpose, I hereby nominate Sen. Teresa Aquino-Oreta as chairperson, and as members, Sen. John H. Osmeña and Sen. Juan M. Flavier.

The President. Senators Aquino-Oreta, John H. Osmeña and Juan M. Flavier are designated as Bicameral Conference Committee panel for the Senate in those bills.

Senator Tatad. Thank you, Mr. President.

BILL ON SECOND READING
H. No. 12901 — Zamboanga City State
Polytechnic College

Mr. President, I move that we consider House Bill No. 12901 as reported out under Committee Report No. 655.

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

Consideration of House Bill No. 12901 is now in order. With the permission of the Body, the Secretary will read only the title of the bill, without prejudice to inserting in the *Record* the whole text thereof.

The Secretary. House Bill No. 12901, entitled

AN ACT CONVERTING THE ZAMBOANGA CITY POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE ZAMBOANGA CITY STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

The following is the whole text of the bill:

House Bill No. 12901

AN ACT CONVERTING THE ZAMBOANGA CITY POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE INTO A STATE COLLEGE TO BE KNOWN AS THE ZAMBOANGA CITY STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. The Zamboanga City Polytechnic College in the City of Zamboanga is hereby converted into a State College to be known as the Zamboanga City State Polytechnic College, hereinafter referred to as the College.

SEC. 2. The College shall primarily provide advance instruction and professional training in science and technology, and other related fields, undertake research and extension services, and provide progressive leadership in these areas.

SEC. 3. The College shall offer undergraduate, graduate and short-term technical courses within its areas of specialization and according to its capabilities, as the Board of Trustees may deem necessary to carry out its objectives, particularly in order to meet the needs of the province and the region.

SEC. 4. College shall have the general powers of a corporation set forth in the Corporation Law. The administration of the College and the exercise of its