

RECORD OF THE SENATE

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2000

OPENING OF THE SESSION

At 3:32 p.m., the Senate President, Hon. Franklin M. Drilon, called the session to order.

The President. The 28th 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. Anna Dominique Coseteng.

Everybody rose for the prayer.

PRAYER

Senator Coseteng.

Mahal naming Ama, Panginoon ng sanlibutan, Aming Diyos at Diyos na lumikha ng lahat ng nakikita at hindi nakikita, kami ay nagtitipon ngayon upang magbigay papuri at pasasalamat sa Inyong walang hanggang kadakilaan.

Kami ay dumudulog din sa Inyong harapan upang kami ay maging matibay sa lahat ng pagsubok at kapahamakan. Hinihiling namin na sana ay patnubayan Ninyo ang bansang Pilipinas at ang mga namumuno nito, ngayong aming hinaharap ang matinding pagsubok at krisis pang-ekonomiya at pampulitika. Pagliwanagin po Ninyo ang pag-iisip ng bawat isa sa amin upang magampanan namin nang wasto ang aming mga tungkulin.

Gayundin po, ang aming hiling para sa bawat mamamayan, ay magkaroon ng pagkakaisa at pagtutulungan na sana po ay isantabi ang pansariling kapakanan para sa kapakanan ng higit na nakararami. Basbasan po Ninyo ang bawat isa sa amin. Marapatin po ninyong malunasan ang pag-aalitang nananaig ngayon. Sa kalagitnaan ng mga isyung pampulitikang kinakaharap ng Pangulong Joseph Estrada at ng kanyang administrasyon, nawa ay katotohanan lamang ang mangibabaw dito at maisiwalat sa aming mga mamamayan ang lahat ng mga panig at kasama na rin ang iba't ibang karumaldumal na mga katiwalian noong panahon ng dating administrasyon nang may matitibay na ebidensiya sa ngalan ng katarungan.

Tulungan po Ninyo kami na makahanap ng lunas para sa suliraning pang-ekonomiya ng bansa. Nawa'y

ang tamang pag-iisip at kahinahunan at hindi karahasan ang maghari sa puso ng bawat Pilipino ngayon at sa oras ng kagipitan.

Magkaroon po sana ng katahimikan at kapayapaan dito sa aming bansa. Huwag sana kami magpadala sa mga mapanirang elemento na sakim sa kapangyarihan at nag-aabang lamang ng pagkaka-taong maibagsak ang pambansang ekonomiya at pamahalaan nang sila ay makabalik muli sa kapangyarihan.

Hanguin po Ninyo kami sa pagkalugmok at alisin po Ninyo ang kasakiman, inggitan, paninira, pagsasawalang-bahala at lahat ng hindi magandang pag-uugali sa aming mga isipan. Bagkus ito ay mapalitan ng pagtutulungan para sa isang maganda at matiwasay na kinabukasan.

Salamat po, Ama, sa lahat ng biyayang ipinagkaloob Ninyo. Mabuhay nawa kami nang naaayon sa Inyong kagustuhan.

Lahat ng ito ay aming hinihiling sa ngalan ni Jesus na aming Manunubos at ng Iyong Banal na Espiritu.

Amen.

The President. The Secretary will please call the roll.

ROLL CALL

The Secretary, reading:

Senator Teresa Aquino-Oreta	Present
Senator Robert Z. Barbers	Present
Senator Rodolfo G. Biazon	Present
Senator Renato L. Compañero Cayetano	Present
Senator Anna Dominique M.L. Coseteng	Present
Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago	Present
Senator Juan Ponce Enrile	Present
Senator Juan M. Flavie	Present
Senator Teofisto T. Guingona Jr.	Absent
Senator Gregorio B. Honasan	Present
Senator Robert S. Jaworski	Present
Senator Loren B. Legarda-Leviste	Present
Senator Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr.	Absent
Senator Blas F. Ople	*

* On official mission but arrived after the roll call

The President. Referred to the Committees on Foreign Relations; and National Defense and Security

The Secretary. Letter from General Counsel Juan De Zuñiga Jr. of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the Senate a copy of Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Circular No. 259, s. 2000, dated September 29, 2000, in compliance with Section 15(a) of Republic Act No. 7653.

The President. Referred to the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies

The Majority Leader is recognized.

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 1595—Integrated Solid Waste Management Act of 2000 (Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 1595 as reported out under Committee Report No. 52.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 1595 is now in order.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, this is the Solid Waste Management bill. Yesterday, we closed the period of amendments.

APPROVAL OF S. NO. 1595 ON SECOND READING

Mr. President, I move that we vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1595, as amended.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, we shall now vote on Second Reading on Senate Bill No. 1595, as amended.

As many as are in favor of the bill, say *aye*.

Several Members. *Aye*.

The President. As many as are against the bill, say *nay*. [Silence]

Senate Bill No. 1595, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF S. NO. 1595

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we suspend consideration of Senate Bill No. 1595.

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

SPECIAL ORDERS

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we transfer from the Calendar for Ordinary Business to the Calendar for Special Orders, Senate Bill No. 2113, entitled

AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE AND DEFINING THE SCOPE OF THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL (PSHS) SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8496.

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

BILL ON SECOND READING

S. No. 2129—Strengthening the ARMM Organic Act (Continuation)

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, I move that we resume consideration of Senate Bill No. 2129 as reported out under Committee Report No. 393.

The President. Is there any objection? [Silence] There being none, resumption of consideration of Senate Bill No. 2129 is now in order.

Senator Tatad. Mr. President, we are still in the period of interpellations. I ask that the distinguished sponsor, Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., be recognized. And for the interpellation, I ask that Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago be likewise recognized.

The President. Sen. Aquilino Q. Pimentel Jr., the principal sponsor of Senate Bill No. 2129, is recognized. Sen. Miriam Defensor Santiago is recognized for the period of interpellations.

Senator Defensor Santiago. Mr. President, will the honorable sponsor yield the floor to me, please?

Senator Pimentel. With great pleasure, Mr. President.

Senator Defensor Santiago. Thank you. I am a former member of the faculty of UP College of Law and I went out of my way to seek the opinions and the comments of the professors in the UP College of Law who teach the subject of Local Government.

I am happy and proud to inform our colleagues that there is an undisputed consensus among these professors that, in