

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 1999

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 10:38 a.m., the session was resumed with Senate President Blas F. Ople, presiding.

The President. The session is resumed.

Senator Drilon. Mr. President.

The President. The Majority Leader is recognized.

THE JOURNAL

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, the *Journal* for Session No. 4 on Wednesday, August 4, 1999 is now available and distributed to our colleagues. But before I move for the approval of the *Journal*, may I make a correction on the first page of the *Journal* on the portion referring to the calling of the session to order.

I move that the sentence should read: AT 10:46 A.M., THE SENATE PRESIDENT, HON. BLAS F. OPLE, THERE BEING NO OBJECTION, CALLED THE SESSION TO ORDER.

That is the proposed amendment, Mr. President.

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

Senator Drilon. Mr. President, I now move that we dispense with the reading of the *Journal*, as amended, of Session No. 4 and consider it approved.

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

Senator Drilon. I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary will read the Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

MESSAGES OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

The Secretary.

July 5, 1999

HON. MARCELO B. FERNAN
Senate President
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Dear Senate President Fernan:

I hereby endorse Senate Bill No. 1271, entitled

AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED TWO HUNDRED AND TWENTY THREE, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED CREATING THE PROFESSIONAL REGULATION COMMISSION AND PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND OTHER PURPOSES,

as a priority Administration measure.

Best regards.

(Sgd.) JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA

cc: HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR
Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

The President. Referred to the Committee on Rules

The Secretary.

July 5, 1999

The Honorable Senate President
and Members of the Senate
Senate of the Philippines
Pasay City

Gentlemen and Ladies of the Senate:

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 21, Article VII of the 1987 Constitution, I have the honor to submit, for the Senate's consideration and concurrence, a certified true copy of "Resolution No. 997 (LXXVI) of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) Council," containing therein the approved amendments to the IOM Constitution.

The amendments essentially aim at strengthening the structure of the IOM, as well as streamlining the decision-making process of the organization.

First, the Executive Committee which used to be a second organizational layer between the Council and the Administration (or Secretariat) has been abolished. The said abolition avoids duplication of work amongst the IOM's primary bodies, and encourages the Council to just establish subsidiary bodies, when the need arises, to discuss specific issues like programmes and the budget.

Second, the Director General and the Deputy Director General have been given the opportunity of being re-elected for one additional term. This is