

## **The Common Legislative Agenda**

*Presented by the Hon. Ronaldo B. Zamora,  
Executive Secretary and Chairman  
LEDAC Task Force to Prioritize the Common Legislative Agenda*

**Legislative Executive Development Advisory Council  
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1. In response to the President's directive contained in a Memorandum from the President, dated 15 October 1998, the "LEDAC Task Force to Prioritize the Common Legislative Agenda" convened on 21 January at the Viewing Room (Ante Room) of Malacanang Palace.
2. The Task Force was composed of the following:

On the part of the Executive Branch

Executive Secretary  
NEDA Director General  
Presidential Legislative Adviser

On the part of the Senate (As designated by the Senate President)

Majority Leader Franklin Drilon  
Minority Leader Teofisto Guingona

On the part of the House (As designated by the Speaker)

Majority Leader Manuel Roxas II  
Minority Leader Feliciano Belmonte  
Asst. Majority Leader Bellaflor Angara-Castillo  
Asst. Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II

3. After articulating their respective legislative concerns, the Task Force members agreed to recommend to the LEDAC proper a common legislative agenda. The said agenda consists of ten (10) "absolute" top priority measures targeted for enactment by the end of the First Regular Session. Additionally, six (6) other proposed measures have been identified to complement the Common Legislative Agenda, also projected for priority consideration by Congress during its remaining session days prior to June 3 adjournment *sine die*.
4. Needless to say, the Common Legislative Agenda was culled from the individual legislative programs of the two Chambers of Congress and of the Executive Branch. It includes

measures consistent with the Administration's legislative agenda enunciated by the President in the 1998 SONA and Philippine policy commitments under international agreements (e.g., Miyazawa Fund, ASEAN and WTO), as well as multi-sectoral consultations (e.g., Economic Monitoring Group).

5. Now, the bills in focus:

### **TOP PRIORITY MEASURES**

A. Out of the 10 top Priority measures, 4 have been approved on Third Reading in the Senate, namely:

#### **5.1. Amendments to the Special Economic Zone Act of 1996:**

- Authored and sponsored by Sen. Sergio Osmena III, Chair of Senate Committee on Economic Affairs.
- Its counterpart bill is now on Second Reading. Principally authored by Majority Leader Manuel Roxas III; sponsored by Rep. Ralph Recto, Chairman of the House Committee on Economic Affairs.

#### **5.2. Anti-dumping**

- Principally authored by Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile; and the

#### **5.3. Countervailing Duties**

- Principally authored by Sen. Juan Flavier; Both bills have been ably sponsored on the floor by the Senate Ways and Means Committee Chairman, Sen. Enrile.
- In the House, the counterpart bills are awaiting the final consideration by the Committees on Ways and Means and on Trade and Industry chaired by Rep. Danilo Suarez and Rep. Marcial Punzalan respectively.

#### **5.4. Securities Regulations and Enforcement Act (a Philippine commitment to donor countries under the Miyazawa Fund)**

- Principally authored and sponsored by the triumvirate of Senators Magsaysay, Roco and Serge Osmena.
- Its counterpart bill is presently under deliberation by the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries chaired by Rep. Macario Laurel; it is principally authored by Rep. Jaime Jacob.

B. Three (3) other bills are presently pending in plenary level in either or both Chambers:

#### **5.5. Clean Air Act**

- In the Senate, the bill is now in the Period of Individual Amendments under the sponsorship of Sen. Gregorio Honasan. Related bills are individually authored by Senators Flavier, Robert Jaworski and Loren Legarda.
- In the House, the bill is now going through the final rounds of interpellation. It is principally authored and sponsored by Rep. Nereus Acosta.

**5.6. Empowerment of the Local Government Units in the Maintenance of Peace and Order**

- In the Senate, the bill awaits approval on Third Reading. It is authored and sponsored by the Senate President Pro Tempore Bias Ople, Senate Majority Leader Franklin Drilon, and Senators Barbers, Sotto, Pimentel and Biazon.
- Its counterpart measure is about ready to be reported out for Second Reading. Congressmen Gener Tulagan and Plaridel Abaya are principal authors while Rep. Roilo Golez, Chairman of the Committee on Public Order and Security is floor sponsor.

**5.7. Anti-Racketeering Act** (nicknamed "ERAPS" or Eradication of Racketeers and Powerful Syndicates)

- The bill has just completed floor sponsorship at the Lower Chamber. It is principally authored and sponsored by Rep. Roilo Golez.
- In the Senate, related bills authored by Sen. Barbers along with Sens. Flavier, Coseteng and Guingona are still pending in the Committee on Constitutional Amendments.

*C. However, three (3) other top priority concerns under the Common Legislative Agenda have yet to gain headway in either Chamber. It should be noted that these same bills form part of our commitment under the Miyazawa Fund. These are:*

**5.8. Amendments to the New Central Bank Act**

- In the House, principally authored by Rep. Julio Ledesma IV and pending in the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries chaired by Rep. Laurel.
- In the Senate, principally authored by Sen. Drilon, pending in the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies.

**5.9. Amendments to the General Banking Act**

- In the House, principally authored by Rep. Narciso Monfort, pending in the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries.
- In the Senate, principally authored by Sen. Serge Osmena III, pending in the Committee on Banks, Financial Institutions and Currencies.

**5.10. Electric Power Sector Reform Bill**

- In the House, the Administration bill is authored by Rep. Arnulfo Fuentesbelia, chairman of the Committee on Energy.
- In the Senate, related bills are authored by Sens. Magsaysay, John Osmena, Jaworski and Ramon Revilla.

**OTHER PRIORITY MEASURES**

A. Out of the six (6) additional priorities in the Common Agenda, three (3) are already in the advance stage of the legislative process. These are:

5.11. **Postponement of the ARMM Elections**

- Passed by the House; principally authored and sponsored by Reps. Didagen Dilangalen and Simeon Datumanong, along with Rep. Augusto Syjuco, Chairman of the Committee on Electoral Reform and Suffrage.
- Approved by the Senate on Second Reading last night. Principally authored -n the Senate by Sen. Aquilino Pimentel.

5.12. **Concurrence to the General Amnesty Proclamation**

- Already completed by the House under the authorship and sponsorship of Congressman Anthony Dequina
- Now also awaits commencement of floor consideration in the Senate under the sponsorship of Sens. Honasan, Biazon and Magsaysay.

5.13. **Mandatory use of Safety Belts**

- Passed by the Senate on Third Reading with Sens. Flavier, Coseteng, S. Osmena and Mirriam Santiago as authors and Sen. Tito Softo as sponsor
- The filing of the committee report in the House is expected soon.

B. The three (3) other priority bills, which are vital to our investments Promotion program are all in committee level in both Chambers:

5.14. **Pre-Need Plans Code**

- In the House, authored by Rep. Mar Roxas and referred to the Committee on Trade and Industry under the Chairmanship of Rep. Punzalan.
- In the Senate, related bills authored by Sens. Drilon and Guingona, pending in the Committee on Banks under Sen. Roco.

5.15. **Amendments to Retail Trade Law**

- In the House, related bills are authored by Reps. Teves, Heherson Alvarez, Recto and Ledesma; also pending in the Committee on Trade and Industry.
- In the Senate, the lone bill is authored by Sen. Serge Osmena, also pending in the Committee on Trade and Commerce.

5.16. **Incentives to Multi-national Corporations establishing Regional Area Headquarters in the Philippines**

- In the House, related bills are authored by Reps. Roxas, Ledesma and Recto, pending in the Committees on Trade and Industry and on Economic Affairs.
- In the Senate, related bills are authored by Sens. S. Osmena, Drilon. and Magsaysay, pending in the Committees on Trade and Commerce and on Ways and Means.