

## **Fas pledges to amend Civil, Penal Code**

*By María Soledad Calero*

Senate President Antonio Fas Alzamora pledged Thursday to revise and amend in the upcoming legislative session the commonwealth Civil and Penal Codes, with an emphasis on the section regarding family rights.

Fas Alzamora said that the Penal Code will first be revised, a job headed by Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Eudaldo Báez Galib.

Meanwhile, the committee hired professor Dora Nevares. Fas said Nevares was hired because she was the person who coordinated the amendment work for the Penal Code passed by the Senate in 1992. The House, however, did not approve it and it was left pending.

"This revision aims to rescue Penal Law as a proponent of social change. The penal policy for the 21st century does not merely aim to improve this area of law or revise the code but achieve a new, improved penal law, just and adjusted to current social realities and high crime," said Fas Alzamora.

He added the main purpose is "to create a legal body which constitutes a just and effective instrument for prevention and control of crime."

Báez Galib said that even though the Senate will take the lead in revising the Penal Code, House Speaker Carlos Vizcarrondo has been invited to appoint representatives to participate in the process.

Báez Galib added that the Justice Department, the Courts Administration and experts in penal law will also be called upon for help in revising the code.