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House of Representatives

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No. 55

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn F. Garcia called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is now called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Please remain standing for the Invocation to be led by the Representative from the Lone District of Lapu-Lapu City, the Hon. Aileen C. Radaza.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. RADAZA. As we gather here in thanksgiving, we ask Your intercession, O Lord, in allowing us to speak and act with wisdom so that we inspire those who are watching us to believe that You are amidst all of us in this Chamber.

Let this day be an opportunity for us to be one in celebrating the season of Advent. May the outpouring of thoughts and generous deeds that we see and feel during Christmas be present all year through.

Lord, we ask that You fill our conversations with grace and truth so that everybody's mind and soul will be enlightened.

Once again, we thank You for the opportunity to serve our fellowmen and our country.

We bring back all praises and glory in the name of Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ALONTE-NAGUIAT. Good afternoon, Mme. Speaker. I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the calling of the roll is deferred.

REP. ALONTE-NAGUIAT. Mme. Speaker, I move that we also defer the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the approval of the Journal is hereby deferred.

REP. ALONTE-NAGUIAT. Mme. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the Reference of Business.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4603, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AND FILIPINOS RESIDING OVERSEAS TO INVEST AND ESTABLISH BUSINESSES IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Bertiz

TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4604, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE SPECIAL FUND COMPOSED OF THE GOVERNMENT SHARE FROM

THE EXPLORATION, DEVELOPMENT AND EXPLOITATION OF ENERGY RESOURCES FOR RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 8 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 910 ENTITLED ‘CREATING AN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT BOARD, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ AND SPECIFYING THE USE OF THE SPECIAL FUND FOR BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 4605, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY TO THE PENAL PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10606, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE LAW, THE AMENDATORY LAW TO REPUBLIC ACT NOS. 7875 AND 9241, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSE”

By Representative Leachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4606, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE TAMARAW AS THE NATIONAL LAND ANIMAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Leachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4607, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING SECURITY OF TENURE FOR BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 7883 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS BARANGAY HEALTH WORKERS BENEFITS & INCENTIVES ACT OF 1995”

By Representative Leachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4608, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING ADDITIONAL REMUNERATION TO WORKERS TERMINATED DUE TO AUTHORIZED CAUSES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 283 AND 284 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE LABOR CODE OF THE

PHILIPPINES’, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Leachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4609, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL OR PGH BY DECLARING IT AS THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Leachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4610, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE ‘DAY OF RISING’ – A DAY TO PLANT TREES, TO MEANINGFULLY REMEMBER ARBOR DAY, AND TO REKINDLE THE BAYANIHAN SPIRIT-VENERATING YEARS OF SURVIVAL AFTER TYPHOON YOLANDA”

By Representative Leachon
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 4611, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ARELLANO TO CALANGUIGAN ROAD PORTION ALONG THE MALALAO NATIONAL ROAD (TABUK-QUEZON ROAD) STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY ARELLANO TO BARANGAY CALANGUIGA, ALL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON, PROVINCE OF ISABELA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Go (A.C.), Mangaoang, Albano, Dy, Ty and Aggabao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4612, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Zubiri
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT
REORGANIZATION AND THE
COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL
COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS
PEOPLES

House Bill No. 4613, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE
KNOWN AS BARANGAY STA. MARIA
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ABRA DE
ILOG, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL
MINDORO”

By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4614, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS
OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE
CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1185,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FIRE CODE
OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND
MEANS

House Bill No. 4615, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE APPOINTMENT
OF REGISTERED AND LICENSED
ARCHITECTS OR CIVIL ENGINEERS
OTHER THAN CITY/MUNICIPAL
ENGINEERS (CME) AS LOCAL
BUILDING OFFICIALS IN THE
PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE SECTION 477 OF REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT
CODE OF 1991, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4616, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER FIFTEEN
OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-
WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE
OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO TO
COMMEMORATE ITS FOUNDATION
ANNIVERSARY”

By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 4617, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING WATERSHED
RESERVATIONS CERTAIN PARCELS OF
LAND SITUATED IN ABRA DE ILOG,
CALINTAAN, MAGSAYSAY, MAMBURAO,
PALUAN, RIZAL, SABLAYAN, STA. CRUZ
AND SAN JOSE IN THE PROVINCE
OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, AND
BULALACAO, MANSALAY, PUERTO
GALERA, AND SAN TEODORO IN
ORIENTAL MINDORO, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4618, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY
OF THE EVERSLEY CHILDS SANITARIUM
HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU
FROM FIFTY (50)-BED CAPACITY TO
TWO HUNDRED (200)-BED CAPACITY,
UPGRADING ITS SERVICE FACILITIES
AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTHCARE, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cortes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4619, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF EVERSLEY
CHILDS SANITARIUM HOSPITAL TO
EVERSLEY CHILDS SANITARIUM AND
GENERAL HOSPITAL”

By Representative Cortes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4620, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 6 OF
REPUBLIC ACT 7653 OR THE NEW
CENTRAL BANK ACT, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 4621, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL HOSPITAL
FOR OVERSEAS CONTRACT WORKERS
(OCWS) AND THEIR DEPENDENTS,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4622, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE METRO CAGAYAN DE

MISAMIS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDING THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

THE PURPOSE SECTION 23 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS AMENDED BY BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 398, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE”

By Representative Andaya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4623, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE SPACE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION POLICY AND CREATING THE PHILIPPINE SPACE AGENCY (PSA) AND DEFINE THE PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF ITS ACTIVITIES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4628, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BALIK SCIENTIST PROGRAM APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Nieto and Maceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4624, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF DON EMILIO DEL VALLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (DEDVMH) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF UBAY, PROVINCE OF BOHOL FROM FIFTY (50) TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aumentado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4629, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION OF WORKERS IN THE BUSINESS PROCESS OUTSOURCING (BPO) INDUSTRY”

By Representatives Nieto and Maceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4630, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING PHILIPPINE eHEALTH SYSTEMS AND SERVICES IN THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH SERVICES WITH THE USE OF INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representatives Nieto and Maceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4625, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING SPECIAL EDUCATION (SPED) CENTERS IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE COUNTRY, PROVIDING GUIDELINES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Andaya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4632, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE COCONUT FARMERS WELFARE AND COCONUT INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT, UTILIZATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bravo (A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4626, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE USE OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS FOR THE PACKAGING OF CONSUMER GOODS”

By Representative Andaya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 4633, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY INTO DAVAO DE ORO PROVINCE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT PORTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8470”

By Representatives Zamora (M.) and Gonzaga
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4627, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF A DRIVER’S LICENSE FROM THREE (3) TO FIVE (5) YEARS, AMENDING FOR

House Bill No. 4634, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING THE SALE OF ELECTRICITY BY GENERATION TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION COMPANIES AND ELECTRICITY COOPERATIVES FROM VALUE-ADDED TAX (VAT), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE, SECTIONS 108 (A) AND 109 (1) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9337, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Andaya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4635, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING SECTION 5 (F) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010’ ”

By Representatives Suansing (H.) and Suansing (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 4638, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GIVING OF GRADUATED CASH GRANTS TO INDIGENTS FILIPINO SENIOR CITIZENS EVERY DECADE BEGINNING WITH THEIR SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY”

By Representative Chipeco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 4639, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10627 OR THE ANTI-BULLYING ACT OF 2013 TO INCLUDE BULLYING COMMITTED BY STUDENTS AGAINST TEACHERS OR SCHOOL PERSONNEL”

By Representative Panotes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 4640, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE PERSONNEL ECONOMIC RELIEF ALLOWANCE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND ALL OTHER GOVERNMENT WORKERS”

By Representative Panotes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4641, entitled:

“AN ACT LOWERING THE OPTIONAL

RETIREMENT AGE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM SIXTY (60) YEARS OLD TO FIFTY-SIX (56) YEARS OLD AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 13-A OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM ACT OF 1997”

By Representative Panotes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4642, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MMDA) ADDITIONAL POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7924”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 4643, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE TULLAHAN ROAD (TANDANG SORA EXTENSION) IN THE FIRST DISTRICT OF CALOOCAN CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Malapitan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4644, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING FOUR ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF CALOOCAN, METRO MANILA, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Malapitan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4645, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A PASSPORT PROCESSING AND ISSUANCE CENTER FOR EVERY PROVINCE, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8239 OR THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996”

By Representative Go (A.C.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4646, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF ALL USERS OF PRE-PAID SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE CARDS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

BACOLOR, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE DON HONORIO VENTURA TECHNOLOGICAL STATE UNIVERSITY (DHVTSU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gonzales (A.D.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4647, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1169, AS AMENDED BY BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 2 AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1157, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT PROVIDING FOR CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES, HORSE RACES, AND LOTTERIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’”

By Representative De Vera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 4651, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES ON PRIVATE SECURITY AGENCIES FOR NON-PAYMENT OF THE PRESCRIBED MINIMUM WAGE RATES OR OTHER BENEFITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 5487 AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PRIVATE SECURITY AGENCY LAW’ ”

By Representative Cueva
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 4648, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT COUNCIL (NDRRMC) AS ‘PUBLIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND SAFETY DEPARTMENT’ OR PERSD, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Leachon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 608, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE MEASURE AUTHORIZING THE CONFERMENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE FILIPINO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II COLLECTIVELY IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II”

By Representative Bataoil
TO THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND WELFARE

House Bill No. 4649, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A FREE AND CULTURE-SENSITIVE SYSTEM OF REGISTRATION CONCERNING THE CIVIL STATUS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Brosas, De Jesus and Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

House Resolution No. 609, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE(S) TO INQUIRE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF SEC. 16 (D & D.2) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10022, AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995, DIRECTING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO ESTABLISH OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER HELP DESK OR KIOSK IN THEIR LOCALITIES”

By Representative Bertiz
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Bill No. 4650, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE DON HONORIO VENTURA TECHNOLOGICAL STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BACOLOR, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA AS THE PAMPANGA STATE UNIVERSITY (PamSU), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9832, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT CONVERTING THE DON HONORIO VENTURA COLLEGE OF ARTS AND TRADES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF

House Resolution No. 610, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE REPORTED ILLEGAL ONLINE GAMING ACTIVITIES AT FONTANA LEISURE PARK AND CASINOS”

By Representative Bagatsing
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 611, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING RICHARD CABUAY MACAPULAY AND MARK PENULIAR CASTILLO OF TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY FOR TOPPING THE SEPTEMBER 2016 LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR TEACHERS IN THE SECONDARY AND ELEMENTARY LEVELS, RESPECTIVELY”

By Representative Yap (V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 612, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PURPORTED ILLICIT ONLINE GAMBLING ACTIVITIES INVOLVING ILLEGAL ALIENS INSIDE THE CLARK FREEPORT ZONE IN PAMPANGA”

By Representative Lazatin
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

*The additional coauthors is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated December 13, 2016.**

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ALONTE-NAGUIAT. Mme. Speaker, may I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:11 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:12 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is resumed.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. ALONTE-NAGUIAT. Mme. Speaker, by leave of the House, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Privilege Hour is now open.

REP. ALONTE-NAGUIAT. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. France L. Castro, Representative of ACT TEACHER Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Rep. France L. Castro is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CASTRO (F.L.)

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Floor Leader.

Mme. Speaker, I rise today to speak of the problem caused by loan sharks victimizing low- and middle-income earners, most of whom are public school teachers, with usurious loans. Mme. Speaker, ano po ba iyong kalagayan ng ating mga kaguruan? Ang mga guro po ay nasasandal sa pader at napipilitang mangutang. Napakaliit po ng P19,007 per month na sahod ng isang Teacher I at hindi po ito sumasapat sa kanilang pang-araw-araw na pangangailangan sa isang buwan. Kung kakaltasan pa po ito ng mga paghuhulog sa GSIS, Pag-IBIG, PhilHealth, withholding tax at iba pa pong mga deductions, talagang kulang po, Mme. Speaker, ang suweldo ng ating teachers. Marami din po na mga out-of-pocket expenses dahil sa kakulangan ng budget sa education. Iyong mga ginagamit po ng ating mga guro para sa kanilang mga visual aids sa kanilang pang-araw-araw na pagtuturo ay kinukuha po sa kanilang suweldo.

Ang take-home pay ng ating mga guro kadalasan ay nag-a-average na lamang ng P6,000 to P10,000 kada buwan. Hindi sasapat ito kung ikukumpara po natin sa P30,000 na cost of living dito sa National Capital Region o kung ito po iyong pagbabatayan nating cost of living. Mga benepisyong delayed o kulang, katulad nga ngayon, Mme. Speaker, iyon pong inaasahan ng ating mga kaguruan mula pa noong October, iyong performance-based bonus na kakarampot, mula P5,000 nga lamang, na ang hanggang ngayon ay delayed pa, na hanggang ngayon ay kailangan pa nilang magmukhang namamalimos sa Department of Education at sa DBM para lang matanggap itong kakarampot at natitirang benepisyo para sa taon na ito. Itong abang kalagayan ng public school teachers ang nagtutulak sa kanilang mahulog sa modus operandi ng mga tinatawag nating mga loan sharks.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Ano po ba, Mme. Speaker, ang mga loan sharks? These are the money lenders who charge an extremely high rate of interest typically under illegal conditions. In general, Mme. Speaker, umaabot ng double penalty ang utang ng mga guro kasi mula sa 12 hanggang 36 percent ang interes na ipinapataw ng mga loan sharks na ito per month sa kanilang mga utang.

The schemes of these loan sharks include charging high interests such as 38 percent per annum, and doubling the penalty for delayed payment. There are also hidden and unclear terms and other unexplained surcharges to trap the teachers in loan. They also force the teachers to buy their PX goods, jewelry and other commodities aside from the loan. There is also the hostaging of the ATM card and the UMID card as so-called “collateral,” which allows the lending institutions to withdraw the salaries and other monetary benefits of the teachers. Then there is the restructuring of the loan by choosing to stop the running interest, but in reality it is more expensive for the teachers.

Eventually, the lending institution will harass the teachers with the actual filing of civil, criminal and administrative charges or worse, with threats by its collectors. We received complaints from teachers who were made to issue and sign a post-dated check or blank check during the mediation of their cases, particularly in the PRC. These loan sharks exist due to the depressed economic conditions of most of our countrymen, including the public school teachers. The teachers’ insufficient income and delayed benefits leave them vulnerable to the schemes of these loan sharks who have no intention to help out but rather, their main goal is to profit.

Mme. Speaker, if we can recall, last 2014, there were four teachers killed by the collector of a private lending institution, and three other teachers were wounded inside the school—this happened in Pangasinan National High School—for failing to pay debts owed to the loan sharks. Last September, Mme. Speaker, another teacher from the Lingayen Central School was declared dead on arrival at the hospital when a hitman shot her inside her home, together with her daughter and uncle. Recently, a teacher of the Panghulo Elementary School in Malabon City was arrested due to unpaid obligations from the lending company. Another teacher from Nueva Ecija was arrested by the CIDG, as ordered by the same lending company. Other teachers are being harassed.

Also punishable are fraud, falsification and harassment committed by the loan sharks. Teachers report the common practice of lenders offering loans which appear to be simple loans but later turn out to be payable through the purchase of jewelry, appliances or groceries. The Professional Regulation Commission and the Department of Education are being used as a tool by loan sharks to perpetuate injustice to the

teachers. Hanggang ang pang-ekonomiyang kalagayan ng nakararami sa ating mga kababayan ay nananatili, magpapatuloy ang ganitong operasyon at pamamayani ng mga loan sharks.

Ano po ba ang dapat baguhin at papaano? Pangunahin pa rin sa kampanya ng Representasyong ito, Mme. Speaker, ay iyong sapat at nakabubuhay na suweldo para sa ating mga guro at mga empleyado. Another, Mme. Speaker, is to study and make amendments to the laws governing loans. The prevailing Usury Law or Presidential Decree No. 116 mandates the Monetary Board to create a ceiling on the rates of interest. However, CB Circular No. 905, the stipulations of the parties in a contract, said that it is 12 percent per annum.

The general rule is 12 percent per annum and unless there is a stipulation, then that is being prevailed.

Section 1 of the said Presidential Decree No. 116, Mme. Speaker, states:

The rate of interest for the loan or forbearance of any money, goods, or credits and the rate allowed in judgments, in the absence of express contract as to such rate of interest, shall be fixed per centum per annum or such rate as may be prescribed by the Monetary Board of the Central Bank of the Philippines for that purpose in accordance with the authority hereby granted.

Naging abusado naman ang mga lending institutions dahil hindi lang 12 percent per annum ang kinakaltas sa utang ng mga teachers kundi nagiging monthly basis na ang interes such as 36 percent per month. In case of default in paying, ang mga lenders po ay nagpapataw nang doble-doble sa mga inutang. Kailangan po nating kumilos. Mismong ang Pangulong Duterte po ang nananawagang dapat wakasan ang 5-6 at mga katulad nitong iskema ng pangungutang at pang-aabuso. Kailangang kumilos ang mga ahensiya ng gobyerno laban sa usura o mapang-abusong pagpapautang. Hindi totoong wala tayong mga batas laban dito.

Mayroon po tayong mga batas tulad ng Truth in Lending Act, RA 3765 o TILA na naglalayong protektahan ang mga mamamayan sa “uninformed use of credit.” Sinasabi sa RA. 3765 na dapat sa simula pa lang ng utang ay mayroong full disclosure of the true cost of credit. Sa ibang salita ay dapat ipagbigay-alam ng nagpapautang o creditor sa kanyang mangungutang o debtor ang buong halaga ng utang, kabilang ang principal, interest, anumang financial charges, mga kondisyong magpapabigat sa utang at iba pa.

Mayroon din po tayong Consumer Act of 1992 o iyong RA 7394 sa kaso ng mga credit sales o credit transactions. Pinapalakas ang proteksiyong layon ng TILA sa pamamagitan ng pagdedeklara ng polisiya ng gobyerno na proteksiyonan ang mga nangungutang o

mamimili laban sa deceptive, unfair and unconscionable sales acts and practices, pagmamamandato sa mga creditor-sellers na magbigay ng periodic statement of charges, at iba pa.

Pangatlong batas, ito po iyong Lending Company Regulation Act of 2007 or iyong RA 9474. Una, ipinagbabawal ng batas na ito iyong illegitimate lenders. Ang mga may otoridad lamang na magpautang ay mga korporasyong lisensiyado ng Securities and Exchange Commission. Hindi puwedeng indibidwal o single proprietorship. May primary license, may kumpletong financial records at iba pang mga dokumento ukol sa kita nito at iba pang impormasyon. Mme. Speaker, ayon din po sa batas na ito:

A lending company may grant loans in such amounts and reasonable interest rates and charges as may be agreed upon between the lending company and the debtor: Provided, That the agreement shall be in compliance with the provisions of Republic Act No. 3765, otherwise known as the "Truth in Lending Act" and Republic Act No. 7394, otherwise known as the "Consumer Act of the Philippines. x x x

Mme. Speaker, sa mga batas po na ito ay may kalat-kalat na mga desisyon ang Korte Suprema na nagdeklarang kontra sa public policy ang usurious contracts and unconscionable interests, at gayon ay dapat isawalang-bisa. Bagaman in place na po ang mga nasabing batas na ito, kailangan pa rin nating alamin sa Kongreso kung anu-ano iyong mga butas sa mga batas na ito, at kung anu-ano iyong mga salik tungkol sa hirap ng mga ahensiya ng gobyerno sa implementasyon ng mga batas na ito. Kailangan nating marinig ang Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, ang Department of Trade and Industry at ang SEC or ang Securities and Exchange Commission na may mandatong ipatupad ang mga nasabing batas. Higit sa lahat, kailangan nating marinig dito sa Kongreso ang mga madalas na ma- biktima ng usura. Napapanahon ding pag-aralan natin ang kasalukuyang Usury Law o PD 116. Dapat pag-aralan natin ang posibilidad ng pagbabalik ng ceiling sa interes at pagkakaroon ng uniformity sa interes na ipinapataw.

We urge the Securities and Exchange Commission, ang Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, and the concerned government agencies to tighten regulations on lending firms. We call on the SEC to see to it that only reputable and legitimate companies are in the lending business. It should complete as soon as possible its crackdown on illegitimate lenders and those who victimize their lenders with fraud, falsification and harassment. We also urge the SEC and the BSP to strictly implement the Truth in Lending Act, the Consumer Act and the Lending Company Regulation Act, among other laws. We call

on the PRC and the DepEd to take measures to prevent the agency and its officials from being used by the loan sharks for their unconscionable lending practices. We call on the government to tighten the regulations over lending institutions. These agencies should stop these usurious lenders that victimize those who have little choice but to take out loans because of their meager salaries. Lastly, Mme. Speaker, but definitely not the least, we reiterate our call for the Duterte administration to stick to their campaign promise to grant salary increase to teachers and employees and to increase the minimum wage.

A decent living wage for all!

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ALONTE-NAGUIAT. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. France L. Castro of Party-List ACT TEACHERS to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The speech of the Hon. France Castro of Party-List ACT TEACHERS is now referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ALONTE-NAGUIAT. Mme. Speaker, may I request that we acknowledge the presence of our guests in the session hall, namely: Dr. Jewehl Gay Ramiro Salo; Col. Wilson Ramiro; Pastor Cesar Pabuayon; Dr. Joshua Sebastian, Secretary General of KABAYAN Party-List; Fr. Jonathan Bitoy; and the members and supporters of KABAYAN Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Will the guests of the KABAYAN Party-List Representatives please rise. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ALONTE-NAGUIAT. Mme. Speaker, may I request that we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of the House from the Philippines Sepak Takraw Team: President Karen Caballero, Vice President Juan S. Alonzo, coaches and players.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*) The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ALONTE-NAGUIAT. Mme. Speaker, may I

respectfully request that we acknowledge the presence of Hon. Angelo “Gel” B. Alonte, Vice Mayor of Biñan City, Laguna. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The honorable Vice Mayor, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. ALONTE-NAGUIAT. I forgot, Mme. Speaker, also the rest of my co-Biñanenses from our district.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Will the guests of our beautiful Floor Leader please rise. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. ALONTE-NAGUIAT. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, may I move that we recognize Rep. Ron P. Salo of KABAYAN Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Rep. Ron Salo of KABAYAN Party-List is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. SALO

REP. SALO. Thank you very much Mme. Speaker.

My esteemed colleagues in this august Chamber, I stand before you with a heavy heart and a deep sense of mortification. The recent schism within our party-list that concerns me and another Representative has reached this revered Hall. We were not able to control a rabid dog on the loose, for which I sincerely apologize. I do so because I am the KABAYAN Party-List Chairman, and I owe this Body an explanation founded on truth and nothing but the truth:

Yesterday, my name was besmirched by a disparaging reference to my being in the House of Representatives in the Seventeenth Congress as a “meteoric rise,” and in the midst of this were direct allegations of corruption against me. Sadly, the manner, the content, and the language by which such accusations were delivered in a privilege speech yesterday by my partymate were unworthy of the honor that this Chamber deserves. He questioned my membership in this Chamber, belittling my being once a member of the staff in this institution. He did not realize that this is the beauty of our democracy and the mobility that our society offers to those who have dreams in life and are willing to pursue them.

I am mighty proud of being once a congressional staff. I was able to work with honest, decent and patriotic men and women who tirelessly work in the background, sometimes unacknowledged and unappreciated. I will always be one of them because of their remarkable dedicated service to our people and to our nation. This

I know by heart as my life story is not entirely different from many Members of this Chamber. Yes, I am of humble beginnings and far from being ashamed of it, I wear my roots like a badge of honor.

I was a working student when I took up law at the University of the Philippines where he became one of my professors. Despite my difficulties, I managed to graduate in the top 10 percent of my class. Modesty aside, I graduated valedictorian in elementary and high school in the rural areas of Pangasinan. I also graduated cum laude with my Bachelor’s degree in Psychology at the University of the Philippines. After law, I took up my Master’s degree at the University College London or UCL which consistently is in the top five of the World University Rankings as a British Chevening scholar. Please take note that the person who has made it a mission to demean me applied for the same scholarship but unfortunately, which application was denied. At the UCL, I graduated with honors. At the moment, I am working on my Executive Doctorate in Education Leadership at the Development Academy of the Philippines.

Further, I was once one of the youngest undersecretaries in the administration of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. I also taught at the UP College of Law for a while, where the person in question became my co-faculty, until I became a Member of this Chamber and currently, of the DLSU College of Law. Yes, I am also a preacher. I preach on Sundays in our local church and in various churches nationwide to share God’s good news of love, forgiveness and redemption, and I credit all my achievements to God, the source of all these blessings and grace in my life.

My dear colleagues, Mme. Speaker, pardon me in mentioning all these, and I hope I did not come across as boastful and a braggart. I am simply compelled to mention them if only to show that the person who is out to get me is suffering from delusions of grandeur, a personality disorder, being highly convinced that he alone has the monopoly of wisdom, righteousness, talent and fame or perhaps, infamy.

He claims to be a legal expert when in truth, he is simply a myth, an exaggerated hype. I reiterate—he is just a myth. He wallows in the wrong belief that his loquaciousness can be equated with intellect; that his arrogance equates with authority; that his intimidation tactics and boisterousness are equivalent to power; that his pomposity and an irritating, high-pitched voice make him sound knowledgeable; and that his media appearances and handling of sensational cases translate to stardom. In truth, his claim of legal expertise is nothing but a product of perception, true only to the uninitiated, but to the perceptive, lawyers and non-lawyers alike, he is just a rattling can, a clanging cymbal, ...

REP. ROQUE (H.). Point of order, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. ~~... full of noise, but no content whatsoever.~~

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, may we know the nature of the point of order, more specifically, the rule violated? Mme. Speaker, may we know from the Gentleman?

REP. ROQUE (H.). Your Honor, yesterday, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) Representative Harry Roque, please.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mme. Speaker, yesterday, I had a privilege speech which I could not finish. The point of order was it was addressed to a Member of this Chamber, allegedly casting aspersion on a Member of this Chamber. I invoke the same rule. There could be no doubt that he is referring to this Representation, Mme. Speaker. If I was not able to finish my speech yesterday, I gave him ample time before I stood on a point of order, but there should be equality and if he objected yesterday on a point of order, so could I today.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. I move to suspend the session, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) The session is suspended.

It was 4:36 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:41 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, under Section 93 of our rules regarding decorum, a Member who has the floor shall speak only on the question under debate, avoid personalities in all cases, and refrain from indecorous words or acts. So with that, Mme. Chair, I

move that we strike out any unparliamentary remarks in the speech of the Honorable Salo.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the unparliamentary remarks or words of the honorable Ron P. Salo are hereby stricken off the record.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Privilege Hour is suspended.

ROLL CALL

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated December 13, 2016.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 235 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) With 235 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up for approval on Third Reading House Bill No. 4144. Will the Secretary General be directed to read the title of said measure and thereafter, call the roll for nominal voting. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) Is there any objection? Hearing none, ...

REP. LAGMAN. Objection, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

REP. LAGMAN. Before we go on Third Reading, I will have a point of inquiry which I would like to address to the leadership of the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Hon. Edcel C. Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Before we had a roll call, there was a motion from the Dep. Majority Leader for the deletion of unparliamentary remarks in the speech of the Honorable Salo, but that was an omnibus motion because the unparliamentary remarks were not identified. I think that in a motion to delete unparliamentary remarks, there should be an identification on what unparliamentary remarks are sought to be deleted. Otherwise, who is going to decide which remarks will be deleted and which would be retained? I think it is important that the particular unparliamentary remarks should be identified. As a matter of fact, that should give reason for a debate, whether what is sought to be deleted is unparliamentary or not.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With the indulgence of the Hon. Edcel Lagman, a motion was, in fact, propounded by the Dep. Majority Leader. The Chair had asked if there were any objections, and there was no objection raised when the motion was presented.

REP. LAGMAN. Because in the process, it is like a lightning speed that we have no opportunity to stand up to object, that is why I am rising on a point of inquiry. What should be the proper mode in a motion to declare unparliamentary some remarks?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We appreciate the point of inquiry of Rep. Edcel Lagman. We shall refer this to the Dep. Majority Leader.

REP. BONDOC. By way of reply, Mme. Speaker, to our honorable colleague, the Hon. Edcel Lagman, up to this moment we are attempting to patch up together our two colleagues who were the subject of the speech and the Gentleman who feels he was referred to.

Seeking not to inflame the issue, we are hoping for a peaceful resolution, which is why we are appealing to both of them, in the meantime, to let the House continue with its business. And like true Gentlemen, they had agreed to let the Plenary assemble its quorum and proceed with the business of the House.

So, this is a first step towards assuaging the feelings of both of our colleagues, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, and we appreciate that they had allowed us to proceed with the many necessary legislative measures, but we hope to be able to thresh out their differences in detail later after we have finished our Business for the Day.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, Mme. Speaker, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. ... pending the two Gentlemen stoking the near fist fight, it was grossly premature and precipitated a motion to delete some remarks as unparliamentary, and this was even aggravated by the fact that there was no identification of what remarks should be deleted. Who will decide which remarks will be deleted?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, the motion to strike out unparliamentary remarks was made by this Representation to bring both parties to a discussion where they could settle their differences, and the actual remarks will be taken up later among themselves in the hope of finding a peaceful solution.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. I think there should be some guidelines for the House in the event a motion to delete some unparliamentary remarks is presented, there should be prior identification of what are these unparliamentary remarks because in the absence of such identification, who will decide which remarks are unparliamentary and which are not?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). For the guidance of all concerned, the Chair will now read again Section 93 on decorum: "A Member who has the floor shall speak only on the question under debate, avoid personalities in all cases and refrain from indecorous words or acts." It is the understanding of the Chair that the Dep. Majority Leader was, in fact, referring to this particular rule that in all instances, when a Member has the floor, he shall avoid personalities, especially when there are indecorous words involved.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, we are not questioning the rule. We agree with the rule, but we are questioning the implementation of the rule because when you move for a deletion of unparliamentary remarks, they should be identified. Otherwise, which will be the body that will decide, in the long speech of the distinguished colleague, which are the unparliamentary remarks? There should be a prior identification and most probably, submit this to a debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We appreciate your point of inquiry, the honorable and esteemed Edcel Lagman. However, as the Chair had previously mentioned, a motion was put on the floor by the Majority Leader, and the Chair asked if there were any objections to the motion to strike from the Record the unparliamentary remarks which, in this case, the Chair believes involved the mention of one Member of our collegial Body, Rep. H. Harry L. Roque Jr., and to whom the remarks of Representative Salo were directed. That was the reason there had to be the motion to strike off the record, in essence, the statements that had already been mentioned by Representative Salo who was alluding, in violation of Rule 93, to a particular personality who also happens to be a Member of the House. That motion, which had no objection, was carried and so, while we appreciate your point of inquiry, the Chair now must rule that the motion—it has ruled, in fact, that the motion was carried and the time to raise an objection has long passed.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, we truly appreciate your acknowledging the importance of my point of inquiry. Since the House, specifically the Rules Committee, is in the process of formulating the Rules of the Seventeenth Congress, I strongly suggest that in a motion to delete certain portions of a speech for being unparliamentary, there should be prior identification of such remarks sought to be deleted and possibly, if there are Members of the House who would like to debate on that, then a free debate should be encouraged.

Number two, Mme. Speaker, consistent with the present rule-making being done by the Rules Committee for the Seventeenth Congress, I also suggest that when the Presiding Officer asks the question, “Are there any objections?”, I think there should be sufficient opportunity for a Member to stand up to make an objection, rather than have a very speedy ruling on such a particular question, particularly so when it is a question of overriding importance for the House.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). It is noted. Thank you for your suggestion, Representative Lagman.

The Chair, thus, believes that when we asked if there were any objections, we had looked around the entire hall and had not seen anybody rise to object and so, we believe that the ruling was in order.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 4144
ON THIRD READING

REP. BONDOC. With that, Mme. Speaker, I

reiterate my previous motion that we vote on House Bill No. 4144 and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of House Bill No. 4144 and call the roll for nominal voting. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 8, 2016, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4144, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 145(C) OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated December 13, 2016.*

REP. ROCAMORA. Mme. Speaker, I would like to explain my vote after the voting.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The reservation is duly noted.

REP. VILLARIN. Mme. Speaker, I vote no, but may I reserve my right to explain my vote later.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The reservation is duly noted.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4144
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 176 votes in the affirmative, 30 negative votes and two abstentions, House Bill No. 4144 is now approved on Third Reading.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Rep. Edcel Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. May I explain my negative vote, Mme. Speaker?

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With the indulgence of Rep. Edcel Lagman, we shall recognize House Members who reserved to explain their negative votes. We shall call them in the order of their reservations.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Ordinarily, there is no reservation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). There was a reservation manifested by Rep. Ramon VA. “Rav” Rocamora and so, with the indulgence of the esteemed Rep. Edcel Lagman, we shall first call Rep. Rav Rocamora.

REP. LAGMAN. I defer to those who made reservations. What I was saying, ordinarily, there is no reservation to be made because we cannot interrupt the voting.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). That is why it was only noted, Rep. Edcel Lagman and in fact, the voting continued without any interruption. Before we do this, the Chair would like to present a correction. Once again, there were 176 affirmative votes, 30 negative votes and three abstentions instead of two.

The Representative from Siquijor, the Hon. Ramon V.A. “Rav” Rocamora is recognized.

REP. ROCAMORA EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ROCAMORA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. I wish to explain my negative vote.

Mme. Speaker, I am voting against this measure for the following reasons:

First, the President’s campaign against smoking must be supported. He has shown it with the way he prohibited smoking in public places in Davao. We must support this laudable policy by enacting a measure that will further enhance his anti-smoking campaign. The statistics are quite glaring. Ten Filipinos die every hour due to smoking-related diseases and that is 87,600 deaths a year. There are actually those who are not really direct smokers but who get sick and die because of second-hand smoke inhalation.

Second, I take my cue from the health advocates who have strongly advocated for a unitary structure on cigarettes, as a two-tiered excise tax, as what this Bill proposes, only encourages downshifting and does not really curb smoking. The potential for the poorer smokers to stop smoking is actually higher if we have a unitary excise tax on cigarettes.

Third, a unitary excise tax is implemented in Australia, Japan, Ireland and Thailand, and is considered a best practice globally. Why must we then deviate

from such a global standard when the current Sin Tax Law, otherwise known as RA 10351, has been heavily debated during the Fifteenth Congress? The debates during the Fifteenth Congress had substantially laid down gains both on health and revenues and for the farmers. The list of countries practicing unitary tax tier on cigarettes is rather long. It will be rather long to enumerate all 69 of them, Mme. Speaker, but apart from the four that I had mentioned earlier, please note that Canada, US, Cuba, Germany, Switzerland, United Kingdom, Malaysia, Hungary and Denmark are among them.

Finally, I lament that we did not take time to study another tax proposal in the Ways and Means Committee, House Bill No. No. 4575, which potentially raises more revenues than what is on the table. After just two hearings, this Bill was quickly reported out. As such, Mme. Speaker, I am voting against this measure.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We thank the Hon. Ramon V.A. “Rav” Rocamora.

For the guidance of those who indicated their wish to explain their votes, we shall be calling the following Congressmen in the order of their reservation, and we wish to remind that those who wish to explain their votes, according to Rule 118, they have three minutes.

May we now call on the Representative from Party-List AKBAYAN, Rep. Tomasito “Tom” S. Villarín.

REP. VILLARIN EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I vote “No”, Mme. Speaker, primarily because what was voted upon was a measure that affects the health of Filipinos, and this measure, although it is a tax measure, has implications on the health of Filipinos. Being a member of the Committee on Health of this House, we were not consulted about this tax measure. Second, Mme. Speaker, the proposed tax measure should have been consolidated with other proposed bills on the Sin Tax Reform Law, and one such proposal which I intend to co-author was for a unitary tax at P40 which, if this measure would be pushed, would generate more revenues for our government. Third, this proposal would also increase the support for our tobacco farmers.

I was wondering, why the haste in legislating and pushing for this measure, Mme. Speaker. So, with a vote of “No,” I still hope that the Ways and Means Committee shall also consider the other measures. Again, much more important, Mme. Speaker, is that the unitary Sin Tax Reform Law which has to be implemented still in 2017—it was passed in 2012 and Congress, as a Body, debated and discussed why the proposed shift from a two-tier to a unitary will happen

in 2017; and now, Congress, again, wants to amend its own measure that was previously discussed and debated. So, the bottom line, Mme. Speaker, is, if the Sin Tax Reform Law has to be really implemented, then, let it stand alone as of now.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Thank you, Hon. Tomasito "Tom" S. Villarín.

The Chair recognizes the Gentleman from Albay, the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman.

REP. LAGMAN EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I vote against House Bill No. 4144, An Act amending Section 145 [C] of the National Revenue Code of 1997, as amended for the following overriding reasons:

Number one, the one-tier taxation for all kinds and brands of cigarettes at P30 per pack starting in January 2017 is prematurely jettisoned in favor of retaining a two-tier regime of P36 for premium cigarettes and P32 for cigarettes of a lower-priced or what is known as the value cigarettes. The efficacy of the unitary system scheduled in 2017 has not even been tested on the ground. Long and even acrimonious debates had preceded the enactment of Republic Act No. 10351, the Sin Tax Reform Act, which eventually installed, starting 2017, the one-tier system of taxation. All of these debates and inputs will be put to naught with the enactment of House Bill No. 4144.

Number two, all of the government agencies invited during the only two public hearings, from the Department of Finance, the Bureau of Internal Revenue to the Department of Health, were opposed to House Bill No. 4144. Only the National Tobacco Administration was in favor of this measure.

Number three, more than a revenue measure, the Sin Tax Reform Act was hailed as a health measure. Any amendment to this Act must prioritize health concerns. However, House Bill No. 4144 is anti-health because with a two-tier taxation, majority of cigarette smokers will be encouraged to shift downward to lower-priced brands instead of quitting smoking because they could not afford or patronize the higher-priced premium cigarettes. Consequently, House Bill No. 4144 defeats the purpose of reducing the number of smokers as smoking is the single biggest cause of cancer in the world.

Number four, the two-tier system is more difficult to administer than the unitary system, and it is more conducive to tax evasion and tax collection irregularities.

Number five, the unitary system is the taxation of choice of so many countries including, among others,

Australia, Japan, Ireland, Thailand, the United States, and it is considered a best practice globally.

Number six, all of the principal players in the cigarette manufacturing industry, except the Mighty Corporation, were against House Bill No. 4144.

Finally, number seven, House Bill No. 4144 is flawed as a grossly discriminatory tax measure because it principally, if not solely, favors the Mighty Corporation which produces the low-grade and low-priced cigarettes.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We thank the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman for his explanation of his vote.

The Chair next recognizes the Lady from Taguig City, the honorable Cong. Pia S. Cayetano.

REP. CAYETANO EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. CAYETANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I register my negative vote on House Bill No. 4144. Mme. Speaker, House Bill No. 4144 is touted as a revenue measure, but we have a revenue measure for sin tax and this is Republic Act No. 10351, of which I was a principal sponsor when I was in the Senate. This measure is set to put into place a unitary tax system in January and yet, House Bill No. 4144 intends to derail this existing Republic Act by institutionalizing a two-tiered measure.

I oppose this for two reasons: I do not believe it is the best revenue measure for our country, and it is totally against the advice of the Department of Health as a health measure. Both our Department of Finance and our Department of Health, the two lead agencies governing sin tax, opposed this measure, Mme. Speaker. They opposed it, on the part of DOF, because they want to give Republic Act No. 10351 a chance. This was passed some four years ago and it is set into motion by January and yet, we are not giving this law a chance by passing this measure. The unitary tax system will make it much easier for the Department of Finance to collect the much-needed revenues. There is no reason for us to go to a two-tiered system.

On the health part, Mme. Speaker, having a two-tiered system, making cigarettes cheaper, especially for the youth, is like dangling a lollipop or candy in front of children. All over the world, health advocates and fiscal experts unite in having very strong sin tax measures to ensure that we do not make sin products easily accessible. That is not doing our countrymen a favor. All over the world, tax measures for sin products are going up, not going down, and to say that this measure is an improvement on the existing Republic Act is not correct, although the existing Republic Act has a rate that is slightly lower than that proposed by

House Bill No. 4144. If the true intention were to raise revenues, then they should have easily raised it to P40, P50 or even P100.

So, I submit, Mme. Speaker, that this is an injustice, and that there are certain players that will benefit from this, the result of which will make cigarettes accessible to our youth. I will be submitting my written explanation for the Body and the future generation to see that, at least, we did our part by standing up against this measure. Make no mistake, I am one with the Filipinos, I am one with our Representatives from the North who want a better future for everyone, including our tobacco-producing farmers, but the record also showed, and the Sponsor himself confirmed it, when I said that they will not be affected by the existing law because our tobacco products are mainly used as fillers, regardless of whether the cigarette is cheap or expensive. So, it does not directly affect them and thus, I cast my vote in the negative and hope that we can continue to see what is best for our future generation, especially the children.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We thank the Hon. Pia S. Cayetano for her remarks.

The Chair now recognizes the Hon. Manuel F. Zubiri, the Gentleman from Bukidnon.

REP. ZUBIRI EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ZUBIRI. Mme. Speaker, good afternoon, to my fellow colleagues. Actually, this is my first time on the floor. May I just explain or manifest my “No” vote.

Being a neophyte legislator, I have been in the meetings with regard to this measure and I just heeded the advice of the DOF. I believe that the DOF is against this measure, that is why I decided on a “No” vote. They are the experts and they know the taxation especially for this industry, and that is why, not for anything, nothing personal, I just heeded the advice of the experts whom we hired to handle measures like this.

So, that is all, Mme. Speaker, that is my manifestation.

Marami pong salamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We thank the Hon. Manuel F. Zubiri for his manifestation.

The Chair next recognizes the Gentleman from Negros Oriental, the Hon. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr.

REP. TEVES EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. TEVES. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Good afternoon.

I voted “No” to this measure though I understand that it will raise revenues because iyong P30 naging P32. Okay sana iyon, but I just voted “No” dahil nakikita ko kasi dito na nakakatulong ito sa ibang brand, lugì naman iyong ibang brand and so, para sa akin, batas iyan na hindi patas sa lahat. Sa akin sana, kung itataas natin iyong makokolekta, dapat ginawa na lang isang P40 instead of one P32 and one P36. Sa akin, hindi rin ito makakabuti as a health measure dahil iyong tao, pipili lang ng mas mura na sigarilyo, so mas kikita iyong brand na mumurahin. Though sa totoo, nakakataas ito ng revenues because instead of P30, the government will be getting P32, no question about that. Again, para sa akin, mas maganda sana kung iyong batas ay patas para sa lahat.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We thank the honorable Gentleman from Negros Oriental, the Hon. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr.

The Chair recognizes the Lady from the First District of Negros Oriental, the Hon. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong.

REP. LIMKAICHONG EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. LIMKAICHONG. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I would also like to explain my “No” vote which is primarily the same as the other Congresspersons/ Representatives who voted in the negative, that if this is an anti. House Bill No. 4144 is an anti-health bill which is contrary to the Sin Tax Law, the original version, because by 2017, the unitary tax rate of P30 in all brands of cigarettes is expected to reduce downshifting and further reduce smoking. So, this Bill has undermined the health gains of the original Sin Tax Law, and any effort to change this would have an impact on how the original law was originally configured to address health. Besides, as what Congressman Zubiri mentioned earlier, the Department of Health, the Department of Finance, and the BIR were opposed to this Bill. If we want to achieve a simple balance on the scale of health, taxation, tax collection, and protection of our tobacco farmers, let us maintain the unitary tax system.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We thank the Hon. Josie Limkaichong for her manifestation.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. COMM. RPT. ON H.B. NO. 3408

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we are in

receipt of the Bicameral Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on House Bill No. 3408, entitled: AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE TWO THOUSAND SEVENTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

The Bicameral Conference Committee, having met, recommends to the respective House that House Bill No. 3408 be approved with amendments. With that, I move that we ratify the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on House Bill No. 3408.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are in favor of the ratification of the Conference Committee Report, say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are opposed, say *nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The *ayes* have it; the Conference Committee Report on House Bill No. 3408 is ratified.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 64 ON THIRD READING.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 64 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 8, 2016, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 64,

entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING COMPLIANCE WITH OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated December 13, 2016.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 64 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 247 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 64 is approved on Third and final Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 400 ON THIRD READING.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 400 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 8, 2016, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 400, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PASONG TAMO, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA TO BE KNOWN AS EMILIO JACINTO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated December 13, 2016.*

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 400
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 247 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 400 is now approved on Third and final Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, before we proceed, let us acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Gentleman from the First District of Bulacan, the Hon. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado. They are from the MRRD of Bulacan: Mr. Rafael Avila, Liberty Avila, Kagawad Alan Avila and Kagawad Lorna Galvez.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Will the guests of the Hon. Jose Sy-Alvarado please rise. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives. The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, likewise, let us acknowledge the presence of the guests of Reps. Edcel C. Lagman, Teddy Brawner Baguilat, Jr., Raul A. Daza, Tomasito “Tom” S. Villarín, Edgar R. Erice, Emmanuel A. Billones and Gary C. Alejano. They are advocates against the reimposition of death penalty. We have Fr. Robert Reyes, Rowena Legaspi, Che-Anne Matriz, Ninian Sumculia, Rich Santiago, Yuen Abana, Corazon Estojero, Mirella Nicaro, Dino Manrique, Kimberly Arriola, Ellecer Carlos, Nonoy Lim, Migs de Vera, Mario Guzman, Mary Angelica Reginaldo, Adelma Linatoc, Virginia Suarez Pinlac, Wilson Fortaleza, Wilnor Papa, Rommel Yamzon, Niza Concepcion, Alster Soriano and Aaron Pedrosa.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). May we request the advocates against the death penalty, guests of our esteemed colleagues, to please rise. (*Applause*) We welcome you to the House of Representatives.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 938
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 938 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is

there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 8, 2016, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 938, entitled: AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY TANGOS IN THE CITY OF NAVOTAS INTO TWO (2) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAYS TANGOS NORTH AND TANGOS SOUTH.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated December 13, 2016.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 938
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 247 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 938 is now approved on Third and final Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 4469
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 4469 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 8, 2016, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4469, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE TUBLAY SCHOOL OF HOME INDUSTRIES EXTENSION IN BARANGAY TUBLAY CENTRAL, MUNICIPALITY OF TUBLAY, PROVINCE OF BENGUET FROM

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE TUBLAY SCHOOL OF HOME INDUSTRIES MAIN, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS TUBLAY NATIONAL TRADE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated December 13, 2016.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4469
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 247 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 4469 is approved on Third Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 4524
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 4524 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 8, 2016, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4524, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE SAN RAFAEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF NAVOTAS INTO A NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SAN RAFAEL TECHNOLOGICAL AND VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated December 13, 2016.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4524
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 248 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 4524 is approved on Third Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 4597
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 4597 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 8, 2016, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4597, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CONCEPCION DOS IN THE SECOND DISTRICT, CITY OF MARIKINA TO BE KNOWN AS SSS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated December 13, 2016.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4597
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 248 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 4597 is approved on Third Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 4598
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 4598 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 8, 2016, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4598, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAYNASISI, CITY OF LIGAO, PROVINCE OF ALBAY TO BE KNOWN AS LIGAO CITY NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated December 13, 2016.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4598 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 248 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 4598 is approved on Third Reading. The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 4599 ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 4599 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on December 8, 2016, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4599, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF PAGADIAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS PAGADIAN CITY SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated December 13, 2016.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4599 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 248 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 4599 is approved on Third Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, could the Secretary General be directed to transmit to the Senate copies of the Bills approved on Third and final Reading for their immediate action.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General is directed to transmit to the Senate the Bills that have been approved on Third and final Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4637 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 4637, contained in Committee Report No. 43, as reported out by the Committee on Legislative Franchises.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.**

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

** See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4637, entitled: AN ACT EXTENDING FOR TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SMART COMMUNICATIONS, INC. (FORMERLY SMART INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, INC.) AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7294 ENTITLED “AN ACT GRANTING SMART INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, INC. (SMART) A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, INSTALL, MAINTAIN, LEASE AND OPERATE INTEGRATED TELECOMMUNICATIONS/ COMPUTER/ELECTRONIC SERVICES AND STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES FOR PUBLIC DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the honorable author of the measure, the Hon. Reynaldo V. Umali, is present and on his behest, I move that the Explanatory Note of the measure be considered as its sponsorship speech.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Explanatory Note of this House Bill sponsored by Representative Umali is now considered as its sponsorship speech.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, as none of our colleagues have risen to interpellate the honorable Sponsor, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 4637.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is now terminated.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments. However, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments on House Bill No. 46#7.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments on House Bill No. 4637 is now terminated.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 4637.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 4637 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are against, please say *nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4637 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 4637 is now approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4631 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 4631, contained in Committee Report No. 40, as reported out by the Committee on Legislative Franchises.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4631, entitled: AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO REPUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. (PRESENTLY KNOWN AS GMA NETWORK, INC.), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7252, ENTITLED "AN ACT GRANTING THE REPUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the Sponsor, the Hon. Anna Katrina M. Enverga, has indicated her desire that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 4631 be considered as the sponsorship speech.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who registered to interpellate, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments. However, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the same.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for the approval of House Bill No. 4631 on Second Reading. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 4631, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4631 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 4631 is approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4636 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 4636, contained in Committee Report No. 42, as reported out by the Committee on Legislative Franchises.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4636, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING THE ILOILO BAPTIST CHURCH, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the Chairman of the Committee on Legislative Franchises, the Hon. Franz E. Alvarez, has indicated his desire to have the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 4636 as its sponsorship speech.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

** See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who registered to interpellate, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments. However, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the same.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4636. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 4636, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4636 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 4636 is approved on Second Reading. The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 2158 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 2158, contained in Committee Report No. 16, as reported out by the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 2158, entitled: AN ACT RATIONALIZING AND EXPANDING THE POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY COMMISSION AND THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1161, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8282, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the Chairman of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, the Hon. Jesus Nonato Saccalan, has indicated his desire that the Explanatory Note of this measure be considered as its sponsorship speech.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who registered to interpellate, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments. However, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the same.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

** See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 2158, as amended, on Second Reading.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 2158, as amended, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are against, please say *no*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 2158, AS AMENDED ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 2158, as amended is approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. JT. RES. NO. 10 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Joint Resolution No. 10, contained in Committee Report No. 41, as reported out by the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.*

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Joint Resolution No. 10, entitled: JOINT RESOLUTION INCREASING THE MONTHLY PENSION OF

THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM PENSIONERS UNDER THE SOCIAL SECURITY ACT OF 1997.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the Chairman of the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization, the Hon. Jesus Nonato Sacdalan, has indicated his desire that the Explanatory Note of this measure be considered as its sponsorship speech.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who registered to interpellate, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments. However, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the same.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for the approval on Second Reading of House Joint Resolution No. 10. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are in favor of House Joint Resolution No. 10, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are against, please say *no*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H. JT. RES. NO. 10 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

House Joint Resolution No. 10 is approved on Second Reading.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS
ON SECOND READING

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, with leave of our colleagues, we are about to tackle a number of local bills from our colleagues. So I now move for the omnibus consideration of the following measures, namely:

1. House Bill No. 4602, as contained in Committee Report No. 36;
2. House Bill No. 1425, as contained in Committee Report No. 37;
3. House Bill No. 2656, as contained in Committee Report No. 38;
4. House Bill No. 2708, as contained in Committee Report No. 39;
5. House Bill No. 2785, as contained in Committee Report No. 44; and
6. House Bill No. 4660, as contained in Committee Report No. 45.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I also move that we consider the respective Explanatory Notes of the Bills as the sponsorship speeches thereon; to close the period of sponsorship and debate, there being no Member who wishes to speak against the measure; to open the period of amendments; to approve the Committee amendments, if any; to approve the individual amendments submitted to the Committee on Rules, if any; and to close the period of amendments, there being no Committee or individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve the aforesaid measures on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are in favor of of the approval of the Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). As many as are against, please say *noy*. (*Silence*)

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The *ayes* have it: the motion is approved.

The Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion are hereby approved on Second Reading.*

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 54 of the session dated December 12, 2016.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Journal No. 54 is now approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS
ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation, I move that we refer the following House resolutions to the appropriate Committees:

1. House Resolution No. 582 – Inquiry re: persistent and prevalent anomalies and scams concerning the Land Registration Authority, to the Committee on Justice;

2. House Resolution No. 583 – Inquiry re: status and distribution of the regular mandatory contributions of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO), to the Committee on Games and Amusements;

3. House Resolution No. 584 – Inquiry re: reported human rights violations and intensified militarization in several towns in Masbate, in the guise of “Oplan Tokhang,” in violation of the unilateral ceasefire declaration of the government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP), to the Committee on Human Rights;

4. House Resolution No. 586 – Inquiry re: creating an inventory of all its police officer and personnel on the matter of the administrative, civil or criminal cases filed against them, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

5. House Resolution No. 587 – Inquiry re: real current status of stem cell therapy in the Philippines, to the Committee on Health;

6. House Resolution No. 588 – Inquiry re: suicide of Atty. Francisco Villa, Jr., Chairman of the Biddings and Awards Committee of the Energy Regulatory Commission, on 09 November 2016, in Parañaque, Metro Manila, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Energy;

7. House Resolution No. 591 – Inquiry re: alleged suicide of Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) Director Francisco “Jun” Villa Jr., to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Energy;

8. House Resolution No. 592 – Inquiry re: implementation of the Civil Registry System-Information Technology Project Phase 2 deal between the Philippine Statistics Authority and U.S.-based Unisys Corporation, to the Committee on Population and Family Relations;

9. House Resolution No. 596 – Inquiry re: delay in the implementation of Republic Act No. 10173, otherwise known as the “Data Privacy Act of 2012,” to the Committee on Government Reorganization; and

10. House Resolution No. 597 – Inquiry re: reported escape of some Chinese nationals who were arrested while illegally working at an unlicensed online gaming business in a hotel and leisure park located at Clark Freeport, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I also move for the change of referral of the following measure:

House Bill No. 530 – providing for Rural Employment Assistance Program, from the Committee on Social Services, to the Committee on Rural Development.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, before we approve Journal No. 54 dated December 12, 2016, the Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. has indicated errors in the transcription of his speech, and I now move that he be allowed to submit a written copy of his speech to be entered into the Record to correct whatever error there may be.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Chair wishes to remind the Dep. Majority Leader that House Journal No. 54 had already previously been approved.

RECONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 54

REP. BONDOC. I am sorry, Mme. Speaker, for my error. I move for the reconsideration of the approval of Journal No. 54 of December 12, 2016 for the purpose of amending it to include the speech of the Honorable Bordado to correct whatever errors there may be in the transcription.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL NO. 54, AS AMENDED

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve now, again, Journal No. 54 dated December 12, 2016, as amended, to include the corrections of the Honorable Bordado.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

House Journal No. 54, as amended, is hereby approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the Hon. Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr. of Pampanga likewise would like to manifest his coauthorship of House Bill No. 4144. He was a member of the subcommittee that approved it and it was then that he manifested in the committee level his coauthorship. Could this please be entered into the records.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General is directed to enter into the records the coauthorship of Rep. Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, before we reopen the Privilege Hour, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following House Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4652, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING UNPROGRAMMED FUNDS AND PROHIBITING LEGISLATORS FROM APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives De Jesus, Brosas, Zarate, Casilao, Tinio, Castro (F.L.) and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4653, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING OIL, LPG AND OTHER BASIC NECESSITIES, FROM THE IMPOSITION OF THE VALUE-ADDED TAX, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 109(1) OF REPUBLIC ACT 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE TAX REFORM ACT OF 1997, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9337, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives De Jesus, Brosas, Zarate, Tinio, Castro (F.L.), Casilao and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4654, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORKS FROM IMPOSING AN EXPIRATION PERIOD ON THE VALIDITY OF PREPAID CALL AND TEXT CARDS AND THE FORFEITURE OF LOAD CREDITS, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”

By Representative Lazatin
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4655, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE AUTOMATIC APPROVAL OF BUSINESS PERMIT APPLICATIONS NOT ACTED UPON WITHIN THIRTY DAYS”

By Representative Lazatin
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4656, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING FILIPINO CITIZENSHIP TO MAYLEEN TING”

By Representatives Macapagal-Arroyo and Lazatin
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4657, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE GOLDEN NATION NETWORK INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS WITHIN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Lobregat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4658, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ERMITA ELECTRONICS INCORPORATED (PRESENTLY KNOWN AS G. TELECOMS INC.) AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8196, ENTITLED AN ACT GRANTING THE ERMITA ELECTRONICS, INCORPORATED, A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE RADIO COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Lobregat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4659, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE COVERAGE OF AUTHORIZED DRUG TESTING AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 36, ARTICLE III OF REPUBLIC ACT 9165 OR KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002”

By Representative Velarde
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 4661, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY, THE PRINCIPAL PATRONESS OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Fariñas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 4662, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL
COUNCIL FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 613, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
COMMITTEES ON POVERTY
ALLEVIATION AND AGRICULTURE, TO
URGE THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE
IMMEDIATE RELIEF FOR AGRICULTURAL
COMMUNITIES OF EASTERN VISAYAS
REGION, AFTER THE ONSLAUGHT OF
TYPHOONS YOLANDA, GLENDA, RUBY
AND SENIANG AND REHABILITATION
OF THE REGION’S AGRICULTURAL
SECTOR”

By Representatives Casilao, Zarate, Tinio, Brosas,
Castro (F.L.) and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Resolution No. 614, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
COMMITTEES ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND
AGRARIAN REFORM TO CONDUCT A
JOINT INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE EMPLOYMENT OF ANTI-DRUG
OPERATION ‘OPLANTOKHANG’ AGAINST
FARMERS OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY,
BULACAN WHO ARE RESISTING LAND
GRABBING INVOLVING THE BANGKO
SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP)”

By Representatives Casilao, Zarate, Tinio, Brosas,
Castro (F.L.) and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 615, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES
ON AGRARIAN REFORM AND HUMAN
RIGHTS, TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
THREAT OF LAND GRABBING AND
DISPLACEMENT OF FARMERS SINCE
2006 TO 2016, AS CONSEQUENCE BY THE
PLANNED LAND-USE CONVERSION IN

HACIENDA YULO AT SITIO BUNTOG,
BARANGAY CANLUBANG, CALAMBA
CITY IN LAGUNA”

By Representatives Casilao, Zarate, Tinio, Brosas,
Castro (F.L.) and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 616, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
COMMITTEES ON HUMAN RIGHTS
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SPATE
OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN
HACIENDA DOLORES LOCATED IN
PORAC, PAMPANGA FROM 2011 TO 2014,
IN RELATION TO THE AYALA LAND,
INC. ALVIERA PROJECT”

By Representatives Casilao, Zarate, Tinio, Brosas,
Castro (F.L.) and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 617, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND
CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY
OF MRS. ILUMINADA PEREZ VARGAS,
MOTHER OF REPRESENTATIVE BABY
ALINE VARGAS-ALFONSO OF THE
SECOND DISTRICT OF CAGAYAN, AND
WIFE OF FORMER REPRESENTATIVE
FLORENCIO L. VARGAS”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas, Suarez,
Ting and Nolasco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 618, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND
CONGRATULATING FILMMAKER
BRILLANTE MENDOZA FOR WINNING
BEST DIRECTOR FOR HIS FILM ‘MA’ ROSA’
AT THE 54TH GIJON INTERNATIONAL
FILM FESTIVAL”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
INFORMATION

House Resolution No. 619, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND
CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF
THE PHILIPPINES (UP) PEP SQUAD AND
THE UP FILIPINIANA DANCE GROUP
FOR EARNING FOR THE PHILIPPINES
SIX MEDALS IN THE 2ND ASIAN
CHEERLEADING AND DANCE SPORT
CHAMPIONSHIP HELD IN JAKARTA,
INDONESIA ON NOVEMBER 26, 2016”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 620, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO FOR THE MAJOR AWARDS ‘FELIX MANALO’ - THE BIOGRAPHICAL MOVIE IT PRODUCED – WON AT THE 64TH FAMAS AWARDS CEREMONY AT THE CENTURY PARK HOTEL IN PASAY CITY ON DECEMBER 4, 2016”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
INFORMATION

House Resolution No. 621, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MIGUEL SOTTO AND JAZ REYES FOR WINNING FOR THE PHILIPPINES SECOND PLACE IN THE SINGAPORE TELECOMMUNICATIONS’ THE 5-MIN VIDEO CHALLENGE FOR THEIR ENTRY PAGNANAKAW”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
INFORMATION

House Resolution No. 622, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE AND THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES TO RATIFY THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONVENTION 151 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR RELATIONS (PUBLIC SERVICE) CONVENTION”

By Representative Mendoza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Resolution No. 623, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE

OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO TERMINATE THE VISITING FORCES AGREEMENT IN THE LIGHT OF THE CASES OF ABUSES COMMITTED BY UNITED STATES OF AMERICA MILITARY PERSONNEL AGAINST WOMEN, CHILDREN AND LGBT COMMUNITY ON PHILIPPINE SOIL”

By Representatives De Jesus, Brosas, Zarate, Casilao, Tinio, Castro (F.L.) and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FORE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.) The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the Hon. Ron Salo has indicated that we should enter a written copy of his speech into the Record instead of him speaking again, with the caveat that any and all unparliamentary remarks be removed.

So, I move that the speech of the Honorable Salo, in lieu of his privilege speech, be entered into the Record. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until four o’clock in the afternoon of Wednesday, December 14, 2016.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is adjourned until tomorrow, December 14, 2016 at four o’clock in the afternoon.

It was 7:00 p.m.