



Congressional Record

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House of Representatives

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No. 59

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Mercedes K. Alvarez called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is now called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Everybody is requested to rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.
I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we defer the approval of the Journal.
I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the approval of the Journal of the previous session is deferred.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4723, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING EXCISE TAX ON COSMETIC PRODUCTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 150 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representatives Batocabe and Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4724, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE SCIENTIFIC PROPAGATION, PROCESSING, UTILIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF PHILIPPINE NATIVE ANIMALS, HEREBY CREATING THE PHILIPPINE NATIVE ANIMAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4725, entitled:

“AN ACT MERGING THE PHILIPPINE CARABAO CENTER AND THE NATIONAL DAIRY AUTHORITY INTO THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL DAIRY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY TO PROVIDE GREATER FOCUS ON

THE ACCELERATED DEVELOPMENT OF THE DAIRY INDUSTRY AND TO INCREASE PRODUCTION OF DAIRY ANIMALS IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING A RUMINANT DEVELOPMENT FUND THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4726, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE RECORDING OF THE IDENTITY OF ALL DRONE OWNERS/ OPERATORS AND THE REGISTRATION OF THEIR DRONES OR REMOTELY-PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (RPAS) WITH THE CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4728, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE DISPOSITION OF CONFISCATED, SEIZED, AND/OR SURRENDERED DANGEROUS DRUGS, PLANT SOURCES OF DANGEROUS DRUGS, CONTROLLED PRECURSORS AND ESSENTIAL CHEMICALS, INSTRUMENTS/ PARAPHERNALIA AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE RA 9165 AS AMENDED BY RA 10640”

By Representatives Batocabe, Garbin and Co
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 4729, entitled:

“AN ACT ORDAINING THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL ENTERPRISES TO ALLEVIATE POVERTY, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE THE POVERTY REDUCTION THROUGH SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP (PRESENT) PROGRAM AND PROVIDING INCENTIVES AND BENEFITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 4730, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN ELDERLY CARE AND NURSING COMPLEX IN THE CITY OF PARANAQUE”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 4731, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING A BAN ON PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTEES FROM SEEKING ANY ELECTIVE POSITION IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEIR TERMS OF OFFICE”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 4732, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INSURANCE OF ALL GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES AND INTEREST WITH THE GIS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4733, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM”

By Representative Salceda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4734, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS AND PRIVILEGES TO SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT TO MAXIMIZE THE CONTRIBUTION OF SENIOR CITIZENS TO NATION BUILDING, GRANT BENEFITS AND SPECIAL PRIVILEGES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 4735, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING PENALTIES FOR EMPLOYERS WHICH FAILS TO REMIT SSS CONTRIBUTIONS OF THEIR EMPLOYEES AMENDING PARAGRAPH (h), SECTION 28 OF REPUBLIC ACT 8282, AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘SOCIAL SECURITY LAW’ FOR THAT PURPOSE”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4736, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY BALINTAWAK INTO 3 DISTINCT BARANGAYS THEREBY CREATING BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS

BARANGAYBALINTAWAK 1, BALINTAWAK 2 AND BALINTAWAK 3 RESPECTIVELY IN THE CITY OF ESCALANTE, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL”

By Representative Yap (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4737, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE PORTION OF RADIAL ROAD 10 TRAVERSING THE CITY OF MANILA AS THE MAYOR GEMILIANO LOPEZ BOULEVARD”

By Representative Atienza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4738, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SECURITY OF TENURE, STANDARDIZED SALARY AND OTHER BENEFITS FOR DAY CARE WORKERS”

By Representatives Brosas, De Jesus Castro (F.L.) and Casilao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 4739, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING CLIMATE TAX ON ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4740, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION OF THE REMITTANCES OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gonzales (A.D.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 4741, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIVE ANIMAL DEVELOPMENT CENTER, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tupas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4742, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL POLICY IN PREVENTING TEENAGE

PREGNANCIES, INSTITUTIONALIZING SOCIAL PROTECTION FOR TEENAGE PARENTS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aragonés
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 4743, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT FROM RUNNING FOR ANY ELECTIVE POSITIONS IN THE ELECTIONS IMMEDIATELY SUCCEEDING THEIR INCUMBENCY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 4744, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE COMPETENCY OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS BY INSTITUTIONALIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PHILIPPINE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS FOR TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4745, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING LONGEVITY SERVICE INCENTIVE (LSI) BENEFIT TO ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS EXCLUDING THOSE FROM STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4746, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 7, 10, 23, 30, 31, 42 AND 52 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8291, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GSIS ACT OF 1997”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 4747, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING FOOD FOREST GARDENING, PROVIDING FUNDS

THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lee
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 4748, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS TO THE SURVIVING LEGITIMATE SPOUSE OF A DECEASED RETIRED MEMBER OF THE OFFICE OF SOLICITOR GENERAL”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4749, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 4750, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE REGISTRATION, LICENSURE, AND PRACTICE OF OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER RELATED PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 4751, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN INCREASE IN THE SALARY OF, AND ADDITIONAL INCENTIVES FOR, GOVERNMENT PHYSICIANS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4752, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING TO SUBSIDY THE EMERGENCY CALAMITY LOANS EXTENDED BY THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION TO THOSE AFFECTED BY TYPHOON NINA THAT WAS USED FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION, REPAIR AND REHABILITATION OF DISTRIBUTION LINES/SYSTEM AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT OF ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES AND

APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE”

By Representative Uybarreta
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 4753, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SUBSIDY THE EMERGENCY CALAMITY LOANS EXTENDED BY THE NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION TO THOSE AFFECTED BY TYPHOON LAWIN THAT WAS USED FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION, REPAIR AND REHABILITATION OF DISTRIBUTION LINES/SYSTEM AND OTHER INFRASTRUCTURESUPPORTOFELECTRIC COOPERATIVES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE”

By Representative Uybarreta
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 4754, entitled:

“ANACTAMENDINGSECTION11OFREPUBLIC ACT NO. 6770, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMBUDSMAN ACT OF 1989, TO ALLOW FOR THE DEPUTIZATION OF PRIVATE LAWYERS AND LAW FIRMS”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4755, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE IMPOSITION OF NATIONAL TAXES TO BE PROPORTIONAL TO ACTUAL GOVERNMENT SPENDING”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4756, entitled:

“ANACTPROVIDINGFORANATIONALIRON DEFICIENCY AWARENESS PROGRAM ANDPROVIDEFREEIRON SUPPLEMENTS IN HEALTH CENTERS”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4757, entitled:

“ANACTPROVIDINGFORATLEASTTWELVE PERCENT OF ANNUAL INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENTS FOR LOCAL HEALTH PROGRAMS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 287 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160”

By Representative Roque (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4758, entitled:
“AN ACT CREATING THE METROPOLITAN
MANILA GOVERNMENT”
By Representative Atienza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 4759, entitled:
“AN ACT GRANTING THE VOLUNTEER
LIFECAREMINISTRIESINC.AFRANCHISE
TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH,
MAINTAIN AND OPERATE NON-
COMMERCIAL RADIO BROADCASTING
STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES”
By Representative Treñas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4760, entitled:
“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 6 (B) OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1169, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS, ‘AN ACT PROVIDING FOR
CHARITYSWEEPSTAKES, HORSE RACES,
AND LOTTERIES’ AS AMENDED”
By Representative Violago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND
AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 4761, entitled:
“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE COMMUNITY
ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL
RESOURCES OFFICE (CENRO) OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR), HAVING
JURISDICTIONOVERTHEPARCELOFLAND
SUBJECT OF THE APPLICATION, TO ISSUE
TREE-CUTTINGPERMITSTOLANDOWNERS
FOR THE CUTTING, GATHERING AND
UTILIZATION OF NATURALLY GROWN
TREESINPRIVATEAND/ORTITLEDLANDS
SUBJECT TO THE GUIDELINES OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES”
By Representative Abueg
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 4762, entitled:
“AN ACT CREATING A SHARI’A JUDICIAL
DISTRICT COMPRISING THE PROVINCE
OF PALAWAN AND THE CITY OF PUERTO
PRINCESA, FURTHER AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE ARTICLES 138, 147, AND
150 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO.
1083, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
‘CODE OF MUSLIM PERSONAL LAWS OF

THE PHILIPPINES,’ AS AMENDED, AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
By Representative Abueg
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4763, entitled:
“AN ACT DIVIDING THE DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE
OF PALAWAN INTO TWO SEPARATE
DepED SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICES TO
BE KNOWN AS DIVISION OF PALAWAN
SOUTH AND DIVISION OF PALAWAN
NORTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”
By Representative Abueg
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4764, entitled:
“AN ACT NAMING THE PUERTO PRINCESA
CITY SOUTH ROAD, STARTING FROM
THE NATIONAL ROAD AT JUNCTION
1, PUERTO PRINCESA CITY PASSING
THROUGH THE MUNICIPALITIES
OF ABORLAN, NARRA, SOFRONIO
ESPAÑOLA, BARANGAY RIO TUBA,
BATARAZA AT THE EAST COAST, AND
TURNING BACK TO PUERTO PRINCESA
CITY FROM THE WEST COAST, AGAIN
PASSING THOSE MUNICIPALITIES UP
TO BARANGAY BACUNGAN, PUERTO
PRINCESACITY,PROVINCE OF PALAWAN,
AS GOVERNOR ALFREDO M. ABUEG
NATIONAL CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD”
By Representative Abueg
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4765, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION
OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF BROOKE’S POINT, PROVINCE OF
PALAWAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”
By Representative Abueg
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4766, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION
OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF
NARRA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
By Representative Abueg
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4768, entitled:

“AN ACT INTEGRATING THE MEDICAL PROFESSION OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Antonio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4769, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND INSTITUTIONALIZING OUT-PATIENT DRUG REHABILITATION FACILITIES IN EVERY PROVINCE OF THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Antonio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 4770, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BAYOMBONG-AMBAGUIO-ASIPULO-TINOC CAGAYAN VALLEY ROAD (CVR) TO A SECONDARY NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cuaresma
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4771, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT) HUB IN EVERY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4772, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DANGCAGAN, BUKIDNON”

By Representative Zubiri
TO THE COMMITTEE HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4773, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KADINGILAN, BUKIDNON”

By Representative Zubiri
TO THE COMMITTEE HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4774, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 6, 22, 24, 25, 31, 33, 34, 79, 84, 86, 99, 106, 107, 108, 109, 113, 116, 148, 149, 155, 232, 237 AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 148-A, 237-A, 264-A AND 264-B; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 35 AND 62 ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997’”

By Representative Cua
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4775, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO REVEREND FATHER ‘SWAMMY’ CHATHARAJUPALLY BALASHOWRY”

By Representatives Nograles (J.) and Nograles (K.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 4776, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE FORMER PRISONERS’ EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Carlos O. Cojuangco for House Bill No. 686;
Rep. Emmi A. De Jesus for House Resolutions No. 613, 614, 615, and 616;

Reps. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II and Luisa Lloren Cuaresma for House Bills No. 555 and 1042;

Reps. Raul A. Daza and Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano for House Bill No. 1042;

Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D. for House Bill No. 104;

Rep. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III for House Resolution No. 667;

Reps. Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Wilfredo S. Caminero, Peter John D. Calderon, Fredenil “Fred” H. Castro, Jonas C. Cortes, Raul V. Del Mar, Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI, Ben P. Evardone, Sharon S. Garin, Arcadio H. Gorricketa, Gerald Anthony “Samsam” V. Gullas Jr., Greg G. Gasataya, Paolo Everardo S. Javier, Carlito S. Marquez, Roger G. Mercado, Aileen C. Radaza, Rene L. Relampagos, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Benhur L. Salimbangon, Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas, Jerry P. Treñas, and Melecio J. Yap Jr. for House Bill No. 4532;

Rep. Tom S. Villarin for House Bill No. 4134;

Rep. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D. for House Bills No. 52 and 68;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 51, 535, 3629, 3707, 3715, 3793, and 4637;

Rep. Leopoldo N. Bataoil for House Bills No. 1345, 1348, and 4174;

Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for House Bill No. 1858;

Rep. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr. for House Bills No. 1858 and 2798;

Rep. Rodel M. Batocabe for House Bills No. 3449, 3712, 4366, 4367, 4368, 4369, 4468, 4575, 4581, 4662, and 4688;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bills No. 1996, 2912, 2914, and 4661;

Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte for House Bill No. 1042;

Reps. Fernando V. Gonzalez, Benhur L. Salimbangon, and Ronald M. Cosalan for House Bill No. 458;

Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. for House Bills No. 3407 and 4105; and

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Resolution No. 651.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 48), re H.B. No. 4767, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY OF THE PHILIPPINE PASSPORT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 10 OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED EIGHT THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED THIRTY-NINE (R.A. NO. 8239), OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE PASSPORT ACT OF 1996’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 487, 1894, 1922, 1953, 1967, 1995, 2063, 2153, 2191, 2296, 2330, 2340, 2432, 2499, 2682, 2791, 2827, 2970, 3262, 3506, 3669 and 3940

Sponsors: Representatives Villarica and Macapagal-Arroyo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 49), re H.R. No. 691, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A PASSPORT ISSUANCE OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF ABRA”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 229

Sponsor: Representative Villarica

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Foreign Affairs (Committee Report No. 50), re H.R. No. 318, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE COLLECTIVE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THANK THE GOVERNMENT OF JAPAN FOR REAFFIRMING ITS COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT THE MARITIME SECURITY OF THE PHILIPPINES”

recommending its adoption with amendments

Sponsor: Representative Villarica

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 51), re H.B. No. 4782, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING KAY TIKLING – ANTIPOLO – TERESA – MORONG NATIONAL ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF RIZAL, TRAVERSING THROUGH BARANGAY DOLORES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAYTAY, UP TO BARANGAY MAYBANCAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MORONG, AS CORAZON C. AQUINO AVENUE”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3045

Sponsors: Representatives Lobregat, Acop, Roa-Puno, Duavit and Rodriguez (I.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 52), re H.B. No. 833, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE MONTEVISTA – CATEEL NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAVERSING THE MUNICIPALITY OF COMPOSTELA, COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE INTO THE BENIGNO S. AQUINO, JR. NATIONAL HIGHWAY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Lobregat and Zamora (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Information (Committee Report No. 53), re H.R. No. 696, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING LAVRENTE INDICO DIAZ (LAV DIAZ), THE DIRECTOR, SCREENWRITER, CINEMATOGRAPHER AND EDITOR OF THE MOVIE ‘ANG BABAENG HUMAYO’, AS WELL AS THE ACTORS AND PRODUCERS THEREOF, FOR WINNING THE GOLDEN LION FOR BEST FILM AWARD IN THE 73RD VENICE INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 348, 362, 373 and 405

Sponsors: Representatives Tinio, Violago, De Venecia, Atienza and Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. In the gallery are the guests of the Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr. of the BUHAY Party-List. These are the Focolare Laiko delegates: Jorge Santamaria, Jose Santamaria, Jose Maria Marquez, Maria Gracia Marquez, Grace Ceniza, Teresa Bejo, Josefina Laña, Lourdes Medel, Susan Bajao, Nilda Castro, Nenita Cortes, Glenn Palattao, Gaudencia Buyog, Maribel Yodico, Carmencita Rodriguez, Yolanda Servandil, Wilma Tugano, Rolando San Pedro, Teofila Conde, Alex Kagalingan, Helendy Sanchez, Corsino Alberto, Lawrence Alberto, and Charissa May De Leon of the People's Choice Movement.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). May we request the guests of Representative Atienza to please rise. (*Applause*)

Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we hold a Privilege Hour.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Eric L. Olivarez of the First District of Parañaque City, who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Hon. Eric Olivarez from Parañaque City is recognized for his privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. OLIVAREZ

REP. OLIVAREZ. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, dear colleagues, ladies and gentlemen, this Representation stands before you today,

honored, to talk about the story of an ordinary young boy who grew up to be one of the most important icons of our beloved country. Allow me to introduce him to you, although even one word of introduction he needs not anymore considering how famous he already is.

Still, let me walk you through his life, hoping that somehow you will pick-up new, amusing tidbits of information or trivia about our national hero. But more than that, hoping that, upon the conclusion of my speech, we will all be reminded, re-inspired, re-oriented of what he ultimately stands for as we reflect on the significance of every stage of his life, particularly his death.

This young boy was popularly called by his family, friends and playmates as "Pepe." Pepe was just an ordinary Filipino lad. Growing up, Pepe was curious about the things around him. He attentively listened to the tales, stories and information he was told. As a child, he always loved school. They even said that his last night in high school was sleepless, feeling that the happiest days of his life were over.

Pepe's ever-growing curiosity and craving for mastery of anything that he finds interesting had borne fruits quite immediately. Signs of his brilliance came early. He learned the alphabet from his mother at the age of three, and he could read and write at the age of five. In fact, the well-crafted poem, entitled: "Sa Aking Mga Kababata," which had for its theme, "Love of One's Language," was greatly attributed to the merely six-year-old Pepe.

So what does Pepe's childhood tell us? It is simple. Excellence is not something that one must be born with to have. It is something parents can give their children by encouraging them to stay curious about the world, guiding them towards the right path, instilling in them the importance of education, and reminding them always that excellence can also be sustained through consistent hard work, openness to learn, and lack of arrogance.

"Ang kabataan ang pag-asa ng bayan." From his very own lips, Pepe believed in the great potential of the Filipino youth. Perhaps unaware that he would be the greatest role model for this aspiration, Pepe had an overwhelming passion for learning and love for knowledge, and these formidable qualities are what primarily molded him into what he soon would become. These very qualities are what our youth nowadays need to have in order to uplift our country.

All of us know what Pepe's real name is, of course. He is no less than the great Jose Protacio Rizal Mercado who later on dropped his surname and used only the name "Jose Rizal." He was born on June 19, 1861, the seventh child of Don Francisco Mercado and Doña Teodora Alonzo.

The bulk of Rizal's momentous life arguably began upon his stepping on the grounds of an academy and

continued on until he returned to the Philippines from Europe. He first studied under Justiniano Aquino Cruz in Biñan, Laguna before he was sent to Manila. He then took the entrance examination in the Colegio San Juan de Letran, as per request of his father, but he ultimately enrolled at the Ateneo Municipal de Manila and graduated as among the top nine students in his class. He continued his education at the said college and obtained a Land Surveyor and Assessor's degree. He also took up a preparatory course in Law, Philosophy, at the University of Santo Tomas. However, he later switched to Medicine and specialized in Ophthalmology when he learned that his mother was slowly going blind. Citing discrimination against Filipino students by the Dominican professors in Medicine, Rizal left the medical program he was enrolled in by 1882. He voyaged to Madrid, Spain in May of the same year without his parents' consent but with the secret support of his brother. There, he studied Medicine at the Universidad Central de Madrid and earned the degree, Licentiate in Medicine. He also attended medical lectures at the University of Paris and the University of Heidelberg. The then 25-year-old Rizal completed his eye specialization in 1887 at Heidelberg under the mentorship of the distinguished eye specialist Professor Otto Becker, and he used the newly invented ophthalmoscope to later operate on his own mother's eye.

Rizal was skilled in both science and the arts. Documented studies show him to be a polymath with the ability to master various skills and subjects, and excel at anything he would pour his mind and heart to. He was an ophthalmologist, an educator, historian, playwright, and journalist. He also had varying levels of expertise in architecture, cartography, economics, ethnology, anthropology, sociology, agriculture, dramatics, martial arts, fencing, and pistol shooting. He was a prolific painter, sketcher, sculptor and wood carver—crafts he had taken interest early on and had mastered in the course of the years. He was also a renowned poet, essayist and novelist. His famous novels were, of course, *Noli Me Tangere* and its sequel *El Filibusterismo*. Apart from this, he was also multilingual and was known to have been able to converse in over 10 languages.

The 10 years he spent in the European continent opened his eyes to the world, and there he saw wisdom in marrying the good values of the East and the West. He was able to hone his skills and talents in Europe, but above it all, and quite ironically speaking as well, it only strengthened his devotion to his motherland even more.

Rizal was a leader of the reform movement of Filipino students in Spain. Under the guise of the pen name "Dimasalang," he contributed his work in the form of essays, allegories, poems, editorials to the Spanish newspaper called *La Solidaridad* in Barcelona. His writings often alluded to liberal and progressive

ideas of individual rights and freedom, particularly for the Filipino people. He shared the same sentiments with members of the movement, that the Philippines is waging a battle against the double-faced Goliath, the corrupt friars and bad government. He strongly advocated that Filipinos be given representation in the *Cortes*, that there be Filipino priests instead of Spanish friars in parishes and sitios in the Philippines, that we be given freedom of speech and freedom of assembly, and finally, that there be equal rights before the law for both Filipino and Spanish plaintiffs.

Jose Rizal's two most famous novels, *Noli Me Tangere* and *El Filibusterismo* were published in Berlin, Germany in 1887, and in Ghent, Belgium in 1891, respectively. These works of Rizal caused a stir among the Spanish colonial elite and many educated Filipinos due to their symbolism. The novels were undeniably critical of Spanish friars and the massive power of the church in the country during that time.

Noli Me Tangere tells the story of a young Filipino man, Ibarra, who travels to Europe to study, and returns home to witness the injustices and corruption in his native land. Rizal used elaborate characters to represent the various personas of the oppressors and the oppressed. He paid fancy attention to Filipinos who chose to forget their own nationality and instead adopted the customs of their colonizers. The Spanish friars were portrayed as lustful and greedy men hiding in the power and sanctity of their robes, and the little members of society experienced no other life but that of poverty and cruelty from the church and the State.

Noli Me Tangere brilliantly captured the state of the Philippine society during the Spanish Inquisition, what with its memorable characters and their corresponding fates. The tragic life of Maria Clara as well as the insanity of Sisa symbolized our beloved Philippines' transition from being a beautiful, culturally rich country to being under state of agony and misery because of the tyranny of the outside force. Yet, the piece was written in a hopeful, romantic, witty and somehow humorous tone signifying Rizal's own hopes and dreams for a peaceful resolution of the ongoing skirmish.

El Filibusterismo, which is the sequel of *Noli Me Tangere*, departed from this light and humorous atmosphere of *Noli*. Unlike the first one, *El Fili*'s theme was dark, serious and stanch. In this book, the main character Ibarra/Simoun has tried to effect peaceful reforms in the country's system but this turned out to be a futile endeavor considering the attitude of Spaniards towards Filipinos. Thus, there was no choice left but to resort to solving his country's issues through violent means.

From the foregoing, many historians have regarded the character Ibarra/Simoun as patterned after the life and personal experiences of Jose Rizal himself.

Both novels had an undeniable effect on Philippine society in terms of pursuing our national identity and of

tackling government issues like corruption and abuse. These novels were said to have indirectly served as the inspiration to start the Philippine revolution.

Jose Rizal's advocacy for education transcends an era. While he thought of education as a solution to the pitiful social situation of the Philippines in the context of Spanish colonization, it actually is a perennial solution that the Philippines can take advantage of in the present and the future times—where cases of abuses, discrimination and corruption still and might still persist, albeit in different forms and contexts.

Upon his return to Manila in 1892, Jose Rizal formed a civic movement called *La Liga Filipina*. The league advocated social reforms through legal means, but was disbanded by the governor. At that time, he had already been declared an enemy of the State by the Spanish authorities because of the publication of his novel.

Rizal's influence on the people who would later lead the revolution cannot be denied. Andres Bonifacio, one of the leaders of the revolutionary group called Katipunan, had read and got inspired by the novels of Rizal. He had used these as a basis for plotting the revolution. So influential was Rizal that even without his permission, they named him a member of the Katipunan and Katipuneros shouted his name as part of their battle cry.

Within three days after the founding of the *La Liga Filipina*, Jose Rizal was arrested by the Spanish government for being a subversive and for his reported involvement in the rebellion. He was then exiled to the island of Dapitan in the southernmost island group of the Philippines, Mindanao. While in exile, he established a school that taught English to young boys. He worked on agricultural projects using abaca, among others. There, he met the most famous woman in his life, Josephine Bracken.

With no wish to be further implicated in the revolution, Rizal asked and was granted permission by then Governor General Ramon Blanco to travel to Cuba, another Spanish colony at that time, to support the medical efforts needed to suppress the outbreak of yellow fever.

On the way to Cuba, Rizal was arrested and incarcerated in Barcelona due to political maneuverings of the friars which saw Blanco removed from office and replaced by Camilo de Polavieja.

Rizal was brought back to the Philippines to face charges of rebellion due to his reported association with the revolutionary movement. The court found him guilty and sentenced him to death. Upon the breaking of dawn on December 30, 1896, Jose Rizal was about to make his final act of greatness. When guns are about to be fired at him, he rotated his body towards the firing squad and faced—literally and figuratively—his execution bravely in Bagumbayan now known as Luneta. On that fateful morning, a great

Filipino had fallen down the ground but came rising from this event was the collective anger of Filipinos whose hearts have been silently bleeding from the unbearably long subjugation suffered by the country under the hands of Spain, and now has bled its final drop. Indeed, the martyred death of Jose Rizal served as a catalyst that precipitated the breakout of the Philippine revolution.

Fast forward to present, December 30 has always been known to us as Rizal Day. We celebrate this holiday every year to commemorate the death of our national hero. By so doing, we also commemorate all his legacies but most importantly, all the personal sacrifices that he was willing to go through out of his love for our nation.

But what does it really all stand for?

Rizal's message for modern day Filipinos would have been just this simple: one, invest in education. As an educator myself, and I have been teaching for more than two decades of my life at the De La Salle University–Manila, I share Jose Rizal's belief that education is the most powerful weapon against oppression. It liberates the mind from its shackles and encourages it to challenge societal norms when these norms promote nothing but inequality and indignity. Education allows people to effectively communicate with others, and through the exchange of ideas coming from different points of view, people grow. However, the power of education rests not just on knowing so much, but in being able to make use of the things we know for the greater good. As one Herbert Spencer said, "The great aim of education is not knowledge but action."

Jose Rizal impels the future generation to be vigilant in guarding our identity as a country and in defending the rights, not just of our individual selves but of the collective Filipinos. This means that we must strive to educate our children with the truth, of what is right, of what is good, not only in schools but in other institutions that contribute to their foundation such as the home, the church, the media, among others. Further, once equipped with information, we must use this to defend our freedom and independence from all kinds of oppressors, whether foreign or domestic, that are present or might emerge in the uncertain future that beholds. Perhaps, Jose Rizal's hope for the future of his beloved motherland is to have citizens that will not allow the return of its darkest years without giving it a good fight—a fight that is not necessarily violent in nature, a fight that is ideally peaceful and born out of wisdom—but a fight nonetheless.

Education puts an end to slavery, and from Jose Rizal himself, "There can be no tyrants where there are no slaves." Indeed, education empowers us to resist our oppressors, but we must not forget that it also ought to remind us not to become oppressors ourselves.

Two, always opt for the peaceful kind of revolution and use arms only as the last resort.

Finally, Filipinos, to be called heroes, need not die the way Jose Rizal did. A hero is basically defined as a person noted for courageous acts or nobility of character. While Jose Rizal undeniably possessed both qualities, come to think of it, each of us definitely has a potential to be one too. Heroism does not need to be grand. We do not need to fight a war or face execution in order for us to be heroic. Heroism can be found in the simplest of intentions and actions. We only need to love and serve our country and everything that represents it—the people, the territory and the government.

If we ever ought to follow the same fate as that of Jose Rizal, it is the part of us that puts selfish interest ahead of the country's interest that must die; it is that part of us that exhibits apathy to what is happening around us that we must banish; and it is part of us that does not see the value in the combined forces of education and action that we must change. If we decide to put to rest the version of ourselves that thinks rather individualistically, perhaps the patriotism that has been lying dormant within us will stop burning bright again, and we can all work together towards making the Philippines free, independent and great, in the purest, truest sense of the word.

We must always remember that oppressors do not take the shape only of foreign colonizers; it is in the form of any government officer that steals; it is in the form of undisciplined citizens who would not even abide by simple traffic rules; it is in the form of naysayers and bashers who only criticize but who are not willing to be part of the solution, among many others. Thus, our constant vigilance is needed to ensure that our fellow Filipino citizens are spared from oppression and do not have to suffer its ill effects once more.

Every December 30 of the year, we are being reminded of the true essence and relevance of Jose Rizal—who he was, what he did, what he left behind upon his death. This day serves as our reminder that our love for the country must never turn passé and our loyalty to the “three stars and a sun” must remain constant amidst the ever-changing, ever-evolving times. It also reminds us that the best weapon we can have against the forces that halt the development of our country, and always will be, is education.

John Adams once said, “Our obligations to our country never cease but with our lives.” For as long as we live, every Filipino must uphold these obligations. But for us to be able to do this properly, we must proactively seek right information, right knowledge, and right lessons.

One hundred and twenty years after his martyrdom, Jose Rizal's works, writings and advocacies are still very much relevant, and his legacy still lives in every generation. Jose Rizal's death has sparked a collective sense of burning

passion, courage and patriotism among our Katipuneros back in the day. Now, may his death continue to inspire modern Filipinos to feel the same and to take action in order to help address the new and emerging social issues that we currently face as a nation.

As a parting shot, allow me to quote our national hero for the last time:

One only dies once, and if one does not die well, a good opportunity is lost and will not present itself again.

To the modern Filipinos, especially the youth, make your lives count. Dedicate them to the service of God and of our beloved motherland. Exercise simple acts of heroism each day—this is what Rizal would have meant of a well-lived life. And if we do so, we are sure to never wish for another life because we have already seized the opportunity to love our country while we still have the time.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker, and my fellow colleagues. A pleasant afternoon to all.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Olivarez to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to refer the speech of the Honorable Olivarez to the appropriate committee is hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). There is a motion to terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

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

House Bill No. 4389, from the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation to the Committee on Economic Affairs.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:33 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:39 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The session is resumed.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move to reconsider my motion to terminate the Privilege Hour and to refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Olivarez to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize again the Hon. Eric Olivarez of the First District of Parañaque City.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Honorable Olivarez is hereby recognized.

REP. OLIVAREZ. Mme. Speaker, I am willing to entertain questions coming from my fellow colleagues.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr. of BUHAY Party-List for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Honorable Atienza from BUHAY Party-List is hereby recognized for his interpellation.

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po.

Ako po ay humihingi ng paumanhin sa ating Kongresista ng Parañaque na hindi ko agad siya nakausap through an interpellation of his privilege speech because we were distracted by some other matters. I thank him for his gracefulness to open up the topic once again considering that he gave us a very important, knowledgeable insight on the life of our national hero. Kaya ako po ay isa sa mga bumabati sa kanya. Sana ay madagdagan pa ang mga katulad ni Congressman

Olivarez na nakatuon ang kanyang pansin sa kabayanihan at kasaysayan ng ating mga bayaning pambansa.

Let me also ask him if he is familiar with what our national hero stressed as one important democratic requirement, that in a democracy, in a free people’s movement, in a progressive Philippine islands, he was quoted to have said that “Effective representation is the key to a successful life in the Philippines of his birth.” Effective representation, meaning, ang sabi niya, kailangang iyong mga kakatawan sa ating bansa ay talagang magkaroon ng epektibong pamamaraan upang iyong kanilang ipaglalaman ay tunay na pangangailangan ng bansang Pilipinas. Iyon po ba ay dumaaan sa inyong saliksik that “effective representation is the key to a successful life in the Philippine islands”?

REP. OLIVAREZ. I believe that—that is very true, that effective representation is very important in running our government. In fact, Jose Rizal mentioned that his priority is education, as he himself mentioned there can be no tyrants when there are no slaves. So, education empowers us to resist our oppressors. So, it is very important that leaders of our country are well-qualified for the position and well-represented among our fellow Filipinos.

REP. ATIENZA. Napakahalaga po noon, Mme. Speaker, honorable Congressman from Parañaque, because it is very relevant today to stress the fact that effective representation of the people especially here in Congress is a very critical element in a successful democracy.

In other words, what our national hero stressed during his lifetime, what he did for us as a nation struggling at that point in time for freedom and our liberation from the Spanish domination, is also very true up to this point in time. Kailangang effective ang representasyon ng ating mga mamamayan dahil kung hindi, hihina ang tulay ng mamamayan sa ating gobyerno. He was probably thinking of the future liberated Philippines where we will be exercising legislative power, legislative functions, and he probably was even thinking of a Philippine Legislature like this Seventeenth Congress where we belong. Effective representation is very, very critical. Kaya iyon po ay magandang banggitin natin habang ginugunita natin ang mga kontribusyon ng ating bayaning pambansa, na even during his time when there was no representation at all because Spain was ruling over us with an iron hand, ipinaglaban niya ang effective representation ng ating mga mamamayan, na kung wala iyon, hindi tayo magtatagumpay sa ating pagpupunyagi. Of course, history is with us because now, we have a representative form of government. Do you agree with that conclusion of our national hero’s forecast of the requirements of a successful liberated Philippine democracy?

REP. OLIVAREZ. I agree to the wisdom of the good Gentleman.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon po naman ay trivia, pero napakahalaga up to this point especially when we are faced with very serious threats to our future as a growing nation. Iyong ating populasyon ay tunay na lumalaki. Kasama iyan ng ating landas tungo sa isang matagumpay at makapangyarihang bansa.

We would like to inform our colleagues that Dr. Jose Rizal came from a big family, tama po ba iyon?

REP. OLIVAREZ. That is correct.

REP. ATIENZA. If I am not mistaken, he was the seventh child out of 11 children in their family. Pampito po siya. Isipin ninyo, kung iyong kanyang ina ay na-influence na ng Reproductive Health Law at siya ay naging biktima na ng birth control at gumamit na ng Implanon iyong kanyang ina, malamang hindi ipinanganak ang ating bayaning pambansa at wala tayong pinag-uusapan ngayon. Tama po iyong aking kongklusyon?

He is the seventh child out of 11 children. If the parents of our national hero were influenced by Secretary—ano nga bang pangalan nitong ating Secretary of Health? Nakalimutan ko na eh—Ubial. Kung siya ay nakausap, kung buhay na si Secretary Ubial ay baka hindi na isinilang si Dr. Jose Rizal. Dahil kung masusunod si Secretary Ubial ay wala na dapat ipinanganak pang Pilipino pagkatapos ng dalawa.

Ang gusto niya ay mabawasan ang bilang natin. Pero kung susuriin natin lahat ng pamilyang pinanggalingan ng ating mga bayani, lahat sila ay nagmula sa malaking bilang ng mga magkakapatid. Marami sa kanila ay hindi panganay kung hindi pangatlo, pang-apat, panglima, pang-anim. Si Dr. Jose Rizal, pampito.

Thank God, Secretary Ubial was not around during those years. I am afraid that in the future, some of our national heroes will not even be born because of this very destructive program of population control. Marunong pa sila sa Panginoong Diyos na Siya lang ang tanging nakakaalam. Noong isinilang si Dr. Jose Rizal, alam na ng Panginoong Diyos, binibigyan tayo ng bayaning ating titingalain.

Kaya iyong isinilang ngayon, anuman ang hirap ng buhay ay maaaring iyon na ang mamumuno sa Pilipinas pagdating ng panahon at magbibigay ng tunay na kasarinnan at kasaganaan sa ating bansa.

That is one of the reasons this Representation and our party will never be acceptable to the idea that the government should be contravening the plans of God for anyone.

Ang trabaho ng gobyerno, bigyan ng trabaho, bigyan ng employment, bigyan tayo ng kasiguruhan sa ating kalagayan, bigyan tayo ng kapayapaan at bigyan ng paraan upang iyong galing na ibinibigay sa atin ng ating kapanganakan ay magamit natin pagdating ng panahon.

Iyan sana ay magsilbing karugtong ng inyong mensahe na huwag nating pipigilan ang plano ng Panginoong Diyos. Baka si Congressman Olivarez pagdating ng araw ay tatanghaling bayani ng ating bansa sa kanyang maaari pang gawin.

Ngayon ay effective Representative na siya; bukas, maaari naman siyang maging effective Mayor of Parañaque at marami pang tatahakin sa landas itong masipag nating Kongresista.

Maraming salamat, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, for allowing the inclusion of this additional data that what you have given us this afternoon at alam ko naman na iyong ating mga kasamahan na nakinig sa atin ay mayroon din sigurong natutunang karagdagang kaalaman tungkol sa ating bayaning pambansa.

Thank you and congratulations.

REP. OLIVAREZ. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move to refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Olivarez and the interpellation to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Olivarez to the appropriate committee is hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection to the motion? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to terminate the Privilege Hour is hereby approved.

ROLL CALL

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). 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 as follows, per Journal No. 59, dated January 18, 2017:

PRESENT

Abad	Chavez	Lagman	Roa-Puno
Abaya	Chipeco	Lanete	Rocamora
Abayon	Co	Lazatin	Rodriguez (I.)
Abu	Cojuangco	Lee	Romualdez
Abueg	Cortes	Limkaichong	Romualdo
Acop	Cortuna	Lopez (B.)	Roque (H.)
Acosta	Crisologo	Lopez (C.)	Roque (R.)
Acosta-Alba	Cuaresma	Lopez (M.L.)	Sagarbarria
Advincula	Cueva	Macapagal-Arroyo	Salimbangon
Aggabao	Dalipe	Madrona	Salo
Aglipay-Villar	De Jesus	Malapitan	Salon
Almario	De Venecia	Manalo	Sambar
Almonte	De Vera	Mangaoang	Sandoval
Alonte-Naguiat	Del Mar	Mangudatu (S.)	Santos-Recto
Alvarez (M.)	Del Rosario	Marcoleta	Sarmiento (C.)
Alvarez (P.)	Deloso-Montalla	Marcos	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Amatong	Dimaporo (M.K.)	Mariño	Savellano
Andaya	Durano	Martinez	Siao
Angara-Castillo	Dy	Mercado	Singson
Antonio	Elago	Mirasol	Suarez
Aragones	Erice	Montoro	Sy-Alvarado
Arbison	Eriguel	Nava	Tambunting
Arenas	Ermita-Buhain	Nieto	Tan (A.)
Atienza	Escudero	Noel	Tan (M.)
Bag-ao	Estrella	Nogralas (J.J.)	Tejada
Bagatsing	Evardone	Nogralas (K.A.)	Teves
Banal	Fariñas	Nolasco	Tiangco
Batocabe	Ferrer (L.)	Oaminal	Ting
Bautista-Bandigan	Floirendo	Ocampo	Tinio
Belmonte (F.)	Fortun	Olivarez	Tugna
Bertiz	Fortuno	Ong (E.)	Turabin-Hataman
Billones	Fuentebella	Ortega (P.)	Unabia
Bolilia	Garbin	Ortega (V.N.)	Ungab
Bondoc	Garcia (G.)	Pacquiao	Unico
Bordado	Garcia (J.E.)	Paduano	Uy (J.)
Bravo (A.)	Gasataya	Palma	Uy (R.)
Brosas	Gatchalian	Pancho	Vargas-Alfonso
Bulut-Begtang	Geron	Panganiban	Velarde
Calderon	Go (A.C.)	Panotes	Velasco
Calixto-Rubiano	Go (M.)	Papandayan	Veloso
Caminero	Gonzaga	Pichay	Villanueva
Campos	Gonzales (A.D.)	Pimentel	Villaraza-Suarez
Cari	Gonzalez	Plaza	Villarica
Casilao	Gorriceta	Primicias-Agabas	Villarin
Castelo	Gullas	Quimbo	Yu
Castro (F.L.)	Herrera-Dy	Ramos	Zamora (R.)
Castro (F.H.)	Hofer	Revilla	Zubiri
Cayetano	Khonghun		
Celeste	Lacson		

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 192 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). With 192 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Speaker, may I move for the election of the following Members to various committees that I will read hereafter:

The Majority Leader, Rep. Rodolfo C. Fariñas, read the names of the House Members elected to the various committees, per Journal No. 59, dated January 18, 2017:

COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY

as member:

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

as Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza

COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

as member:

Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento

COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

as Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe

as member:

Rep. Joel Mayo Z. Almario vice Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

as member:

Rep. Joel Mayo Z. Almario

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

as members:

Rep. Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso

Rep. Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang

Rep. Ramon C. Nolasco

Rep. Pablo C. Ortega

COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

as member:

Rep. Arlene D. Brosas

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

as member:

Rep. Joel Mayo Z. Almario

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

as Vice Chairperson:

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND UNITY

as member:

Rep. Celso L. Lobregat vice Rep. Jum J. Akbar

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

The Members so-named by the Majority Leader are elected to the respected committees.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 58, dated January 17, 2017.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Journal of January 17, 2017 is hereby approved.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until four o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, January 23, 2017.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Alvarez, M.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until Monday, January 23, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 5:02 p.m.