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No. 62

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is now called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Everybody is requested to rise for the singing of the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move for the deferment of the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we now proceed with the Reference of Business, and may we request that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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 and Resolution on First Reading and Communications, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4794, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE SALARY GRADE OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS FROM SALARY GRADE 11 TO SALARY GRADE 19”

By Representative Pimentel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 4795, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING CYBER HARASSMENT AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF”

By Representative Pimentel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4796, entitled:

“AN ACT TO INCLUDE IN THE CURRICULA OF ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES A COURSE ON NECESSARY LIFE SKILLS”

By Representative Sarmiento (E.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 4797, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS - PASSPORT ISSUANCE OFFICE IN CALBAYOG CITY, PROVINCE OF SAMAR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sarmiento (E.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 704, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONVEYING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES TO THE FAMILY OF THE LATE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION (PSC) CHAIRMAN, MANILA MAYOR AND ASSEMBLYMAN, GEMILIANO C. LOPEZ, JR.”

By Representative Ermita-Buhain

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Reps. Len B. Alonte-Naguiat, Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Deogracias B. Ramos Jr., Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu, Rolando “Klax” A. Uy, and Alexandria P. Gonzales for House Bill No. 4689;

Rep. Juliette T. Uy for House Bills No. 4136, 4302, 4342, and 4343;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bills No. 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 2906, and 4689, and House Resolution No. 327;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bill No. 4650;

Rep. Cesar V. Sarmiento for House Bill No. 4105 and 4689;

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bills No. 1166 and 2867;

Rep. Napoleon S. Dy for House Resolution No. 198;

Reps. Julieta R. Cortuna, Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Luis “Jon-Jon” A. Ferrer IV, Pablo C. Ortega, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, Rodolfo T. Albano III, and Wes Gatchalian for House Bill No. 4174;

Rep. Lorna C. Silverio for House Bills No. 1858, 1859, 4174, and 4689;

Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. for House Resolution No. 693;

Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba for House Bills No. 730 and 1858;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 1337, 1530, 4174, and 4631;

Rep. Rodel M. Batocabe for House Bills No. 627, 628, 629, 630, 631, 1064, 1065, 1066, 1067, 1068, 1069, 1070, 1071, 1072, 1073, 1074, 1075, 1076, 1077, 1078, 1079, 1080, 1081, 1082, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1086, 1087, 1088, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1092, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, and 1337;

Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar for House Bill No. 349;

Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel for House Bill No. 1084;

Rep. Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D. for House Resolution No. 198;

Rep. Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II for House Bill No. 1907;

Rep. Bellaflor J. Angara-Castillo for House Bills No. 37, 40, 515, 516, 517, 1038, 1039, 1378, 1536, 1537, 1836, 1837, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2447, 2448, 2450, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2459, 2460, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2712, 3383, 3435, 3835, and 5435 and House Resolution No. 198;

Reps. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D. and John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House Bill No. 245;

Rep. Sherwin N. Tugna for House Bill No. 1652;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 1530, 1652, and 1660;

Rep. Benhur B. Lopez Jr. for House Bills No. 1858, 1859, 3655, 3835, and 4107;

Rep. Henry C. Ong for House Bills No. 2738, 2902, and 3115;

Rep. Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas for House Bills No. 516, 1858, 3457, 3458, and 3459;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bill No. 3115;

Rep. Benhur L. Salimbangon for House Bill No. 4774;

Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D. for House Bill No. 1530;

Rep. Lianda B. Bolilia for House Bills No. 1427, 2738, 2902, 3115, and 3247; and

Rep. Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño for House Bill No. 4105.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letters dated January 3, 2017 of Allan S. Borromeo, OIC-Regional Director, Region XI and Zenaida T. Tan, Assistant Regional Director, Region XI, both of the Department of Public Works and Highways, furnishing the House of Representatives with the Monthly Projects Status Reports for the month of December 2016 of projects implemented by their office in Davao del Norte.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated January 10, 2017 of Evelyn S. Maraño, State Auditor V, Regional Office No. XVI-Negros

Island, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives copies of the Triennium Audit Reports and Management Letter on the following Water Districts of Negros Occidental Province, Negros Island Region:

1. Sipalay Water District-CYs 2013-2015;
2. Victorias City Water District-CYs 2013-2015; and
3. Ilog Water District-CYs 2013-2015.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 11, 2017 of Jelu G. Gela, State Auditor IV, Audit Team Leader, Dumaguete City Water District, Office of the Auditor, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives copies of the 2015 Annual Audit Reports on Dumaguete City Water District, Dumaguete City, Negros Oriental and Sibulan Water District, Sibulan, Negros Oriental.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 12, 2017 of Ferdinand A. Pecson, Undersecretary and Executive Director, Public-Private Partnership Center, submitting to the House of Representatives a copy of the signed concession agreement for the NLEX-SLEX Connector Road Project, including all its Annexes, executed by the DPWH, as the grantor, and the Manila North Tollways Corporation, as the concessionaire on November 23, 2016, in compliance with the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 6957, as amended by Republic Act No. 7718.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
2015 Annual Report of the Social Security System.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:04 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:09 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 581

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 581, contained in Committee Report No. 26, as reported out by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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 Resolution No. 581, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE GRATITUDE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS) ARBITRAL TRIBUNAL FOR ITS EFFICIENT HANDLING AND FAVORABLE AWARD IN THE ARBITRATION OVER THE CONFLICTING CLAIMS IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 581

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 581.

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

House Resolution No. 581 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 276

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 276, contained in Committee Report No. 27, as reported out by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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 Resolution No. 276, entitled: RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO REOPEN THE PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN BARCELONA, SPAIN.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 276

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 276.

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

House Resolution No. 276 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 251

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 251, contained in Committee Report No. 28, as reported out by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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 Resolution No. 251, entitled: RESOLUTION COMMENDING ARCHITECT BARTHOLOME B. VISTA AND AMBASSADOR J. EDUARDO MALAYA FOR THE PHP 11 MILLION RENOVATION OF THE PHILIPPINE EMBASSY IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA AT NO COST TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 251

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 251.

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

House Resolution No. 251 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 696

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 696, contained in Committee Report No. 53, as reported out by the Committee on Public Information.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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 Resolution 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.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 696

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 696.

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

House Resolution No. 696 is adopted.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:12 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:15 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Mercedes K. Alvarez presiding.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, our esteemed colleague, the Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr. from the Party-List BUHAY, would like to make a manifestation regarding House Resolution No. 696 which we adopted earlier.

I move for the recognition of the Honorable Atienza, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Salamat po, Dep. Majority Leader.

Mme. Speaker, we just would like to put on record the reasons we worked on a resolution commending Lav Diaz, a Filipino film director, screenwriter and cinematographer who garnered a very special award, a recognition award, in the 73rd Venice International Film Festival.

Ito pong pagkilala na ginagawa ngayon ng ating Kongreso ay paraan upang ang ating industriya ng pelikulang Pilipino at ang ating mga magagaling na mga haligi ng industriyang ito, ang ating mga artista, ang ating mga direktor, ang ating mga scriptwriters, screenwriters, cinematographers, cameramen, ay mabigyan po naman ng additional incentive na magsumikap pa sapagkat naniniwala tayo na ang film industry ay isang industriya na maaaring mangibabaw ang Pilipino.

Once upon a time, the film industry or the film production industry in the whole of Asia was dominated by our country. Alam po ninyo, kinilala ang galing ng Pilipino sa paggawa ng pelikula noong mga panahong iyon. Ito po naman ay nabasa ko lamang sa kasaysayan ng industriyang ito. Subalit, talagang tunay na kinikilala ng buong mundo ang quality, ang galing at ang entertainment value na may kahalo pang values orientation, where the ending of the film was always in favor of the good over the bad, the good over the evil. In other words, film, even as an educational medium, was flourishing during the past.

Itong award na nakuha po ng ating iginagalang ngayon, binibigyan ng pagkilala si Direktor Lav Diaz, ay isang paraan na ang lahat ay tumingin sa industriyang ito upang malaman natin ang mga paraan, upang mabigyan sila ng lahat ng incentive, as we would

want to even propose in our pending bills that we have submitted, giving the industry a tax break so that they can breathe more freely in the world competition of filmmaking.

Right now, in Asia and possibly even the world, the Indian-made productions are dominating in many ways, and they are making a lot of money for their artists and talents.

Dito po sa atin, maraming Pilipino ang mabibigyan ng dagdag na trabaho at kikitain kung mayroong paraan na matulungan ng gobyerno ang industriya ng pelikulang Pilipino.

Ito pong ginawang ito ng ating Kongreso ay paraan upang sila ay tulungan, kaya pinasalamatan po natin ang lahat ng sumuporta rito. I believe, the principal sponsors, primarily Congressman Tinio, Congresswoman Violago, Congressman De Venecia and all the other principal sponsors would support this manifestation of appreciation, and a continuing support and commitment to the Filipino film industry, because we know that we can excel in this primary enterprise, if given the chance.

We can even dominate the production level of Hollywood and other film centers of the world if our talents are given the necessary incentive and opportunity.

To all those who have supported the measure, we thank you. And, for those who believe that we should really continue doing this, we have pending bills of the same measures, providing incentives for the film industry of the country so that we may become one of the pillars of the national economy.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, too, Congressman Atienza of BUHAY Party-List. The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. The manifestation of the Honorable Atienza is well noted and we move for the suspension of the proceedings.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:21 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:23 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. They are the guests of the Hon. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III of Bataan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please rise as your names are being called.

REP. NOEL. Their names are as follows: Abigail Tan, Gloria Abejar, Freddie Catalan, Mark Catalan, Dennis Dela Cruz, Bhen Anthony Bautista, Sonny Oliveria, Junior Enriquez, Jane Balana, Shaira Joy Balana, Jose Balana, Michelle Carraig, Jovita Dominguez, Perry Camacho, Michael Reyes, Jason Pineda, Erick Mangubat, Remar Dela Cruz, Violeta Santiago, Theresa Mugar, Mayette Santuyo, Jasper Chavez, Richard Dizon and Mardy Rosete. They are employees from the provincial government of Bataan and the city government of Balanga. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. NOEL. Likewise, Mme. Speaker, in the gallery are the guests of the Hon. Mark O. Go from the Lone District of Baguio City. They are Vice Mayor Edison Bilog, Councilor Faustino Olowan, Councilor Joel Alangsab, Councilor Ellaine Sembrano, Barangay Captain Jerry Uy, Barangay Captain Pablo Pawi, Barangay Captain Carlos Ananayo, Barangay Captain Bon-Bon Mendoza, Barangay Kagawad Florentino Pareñas, Barangay Kagawad Shean De Vera, Mr. John Bagalawis, Atty. Steve Somagi, Ms. Grace Mayor, and Ms. Rebecca Garcia.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, we move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:25 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:25 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, may we recognize the Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. of KABAYAN Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. of KABAYAN Party-List is recognized.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. ROQUE (H.)

REP. ROQUE (H.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen:

Today, I rise on a personal and collective privilege to decry, condemn fake news that appeared today in the Philippine tri-media, reporting that the undersigned had ceased to be a Member of this august Chamber.

Allegedly, a so-called board representing my Party-List KABAYAN voted to expel me and because they do not know enough of the law, they wrongfully concluded that with my alleged expulsion from the Party-List, I had ceased to be a Member of this august Chamber.

Fortunately, Mme. Speaker, the Constitution, jurisprudence and applicable laws are on my side. It is, according to the Constitution, only this august Body of Congress that can suspend or remove any of its Members. The only possible exception being under the Ombudsman Law, where Congress itself gave the Ombudsman the authority to preventively suspend public officials, including Members of Congress, should they be fired or should they be impleaded before the Sandiganbayan for a fixed period of 90 days. But for as long as a Member of Congress had been proclaimed by the Commission on Elections, has taken his oath, and has discharged the functions of his office, it is only this Body that can remove any sitting Member of Congress.

I do not assume, Ladies and Gentlemen, my colleagues, that when the time comes when this Body has to decide, that you will vote to retain me. But until such time that you, my colleagues, have been asked to decide on this issue, no one and certainly not a secret cabal of usurpers should declare that a Member of this Chamber had ceased to be one.

What is strange about this decision, Mme. Speaker, is that until today, I have not received a copy. It was sent directly to the media. It was one big press release. Until today, I have not received any notice that there was a meeting where the agenda purportedly was my expulsion. Should not have I been served a notice of that meeting, particularly because I was the first nominee of the Party-List, I am the face of the Party-List that gathered 860,000 votes that placed sixth out of 115 party-lists that stood for election last May? Until now, I do not know who these individuals are, purportedly acting as board of trustees for this party-list.

The constitution of KABAYAN says that we should have a congress every three years. We have not had one, and that is why even prior to yesterday, I have been demanding that KABAYAN should convene a congress and for good reason. When I became the face of the Party-List, and when I gathered the mandate from 860,000 voters, I owe those voters a duty to protect the mandate that they gave me. It was also these individuals who were responsible for our two seats in Congress and they are entitled to choose the leadership of the Party-List. That is simple democracy, and that is a requirement of the law; otherwise, you become a sham party-list. I did not run under a sham party-list. I ran on the basis of a platform. And I look around me knowing fully well that at least one-half of this august Chamber saw me in the campaign field campaigning for my Party-List. I have stood for *kalusugan*, *pabahay*, *kabuhayan*, not only in the campaign trail but here in Congress. Should not have I, at least, been given the courtesy of being heard before I was allegedly and purportedly expelled from this Party-List? Well, let us talk about the purported grounds why they expelled me.

Number one, my conduct during the hearing on the Muntinlupa drug trade, on the witness who has admitted to be the boyfriend of Secretary Leila De Lima, Ronnie Dayan. They claimed that my questioning was scandalous. What exactly did I ask? Because Leila De Lima said that her relationship with Ronnie Dayan was because of her frailties of a woman, I asked Ronnie Dayan, “Pinagsamantalahan mo ba ang kahinaan ni Leila De Lima bilang isang babae?” What is misogynist with that question? That is a valid question because she claimed that she had a relationship with her driver precisely because of her frailties as a woman. And Ronnie Dayan answered correctly, “Ay hindi po. Inibig ko siya, inibig niya ako, nagkaibigan kami.”

The second part of my questioning had to do with how Ronnie Dayan found out that money was found in an envelope that was handed to him at least four times by Kerwin Espinosa. His answer was simple, “Sinalat ko po.” The truth of the matter was, I had to ask a member of the staff, “Ano ba ang ibig sabihin ng salat? Hindi ko po alam kung ano iyong salat.” Sabi niya, “Ay, para po iyang sa mahjong, kinapa.” In my line of questioning, he said the word “salat” three times, prompting me to ask, “Bakit mahilig ka ata sa salat?” Is that a misogynist question? Yes, I wanted to inject humor in the proceedings. Why not? We were listening to testimonies of witnesses for no less than 10 hours at that time.

The second ground, Mme. Speaker, is purportedly my opposition to the appointment of Secretary Ubial, to the confirmation of Secretary Ubial, and I appreciate that Members, our colleagues who are members of the Commission on Appointments, I should say, are present today. You see, the issue of Ubial had to be injected because my second nominee, before I brought him

here to Congress, was a consultant at the Department of Health. In my first meeting with Secretary Ubial, she told me that my legislative agenda had been given to my second nominee because he used to be a consultant at this office.

We cannot deny the link between Secretary Ubial and the sudden attack on my character coinciding precisely at the time when Ubial was bypassed last December. What allegedly is the ground for my expulsion? Was it because of my opposition to Secretary Ubial? It was because I was insisting that Secretary Ubial adopt a bill that I have pending. What is the bill? Universal health care—and why should I not insist from a Secretary of Health that she give priority to the universal health care when no less than the President himself identified universal health care as a cornerstone of his administration?

In fact, I am of the opinion that precisely because the Secretary of Health cannot advance the health agenda of the President, and she being a mere alter ego of the President, that she has no business being the Secretary of Health and that is why, till my death, I will maintain my opposition to Secretary Ubial. She is incompetent and unable to carry out herself the legislative agenda of the President.

Nagkamali ka, Secretary Ubial, puro issues ang inilabas ko sa iyo. Bakit hindi mo alam na may Zika virus na sa Pilipinas? Bakit hindi mo alam, ang Zika ay galing sa Pilipinas? Bakit atras-abante ka pagdating doon sa anti-dengue medication? Bakit ka namimigay ng condom sa high school, eh ang highest naman na grupo na apektado ng AIDS ay mga bading? Doon ka mamigay ng libreng condom sa mga gay bar, sa mga sexual workers. Bakit sa high school students?

Kahapon sinabi sa akin ng isang kasama natin na isang Kongresista, eh mayroon pang isang raket, na sa panahon na Assistant Secretary si Ubial ay ipinatupad—ito po iyong tinatawag na decking system. Iyong mga papunta po ng POEA para sa Kuwait, pupuwede lang silang pumunta sa walong klinika at wala na pong iba. Napakalaking raket po iyan. Ang sabi ng kasama natin dito na Kongresista, ang nagpasimuno niyan—si Secretary Ubial. Ang kinikita diyan, hindi bumababa sa P50 million.

Ang panghuling dahilan kung bakit daw ako pinatalsik—iyong pagtanong ko sa DPWH noong panahon ng budget tungkol doon sa mga lump-sum appropriations ng DPWH. Aba, bawal pala po magtanong tungkol sa budget in a budget hearing. At bakit hindi ko tatanungin ang mga lump-sum appropriations? Eh ako naman po ang nagkaso laban sa PDAF, ako naman po ang nagkaso laban sa pork barrel. Nanalo naman po ako sa Supreme Court. Natural, marunong akong bumasa ng budget.

You see, there is a bigger issue here, Mme. Speaker. The Constitution precisely provides that no one of us

here, Members of Congress, or of the Senate could be held liable for anything that we say in any proceedings of the House—be it in plenary or in committee hearings. And yet, I was purportedly expelled precisely for matters that I brought up right here in plenary, against Ubial in my official correspondence to the Commission on Appointments, and right here in Plenary when we were discussing the budget of the DPWH.

They even claimed that in many issues, for instance, my observations on those cases are being dismissed in the Ombudsman because of lack of capacity or because of corruption. They even claimed that those were without the blessing of the party.

Mme. Speaker, since when was there a rule that Members of Congress, even the party-list, need the blessing of their party-list to say anything or to comment on issues affecting public policy?

If we are to accept the construction of this bogus board, that a Congressman must only say matters approved by the party-list, eh huwag na po tayong pumunta rito bilang Kongresista. Hayaan na nating gumawa ng batas iyong mga allegedly members ng board ng mga party-list na wala namang mandato galing po sa taumbayan.

Of course, this bogus board will say that the entity elected under the party-list system was the party-list and not the individuals behind it. I do not deny that. But an individual party-list, just like a corporation, is an artificial being. It can only have personality through human beings, and that is why the COMELEC now requires the publication of the nominees of all party-lists standing for election.

Tiningnan na po ng botante sino ang mukha ng mga party-lists dahil iyong kakayahan naman po na ipatupad ang plataporma ng isang party-list ay nakasalalay sa mukha, sa mga tao na nasa likod ng pangalan ng party-list. And yet, Mme. Speaker, these usurpers claim that even if my conduct is absolutely protected by the Constitution itself, the matters that I brought up in plenary, in committee hearings, and in official communications, to them, can constitute grounds for expulsion. This is a policy issue, Mme. Speaker, knowing that Mme. Speaker herself is from the party-list system. Kung tatanggapin po natin ito, lahat tayong mga party-lists, puwedeng patalsikin ng kahit sino doon sa ating mga party-list na nire-represent dahil hindi raw tayo humingi ng abiso bago tayo nagsalita sa Kongreso.

Hindi po tama iyan. That is contrary to the essence of democracy. That is contrary to the guarantee that Members of Congress shall have absolute liberty to speak and believe precisely because Congress is a deliberative body. Trabaho po nating dumakdak kaya hindi dapat tayo ine-expel dahil tayo po ay dumadakdak.

Mme. Speaker, at the same time, I would like to thank the Majority Leader and the Minority Leader

because both have now clarified that despite the proliferation of the fake news that I had ceased to be a Member of this Congress, they have clarified that I remain a Member of the Seventeenth Congress. It is important for me to take the podium today because by doing so, I am able to prove that contrary to the claim of my detractors, I am—I remain a Member of the Seventeenth Congress.

Mme. Speaker, I had no intention of picking up a fight with these usurpers in my party-list. In fact, I was perfectly happy to let them be for as long as they allowed me to discharge my function as a Member of this august Chamber. Pero ngayong mga pangyayaring ito, kinakailangan ko naman pong ipaglaban iyong mandato na ibinigay sa akin ng taumbayan, and that is why I have filed the appropriate legal remedies. Dahil may gulo po kami sa party-list kung sino talaga ang dapat mamuno, naghain na po ako ng petisyon sa COMELEC. Sang-ayon naman po sa mga kaso na nadesisyonan ng Korte Suprema, ang COMELEC ang mayroong hurisdiksiyon na magdesisyon kung sino po ang mga ligal na hinalal na liderato ng party-list.

Iyong pambabastos na nangyari po sa akin, lahat po kayo, nakatanggap kayo ng mga poison letter. Wala pong tigil ang pinatatanggap sa inyo na paninira sa akin. Alam ko po iyan. Hindi na po ako nagreklamo. E bakit? E ako naman po ay tagapagtaguyod ng karapatan ng malayang pananalita. Just as I said in one committee hearing, even if it is a falsity, it should be allowed in the free marketplace of ideas because, ultimately, we have sufficient faculty to distill the truth from what is false; Pero hindi po ibig sabihin, kukunsintihin ko iyan. Kaya nga po, kada paninirang ginawa niya, mayroon po akong reklamo sa Ethics Committee dahil doon naman po talaga isinasampa ang mga kaso.

Hindi po ako tumatakbo sa media. Tatakbo lang po ako sa media para sumagot. Wala na po akong ginawa kundi sumagot. At kanino po ako sumasagot? Sa isang estudyante ko, sa isang inaanak ko, sa isang Kongresista na kung hindi dahil sa akin ay hindi po makakarating dito po sa Seventeenth Congress. Hindi ko po siya sinisiraan, pero karapatan ko naman pong ilabas ang aking mga sama ng loob dahil sa ganitong mga pagkakataon, siguro po kung iba ang nagbenipisyo sa ating pangampanya, hindi po ganito ang gagawin ng second nominee sa kanyang first nominee.

So, naninindigan po ako. Unang-una, kung mayroon pong magpapatalsik sa akin, kayo lang pong mga kasama ko dito sa Kongreso ang may ganyang kapangyarihan. At sa takdang panahon, kung sasabihin ninyo na dapat akong umalis dito sa Seventeenth Congress, tatanggapin ko po iyan pero dapat manggaling po sa inyo dahil kayo po ang aking colleagues at iyan po ang sinasabi ng Saligang Batas.

Meanwhile, pasalamat po uli sa liderato. Pasalamat po ako dito sa ating mga kasama lalung-lalo na doon sa

mga nagpaparating ng kanilang suporta. Humihingi po ako ng tawad dahil pati kayo ay nasali sa gulo. Hindi po ako ang nagsali sa gulo. Kahit ano po, wala akong ipinapadala sa inyong mga opisina samantalang punung-puno na ang inboxes ninyo ng mga paninira sa akin. I-recycle ninyo lang po iyong papel para naman po hindi masayang. Mabuti rin po iyan para sa kalikasan at nang magkaroon naman ng silbi iyong mga paninira na ipinadala niya sa inyong mga opisina.

So, Mme. Speaker, ngayong nasabi ko na po ang katotohanan na tayo po ay nananatili bilang Miyembro ng Seventeenth Congress, inaasahan ko rin po na ang ating kapatid sa media ay bibigyan ng equal prominence sa kanilang reporting iyong clarification na ibinigay na ni Majority Leader.

Wala pong tigil ang aking telepono, mga tao na nakikiramay na at nagsasabing, “Hindi bale, susuportahan na lang namin kung ibang posisyon ang tatakbuhan mo.”

Importante naman po na gampanan ng media ang kanyang papel. Naging biktima po sila ng fake news. Aminin po nila na nabiktima sila ng fake news at ilathala naman ang katotohanan.

Iyon lang po, Mme. Speaker. Maraming salamat po sa inyong lahat. At ang aking pangako naman po, gagawin ko po ang lahat upang sa takdang panahon na makukumpleto ko po ang termino, lahat po kayo nais kong maging mga classmates hanggang sa katapusan ng Seventeenth Congress.

Maraming salamat po.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, with the permission of the Gentleman, my colleague, and one whom I respect in his parliamentary prowess, may I be allowed to ask some more questions which linger in my mind as to the issue that you have brought forth to us.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is Congressman Roque willing to entertain the interpellations from Congressman?

REP. ROQUE (H.). Certainly, Mme. Speaker, especially from my esteemed Sr. Dep. Minority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please proceed, Congressman Atienza.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, nararamdaman ko po sa init ng kanyang pananalita na naaapi ang isa nating kasama at isa sa pinakaaktibo sa Minority and my colleague in the Rules Committee. So, I would like to ask him one simple, straight question. Kayo po ba ay kumampanya nang puspusan noong nakaraan, at saan po ba kayo pumanig, at saan po ba kayo nakaabot ng inyong mensahe ng inyong party-list?

REP. ROQUE (H.). Well, Mme. Speaker, gaya ng sinabi ko kanina, mahigit pa po sa kalahati dito ngayon na kasama natin sa Kongreso ay nakita po akong nangampanya. Halos lahat na po ng sulok ng Pilipinas ay narating ko, mula po Aparri hanggang Zamboanga. Hindi nga lang po nakarating na ng Sulu at Tawi-Tawi, pero lahat po ng sulok ng Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao ay nakampanyahan natin.

REP. ATIENZA. I would support that statement because we met each other on many occasions because we were supporting the same Presidential candidate. He was being endorsed heavily by our Presidential candidate, na kayo ay puspusang kumampanya, nakita ko po iyon. Kayo ay nangumbinsi ng inyong mga nakausap, nakita ko rin po iyon. Kayo ay nagpakahirap upang makuha ang tiwala ng mga botante. Sa totoo lamang, marami kayong botong nakuha sa amin sa BUHAY dahil akala ng marami, ang KABAYAN ay BUHAY Party-List, pero hindi po ako nagreklamo sapagkat sabi ko, kung makapasok ang isang katulad ni Harry Roque sa Kongreso ay magandang oportunidad upang mabigyan tayo ng additional parliamentary knowledge, knowing the capacity of this Gentleman in what he does as a lawyer, as a parliamentarian, and now as a Member of this distinct Seventeenth Congress of the Philippines.

Kaya sasabihin ba ninyo na iyon pong nagawa ninyo para sa inyong Party-List ay katumbas ng ginawa ng iba? But since you are the number-one nominee, I am presupposing that you got many votes, primarily because we have the personality and the public knowledge of what Harry Roque stands for.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Maraming salamat po sa napakagandang mga salita ng aking kasama sa Minorya. Totoo po ang sinabi niya, Mme. Speaker. Tayo po ay nangampanya kasama po ni Vice President Jojo Binay. Hanggang ngayon po, tumatanaw ako ng utang na loob dahil kung hindi naman po ako pinayagan ni Vice President Binay sa kanyang entablado, siguro po wala ako sa piling ninyo ngayon. At siguro nga po, kung hindi dahil dito sa pagkakataon na ibinigay sa akin ni dating Vice President ay talagang wala kaming pag-asa dahil wala naman akong sapat na resources bilang isang propesor lamang sa UP na may maliit na law practice para magkaroon ng isang nationwide campaign. Pero dahil po doon sa pagkakataon na iyan, kagaya ng aking sinabi, nakapag-ikot naman po tayo sa halos lahat ng lugar ng Pilipinas, na-meet natin ang marami dito dahil sa ating mga kasama, nakakuha tayo ng napakadaming boto. Ako po mismo, hindi ko po inasahan na ganyan kalakas po ang suportang makukuha ng KABAYAN.

Hindi po kauna-unahang pagkakataong tumakbo ang KABAYAN nitong eleksyon na ito. Noong 2010,

ang unang nominado po ng KABAYAN ay iyong aking second nominee at 100,000 po ang nakuha nila. Pero sa tulong nga po, hindi lang ni VP, sa tulong ninyo na rin po ay nakakuha po tayo ng 860,000 boto nitong eleksyon na ito. Naniniwala naman po ako na ako ang kinilalang mukha ng KABAYAN dahil ako lang naman po talaga ang nangampanya para sa KABAYAN noong nakaraang eleksyon.

REP. ATIENZA. Kagila-gilalas na marinig kayo noong kampanyang iyon at alam kong marami kayong nakumbinsi dahil sa inyong mga naipangakong gagawin dito sa loob ng Kongreso. Iyon po bang mga pangakong iyon ay, sa tingin ninyo, tinutupad ninyo ngayon bilang Miyembro ng ating Kongreso?

REP. ROQUE (H.). Well, Mme. Speaker, sinisigurado ko po iyan. Tayo po ngayon, sang-ayon sa records ng House, ang isa sa may pinakamaraming naihan na mga panukalang batas. Mahigit na pong 100 ang ating naihan na panukalang batas dito sa Kongreso, at karamihan po ng mga panukalang batas na iyan ay para isulong iyong plataporma ng KABAYAN gaya ng kalusugan, pabahay at kabuhayan.

Sa kalusugan nga po, ito iyong puno't dulo kung bakit po tinututulan ko itong si Secretary Ubial, iyong confirmation ni Secretary Ubial, dahil unang-una, narealize ko po, hindi niya naintindihan ang ibig sabihin ng universal health care. E, eto po iyong talagang pangako na ginawa ko noong kampanya. Walang mahirap na dapat mamatay dahil sa kahirapan. Ang akala pala niya, ang universal health care ay kapareho lang ng universal PhilHealth coverage. E samantalang ang pagkakaiba po niyan, ang PhilHealth only pays P12 for every P100 that is spent on health care.

So, Mme. Speaker, bilang kasagutan sa tanong ng aking Sr. Dep. Minority Leader, araw-araw po, sinisiguro ko na iyong aking walong oras, siyam na oras, sampung oras na ginugugol sa Kongreso ay para po bigyan ng katuparan iyong aking ipinangako doon sa 860,000 na nagbigay ng suporta sa atin.

REP. ATIENZA. Maganda po iyon, Mme. Speaker, sapagkat iyang mga importanteng impormasyon na iyan ay kakailanganin ninyo sa inyong kaso kung sakaling harap kayo sa Commission on Elections. I am sure the Commission will consider whether you have been performing in accordance with your party commitments to the public and to the people rather than the simple whims and decisions of members of a certain party-list. The performance, then the delivery of a nominee who has been sworn in as Member of this Congress will have to be considered otherwise e baka magkaroon tayo ng rigodon dito kung ang pagpapalit ay arbitrary and unilateral. Kayo po ba ay nabigyan ng pagkakataon na kausapin ninyo iyong mga miyembro

ninyo in a convention, in a bigger body rather than just one executive group?

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mme. Speaker, wala pong ganyang pagkakataon. Kaya nga po nagkaroon ako ng official demand na kami ay magkaroon ng Kongreso dahil nais ko namang magkaroon ng boses po sa pagpili ng liderato ng KABAYAN iyong 860,000 na nagbigay ng mandato sa atin. At iyan po ang ipinaglalaban natin ngayon sa Commission on Elections.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyong importante pong elemento na pagbigyan ang sinumang idipensa ang kanyang sarili ay kailangan po iyan ng anumang proseso sa batas. Hindi po maaaring kayo ay husgahan lamang ng ilang tao samantalang kayo ay kwalipikado, pinasumpa at aktibong Miyembro na ngayon ng ating Kongreso.

So, we support your position that, indeed, there is more than the basic simple decision of exclusion when it comes now to the performance or nonperformance of a Member of Congress to be done by a single group or a group of individuals. Kaya, maganda po iyong hinaharap ninyo sa Commission on Elections. Alam natin na sila ay magiging patas sa kanilang pananaw dito sa inyong sitwasyon.

I would like to state that I was one of those who was quite surprised and, in fact, shocked to read in the papers that you have been ousted. Ousting anybody from any party cannot be done unilaterally sapagkat magiging dictatorial po naman iyong ganoong uri ng sistema.

I really meant to personally ask you and now that I was given the chance to do so, that the newspaper accounts were obviously inclined to make you appear as having been ousted by this body.

Kayo po ba ay pinatawag na, sinulatan na ng ating pamunuan tungkol dito sa isyung ito?

REP. ROQUE (H.). Wala pa po. Ako po mismo ay—nabalitaan ko lang iyong clarification na ginawa po ng ating Majority Leader na nananatili akong Miyembro ng Kongresong ito dahil nagsalita daw po ang ating Majority Leader doon sa press conference matapos po ang meeting ng Committee on Transportation.

Pero nakakalungkot po talaga na sa aking paggising, nasa front page ako dahil ako raw po ay natanggal na bilang isang Kongresista. Malungkot po sa akin iyan dahil napakatagal ko na pong tagapagtaguyod ng karapatan ng malayang pananalita at malayang pamamahayag, kaya nga po lahat ng mga napapatay na peryodista ay nagbibigay tayo ng libreng serbisyong ligal para malitis ang mga pumapatay sa kanila dahil ang pagpatay po ng mga peryodista ang pinakamatinding form ng censorship at iyan din po ang dahilan kung bakit halos lahat ng nadedemanda ng libel ay binibigyan po natin ng libreng serbisyo.

So, tapatan lang po. Nalungkot po ako na halos lahat ng media, naniwala sa fake news na ako ay tinanggal na. Hindi po nila sinabi na ako ay natanggal lamang sa party-list. Ang sinabi po nila ay natanggal na ako bilang Miyembro ng Kamara de Representante.

So, masama po ang loob ko, hindi ko po maitatago iyan. Tao lang naman po tayo, pero siguro po bukas ay magiging mas kalma na tayo, matututo na tayo na magpatawad, ipagpapatuloy naman po natin ang serbisyong ibinibigay natin sa ating mga kapatid sa media dahil naniniwala pa rin po ako na ang isang malayang pamamahayag ay napakaimportante po sa isang demokrasya.

REP. ATIENZA. So, technically and clearly and legally, you are raising two very important points: one, you had been excluded by a small group of people within the party and not the general assembly or the national convention, as would be required by any political aggrupation. Kung mayroon pong kailangang desisyon katulad niyan ay kinakailangang dumaan sa masusing pag-aaral at sa harap ng kabuuan ng kapulungan at hindi po maaari sigurong isang grupo lang ng mga miyembro even if they call themselves the board or a special body. Iyan po ay kailangang may sanction ng kabuuan ng inyong partido.

Like, for instance, sa BUHAY Party-List, mayroon po kaming national convention na siyang bumubuo at nagbibigay ng desisyon and guidance to all of us, na kailangan sa inyong party-list ay sundin din. Whether you belong to the Nacionalista Party, the Liberal Party ay kailangan pong mayroong national assembly or national convention na pinagdadalhan ng mga usaping katulad nitong dinadaan ninyo, at sinasabi ninyong hindi kayo dumaan sa ganoong proseso. Ang akin ding pagkakaalam ay ang Kongreso lang ang maaaring mag-decide sa inyong kapalaran. No individual and no outsider can be allowed to make a decision for your ouster now that you are a Member, a regular Member of this Congress. Sabi po ninyo, hindi pa kayo nabibigyan ng anumang notice, hindi man lang kayo siguro natawagan pa sa telepono. Therefore, there is no official notification of action coming from the leadership of the House. Tama po ba iyong impression ko?

REP. ROQUE (H). Tama po. Dahil wala pa naman po akong natatanggap sa Kamara de Representante, bagama't iyon nga po iyong narinig ko sa balita, iyong klaripikasyon na ginawa ni Majority Leader, at dahil ako po ay nakapagsasalita pa rin dito bilang isang Miyembro, ay sa tingin ko naman po ay ito ay ebidensiya na nananatili tayong Miyembro ng Kamara.

REP. ATIENZA. Yes, Mme. Speaker, that is a fact that we should now accept. The mere fact that the Gentleman is able to deliver his message

in a privilege speech without the Majority Leader cutting him short and saying, "No, you cannot speak anymore because you are no longer a Member of this Congress," is proof enough that the Gentleman is still an active Member of the Seventeenth Congress of the Philippines. Iyan po ay nakikita natin ngayon at dapat nating tanggapin.

So, therefore, your being branded as an ousted Member is not in order, in fact, totally misleading, and in fact, a tinge of deceit is being hoisted on the public and it is not correct to accept it. You are still an active Member of Congress until effectively removed by the leadership or by the courts or by the COMELEC.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Salamat po sa inyong posisyon at ganyan din po ang ating naging posisyon. Tanging Kongreso lang po, tanging kayo lang po ang makapagbibigay ng desisyon kung ano ang aking magiging kapalaran at tatanggapin ko naman po ito nang buong puso.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, I would like to assure the Gentleman who has been very active in fiscalizing the administration, and even the Majority in this Congress, as our roles in the Minority should be, when it is called for.

Iyong kanya pong mga binanggit na mga isyu ay dumaan po sa ating kaalaman at sa ating mga pagkatao bilang Miyembro ng ating Kongreso. Iyong ating imbestigasyon doon po sa nangyari sa Bilibid compound sa ilalim po ng pamumuno ni Secretary Leila De Lima, one big scandal which rocked the whole Executive and judicial structures of our government, and iyong kanyang ginawa roon ay wala po tayong nakikitang out of order or out of good taste considering that his questionings were in line with the very important issues that had to be proven and probed by that investigating committee. Iyong kanyang mga itinanong ay in line with the facts surrounding the illicit affair between the driver and the Secretary of Justice. Kaya kung iyon ang kanilang basehan, palagay po natin ay hindi po naman tama at hindi napapanahon sa kanyang kalagayan ngayon.

Iyon pong isyu naman ninyo na palagi ninyong binabanggit, isyu ninyo sa Secretary of Health ay isang bagay na naiintindihan namin sapagkat isa na rin kaming party-list na nagrereklamo kung bakit ang ating Secretary of Health ay ang pinagkakaabalahan ay pamimigay ng condom samantalang ang ating mga mamamayan ay namamatay sa kahirapan at wala silang panggamot ng TB, wala silang panggamot ng kanilang diabetes, wala silang panggamot sa sakit sa puso, at marami pang ibang pumapatay ng ating mahihirap na Pilipino, pero ang ating Secretary of Health, inip na inip mamigay ng condom sa mga kabataan.

Ang itinanong ko po ay, siya po ba ay ahente ng

pagbebenta ng condom o ating Sekretaryo ng Kalusugan na dapat ang pinangangalagaan ay kalusugan at hindi po iyong pangangalaga, na iyong mga bata ay may condom sa balsa? Napakalaking bagay po niyan para sa ating lahat at kailangan nating tugisin at hadlangan iyong ganyang klaseng programa.

We, at BUHAY Party-List, support you in your efforts, in your crusade to put Secretary Ubial in her proper place. She should decide whether to be the protector of good health or the agent of condom manufacturing in the world, to make the Philippines one of the biggest markets for such product. She is not telling the truth if she says this is the only way that we can save our young from the problem of AIDS. You and I know the facts and the information available for everyone. The condom is not a guarantee to prevent this contamination of the AIDS virus. The AIDS virus is so small, tumatawid po iyan doon sa condom, for the information of our colleagues. According to studies, four percent of those who use condom as a shield against the virus of AIDS get victimized. Sila po ay nahahawa rin ng AIDS. Proof of that is Thailand. Thailand at one time only had about 50,000 cases of AIDS. Pinakalat nila ang condoms sa lahat ng mga kabataan, nag-promote sila ng condom, ipinamigay nila, binibili ng gobyerno, ipinamimigay sa tao. Ang Bangkok ngayon ang pinakasentro ng AIDS sa buong mundo. There are more than half a million victims of AIDS in Bangkok, simply because their government, their Secretary of Health promoted the use of condoms among the young.

Ito po ang ating kasasapitan kapag pinabayaan natin ang ahente ng condom ay manaig sa tamang pangangalaga ng ating kalusugan at kalusugan lalo na ng mga susunod na henerasyon. We should not rely on the condom as a protection. We should promote good behavior, values formation, family orientation and being a good and responsible citizen as the real defense against the spread of AIDS.

Secretary Ubial's thinking has no place in the statistics that we have. Secretary Ubial has no place in the future of the Filipino. Kung ang kanyang pag-iisip po ay condom ang solusyon at iyan ang kanyang primary responsibility, then she should not be confirmed in the Commission on Appointments. Kaya ang iyong pagtutol, sinasang-ayunan din namin na sana ay hindi mai-appoint ito on a permanent basis because she does not seem to know her real task and responsibility.

So having said all of these, Mme. Speaker, we fully understand the sentiments of the Gentleman from KABAYAN. Gaya po ng sinabi ko kanina, nararamdaman ko ang init ng kanyang ulo at ng kanyang katawan dito sa isyu ng kanyang partido. We support you in your continuing struggle. We wish you all the best and we will support you in any forum, in any way, that you see necessary to defend yourself and

to maintain your membership in this august Chamber. You have been a very effective Member of Congress and an effective fiscalizer, and effective Dep. Minority Leader, and I who have worked with you these past seven months will attest to that, any time, any place. Mabuhay ka, Cong. Harry Roque.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Maraming-maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker, sa mga pananalita ng aking Sr. Dep. Minority Leader. Iyong kanyang suporta po ay isa pang dahilan kung bakit lalo tayong magpupursigi sa ating pagtatrabaho dito sa Kamara. Isang huling bagay lang po, alam ninyo po itong si Secretary Ubial, sa kaalaman po ng mga miyembro natin ng Commission on Appointments, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Congressman Roque.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Opo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). I would like to remind, with the kind indulgence of Congressman Roque, that ...

REP. ROQUE (H.). Yes, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). ... your speech should be confined in the ouster and the status of the ouster in the KABAYAN Party-List, and then, let us not divert to any other topic. Thank you.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Yes, Mme. Speaker, but as I said earlier, there is a link between the ground by which they expelled me and that was my opposition to Secretary Ubial, and that link is a personal and professional relationship between my detractor and Secretary Ubial. That is why, further to what my Sr. Minority Leader has said, I would like to inform our colleagues who are members of the Commission on Appointments that even prior to yesterday, Secretary Ubial has been making the rounds and assuring everyone that she would be confirmed because she was positive that I would be removed as a Member of the House of Representatives.

Mme. Speaker, sorry na lang siya, I will remain a Member of this House, and I will continue my opposition to the confirmation with even more zeal.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ACOSTA. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you.

REP. ACOSTA. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Yes, what is the pleasure of the Congressman from Palawan?

REP. ACOSTA. This is Rep. Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta of the Third Congressional District of Palawan.

Pupuwede po ba kaya ako makapagtanong sa kagalang-galang na Representante Harry Roque patungkol sa kanyang naging privilege speech?

REP. ROQUE (H.). Pwedeng-pwede po dahil si Congressman Acosta ay halos kapatid ko naman po at napakatindi po ng ibinigay rin sa akin na suporta ng mga Palaweño. Kinokonsidera ko po ang aking sarili na pang-apat na Congressman din ng Palawan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please proceed, Congressman Acosta.

REP. ACOSTA. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

Hindi ko po napigilang tumayo, only to prove what the Gentleman has stated na halos nakarating po siya doon sa aming lalawigan ng Palawan, specifically in my congressional district, the city of Puerto Princesa at saka sa bayan ng Aborlan. I am proving before this Chamber na in my district in the province of Palawan, nanalo po nang malaki si Rep. Harry Roque. In fact, siguro ay ang Palawan ang nag-deliver ng isa o siyang pinakamalaking naging suporta sa party-list. Ang gusto ko lang pong kumpirmahin, hindi po nabanggit ni Representative Roque, kasi po kasama doon sa kalatas na ipinadala sa aming mga opisina ang insidente na itinanong ninyo ang ating kaka-appoint na Secretary of Health, Ubial, pertaining to that desire of the province of Palawan which was embodied in the Bill that the three of us from the province of Palawan have filed, that is the establishment of a medical center in our province. Pwede po bang pakibanggit ninyo kung ano ang nangyari sa aktwal na deliberasyon doon sa Committee on Health nang ito ay pinag-usapan.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mme. Speaker, hindi po ako pinadalhan ng KABAYAN noong mga materyales na ibinigay nila sa inyo kasi gusto lamang naman nila akong siraan, ayaw nila akong makasagot. So, hindi ko po talaga nakita kung ano ang ibinigay nila sa inyong lahat. Pero isa po iyan sa isyu na inilabas nila na kaya daw ako tumututol kay Secretary Ubial dahil hindi raw napagbigyan ang probinsiya ng Palawan ng isang ospital. Sa katunayan po, hindi naman po ako humihingi ng isang ospital. Ito pa po ang isang problema doon sa ating Kalihim—ang mga ospital po ngayon ay nasa hurisdiksiyon na ng local government—ang nahihingi po natin sa Department of Health ay iyong equipment.

So ang hiningi ko po kay Secretary Ubial noong kauna-unahan kaming nagkita ay para po magkaroon ng equipment ang pito pang ospital ng Palawan, dahil ang Palawan naman po ay pino-promote natin as the number one island in the world, as the number one tourism destination in the world. May mga ospital na binuo po ng LGU pero walang mga kagamitan. Ano po’ng nangyari? Well, ito po ang dahilan nga kung bakit talagang nagdesisyon na akong tumutol sa confirmation ni Secretary Ubial. Nangako po siya, ilalagay daw sa susunod na budget ng 2018, but meanwhile, ang pangako niya ay papopondohan daw po niya sa PhilHealth. Eh, hindi naman po niya alam na sa PhilHealth, iyong isang mataas na opisyal ay asawa ng aking kaklase sa high school, itinanong ko, “Mayroon bang sinabi si Secretary Ubial tungkol sa equipment para sa Palawan?” Ang sabi po ng opisyal ng PAGCOR, “Wala.” Eh, ano po ang naging kongklusyon ko? Nambola po itong si Secretary Ubial. Noong una po kaming nakipag-appointment kay Secretary Ubial, ako po, ang plano ko sumipsip dahil kinakailangan ko iyong suporta niya para sa universal health care bill at ilapit iyong pitong equipment na pangangailangan ng Palawan. Noong unang pagkakataon po, kasama ko dapat sa appointment ang gobernador ng Palawan, si Gobernador Alvarez, pero ang nangyari po sa takdang araw na sinabi niya na makikipagkita sa amin, nakatanggap po ako ng tawag na hindi matutuloy.

Mme. Speaker, I think quite a number of lady legislators belonging to the party-list had a similar experience with the Secretary of Health—making appointments and not showing up. So, sa katunayan po, sa susunod na pagkakataon na kami ay nagpulong, hindi na po sumama si Governor, nainis na po siya dahil napakaliit po ng puwang noong sinabi niya na maka-cancel ang meeting, napakalayo ng Palawan, lumuwas para sa pagpulong, so hindi na po siya sumama. Pero nabigyan ko po ng kumpirmasyon galing sa PAGCOR na hindi gaya ng kanyang sinabi, wala naman palang ni-request para sa Palawan. Ngayon, hindi po nagtatapos diyan. Nanligaw naman po siya. Nagbigay po siya sa akin ng mga listahan ng diumano mga proyektong ibinigay sa Palawan, pero iyon po ay mga tigwa-one million pesos, tigtu-two million pesos, pangbarangay. Tapos po nakipagpulong siya kay Governor at sinabi na bibigyan siya noong lahat ng equipment na hinihingi ni Governor, pero nang tiningnan ko naman po sa GAA na ating in-approve, wala po doon. Kaya nga po suportado rin ni Governor Alvarez ang aking pagtutol sa confirmation kay Secretary Ubial, hindi po dahil ayaw niyang magbigay kung hindi nangako siya pero nambobola lang pala. Iyan po ang puno’t dulo ng pagtutol natin kay Secretary Ubial pagdating po sa probinsiya ng Palawan. Pero tama po iyong natanggap ninyong impormasyon, may kinalaman din po ang Palawan diyan at hindi po ako nagsisisi na ipinaglaban

ko iyong equipment para sa pitong ospital diyan po kay Secretary Ubial.

REP. ACOSTA. Marami pong salamata, Representative Roque.

Mme. Speaker, si Abogado Harry Roque ay kakilala na po namin sa Palawan, 15 taon na po ang nakakalipas. But he is the same Gentleman that stood firm na ang Palawan po, being a province, ay magkaroon man lang po ng kaparte doon sa Malampaya Fund, na patuloy na may hinahakot doon sa aming karagatan but until now ay hindi pa po nagkakaroon ng kaparte, as provided for by the Local Government Code. Iyan po ang gawang-tulong sa amin ni Atty. Harry Roque then, now party-list Representative Harry Roque.

Maraming-maraming salamata, Representative Roque, and rest assured that in my district, our people who supported you in the last election will continue to support you in your advocacies regarding good governance in our country.

Maraming-maraming salamata po, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Maraming salamata, Mme. Speaker, kay Representante Gil Acosta. Nakakataba po ng puso ang kanyang mga binitawang salita.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Congressman Roque. Thank you, Congressman Acosta.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROQUE (R.). Maraming salamata, Mme. Speaker.

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Roque and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Rules.

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

ROLL CALL

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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. 62, dated January 25, 2017:

ROLL CALL

PRESENT

Abaya	Cayetano
Abayon	Celeste
Abellanos	Cerifica
Abu	Cerilles
Abueg	Chavez
Acharon	Chipeco
Acop	Co
Acosta	Cojuangco
Advincula	Collantes
Aggabao	Cortes
Aglipay-Villar	Cortuna
Almario	Cosalan
Almonte	Crisologo
Alonte-Naguilat	Cuaresma
Alvarez (F.)	Cueva
Alvarez (P.)	Dalipe
Amante	Dalog
Amatong	Daza
Andaya	De Jesus
Angara-Castillo	De Venecia
Aragones	De Vera
Arcillas	Del Mar
Arenas	Del Rosario
Atienza	Deloso-Montalla
Aumentado	Dimaporo (A.)
Bag-ao	Dimaporo (M.K.)
Bagatsing	Duavit
Banal	Dy
Barbers	Erice
Barzaga	Eriguel
Batocabe	Ermita-Buhain
Bautista-Bandigan	Escudero
Belaro	Estrella
Belmonte (F.)	Evardone
Belmonte (R.)	Fariñas
Benitez	Fernando
Biazon	Ferrer (L.)
Billones	Ferriol-Pascual
Bolilia	Floirendo
Bondoc	Fortuno
Bordado	Fuentebella
Bravo (A.)	Garbin
Bravo (M.V.)	Garcia (G.)
Brosas	Garcia (J.E.)
Cagas	Garcia-Albano
Calderon	Garin (R.)
Campos	Garin (S.)
Canama	Gasataya
Casilao	Geron
Castelo	Go (M.)
Castro (F.L.)	Gomez
Castro (F.H.)	Gonzales (A.D.)

Gonzalez	Pineda
Gorriceta	Primicias-Agabas
Gullas	Quimbo
Hernandez	Ramos
Herrera-Dy	Revilla
Hofer	Roa-Puno
Jalosjos	Rodriguez (I.)
Kho	Rodriguez (M.)
Labadlabad	Roman
Lacson	Romualdo
Lagman	Roque (H.)
Lanete	Salceda
Laogan	Salo
Lee	Salon
Limkaichong	Sambar
Lobregat	Sandoval
Lopez (B.)	Santos-Recto
Lopez (C.)	Sarmiento (C.)
Lopez (M.L.)	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Macapagal-Arroyo	Savellano
Malapitan	Siao
Manalo	Silverio
Mangaoang	Singson
Mangudadatu (S.)	Suansing (E.)
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Suansing (H.)
Marcoleta	Suarez
Marcos	Sy-Alvarado
Mariño	Tambunting
Martinez	Tan (A.)
Mellana	Tan (M.)
Mercado	Tejada
Mirasol	Teves
Montoro	Ting
Nava	Tinio
Nieto	Tugna
Noel	Ty
Nogralas (J.J.)	Ungab
Nogralas (K.A.)	Unico
Nolasco	Uy (J.)
Oaminal	Uy (R.)
Olivarez	Vargas-Alfonso
Ong (E.)	Velarde
Ong (H.)	Velasco
Ortega (P.)	Velasco-Catera
Ortega (V.N.)	Veloso
Pacquiao	Vergara
Paduano	Villanueva
Palma	Villarica
Pancho	Villarín
Panganiban	Violago
Panotes	Yu
Papandayan	Zamora (R.)
Pimentel	Zubiri

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 210 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 61, dated January 24, 2017.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is there any objection to the motion to approve the Journal? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Journal No. 61 of the session on January 24, 2017 is hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of the following measures:

1. House Bills No. 289, 587, 1868, 3616 and 3627, from the Committee on Revision of Laws to the Committee on Dangerous Drugs.

2. House Bill No. 4151, from the Committee on Dangerous Drugs and Revision of Laws to the Committee on Dangerous Drugs;

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

REP. NOEL. Also, Mme. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of the following measures:

3. House Bill No. 1486, from the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and Higher and Technical Education to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

4. House Bills No. 1956, 2138, and 2590, from the Committee on Basic Education and Culture to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

5. House Bill No. 2137, from the Committee on Public Order and Safety and National Defense and Security to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education; and

6. House Bills No. 2513, 2546, 2738, and 3490, from the Committee on Health to the Committee on Social Services.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 210 Members responded to the call.

REP. NOEL. I move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

It was 5:27 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:29 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration of the following local bills contained in the Calendar of Business for Thursday and Friday:

1. House Bill No. 4782, as contained in Committee Report No. 51; and
2. House Bill No. 833, as contained in Committee Report No. 52.

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I also move that the Secretary General be directed to read the titles of the bills.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, *reading*:

1. House Bill No. 4782, AN ACT RENAMING KAY TIKLING- ANTIPOLLO-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; and

2. House Bill No. 833, AN ACT RENAMING THE MONTEVISTA-CATEEL NATIONAL HIGHWAY TRAVERSING THE MUNICIPALITY OF COMPOSTELA, COMPOSTELA VALLEY PROVINCE INTO THE BENIGNO S. AQUINO, JR. NATIONAL HIGHWAY.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate, and that

the respective Explanatory Notes be attached to the committee reports and be adopted as the sponsorship speeches on the measures.

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

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to speak against the measures, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is closed.

REP. NOEL. I move that we vote on Second Reading House Bills No. 4782 and 833.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). There is a motion to approve House Bill No. 4782 and House Bill No. 833 on Second Reading. All those in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). All those against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*)

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin S): The *ayes* have it, House Bill No. 4782 and House Bill No. 833 are hereby approved on Second Reading.*

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, this Representation would like to request the principal Sponsor of these two measures, renaming certain areas as Corazon C. Aquino Avenue and the other one is for Benigno S. Aquino Jr. National Highway, for the inclusion of BUHAY Party-List and this Representative to be a cosponsor.

REP. LOBREGAT. It would be an honor to accept.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). If the principal authors of the Bill have no objection to such, then ...

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). ... Congressman Atienza is included as coauthor of the said Bills.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is suspended.

It was 5:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:36 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.) The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until four o'clock in the afternoon of Monday, January 30, 2017.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.) Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until Monday, January 30, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 5:36 p.m.