



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

## House of Representatives

Vol. 3

Monday, February 6, 2017

No. 66

### CALL TO ORDER

*At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Mylene J. Garcia-Albano called the session to order.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
The session is called to order.

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
Everybody will please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
Everybody will please remain standing for the Invocation which will be led by the Hon. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez of the Party-List BUTIL.

*Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.*

### INVOCATION

REP. CHAVEZ. Lord, Father in heaven, we praise and thank You for this day, for the gift of life that You have bestowed upon us, for showing love and compassion, and for all the things we enjoy and the things we take for granted.

Lord, we praise and thank You for showing goodness to our beloved nation and our countrymen.

We lift up to You our nation and our people. We lift up to You our leaders, that they may continue to serve the people's interest.

As lawmakers, we present ourselves to Your mercy, that we may be able to craft laws in accordance with Your will. Protect us from intentions that might curtail truth and justice. Provide us with the gift of knowledge and wisdom so that we may understand any misunderstanding, correct our faults and avoid confusion.

Please allow us to be instruments of good as we bow down and submit to Your will.

This, we pray to You, our Lord. Amen.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).  
The Dep. Floor Leader is recognized.

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

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

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

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business and direct the Secretary General to read the same.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business

### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 4867, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SEPARATE SCHOOLS DIVISION OFFICE IN THE CITY OF VICTORIAS, MUNICIPALITIES OF EB MAGALONA AND MANAPLA, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Benitez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4868, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE BUREAU OF  
CUSTOMS AS THE PHILIPPINE BORDER  
PROTECTION AND CUSTOMS SERVICE”

By Representatives Matugas and Suansing (H.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 4869, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE  
ESTABLISHMENT OF BREAST  
CARE CENTERS IN EVERY REGION  
NATIONWIDE, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4870, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REFUGE AND  
ASSISTANCE CENTER FOR YOUNG  
PREGNANT WOMEN IN EVERY  
PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY  
OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND  
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 4871, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SECURITY  
OF TENURE FOR ALL CASUAL AND  
CONTRACTUAL EMPLOYEES OF THE  
GOVERNMENT WHO HAVE RENDERED  
THE PRESCRIBED YEARS OF SERVICE IN  
THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES  
AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 4872, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY  
OF RECLUSION TEMPORAL AND  
RECLUSION PERPETUA, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3815,  
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED  
PENAL CODE, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Daza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF  
LAWS

House Bill No. 4873, entitled:

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

By Representative Daza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 4874, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH  
SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MAMPANG  
IN ZAMBOANGA CITY, TO BE KNOWN  
AS MAMPANG NATIONAL HIGH  
SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR”

By Representative Dalipe  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 4875, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE LABUAN PUBLIC  
HOSPITAL INTO A SECONDARY LEVEL  
HOSPITAL AND INCREASING THE  
BED CAPACITY FOR GENERAL CARE  
SERVICES TO ONE HUNDRED (100),  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR  
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Dalipe  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 4876, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL MOTOR VEHICLES  
TO HAVE A THIRD BRAKE LIGHT OR  
STOP LIGHT AND MANUFACTURERS OF  
MOTOR VEHICLES TO INSTALL THIRD  
BRAKE LIGHT, AMENDING FOR THE  
PURPOSE SECTION 34, ARTICLE IV OF  
REPUBLIC ACT 4136, BETTER KNOWN  
AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND  
TRAFFIC CODE”

By Representatives Velarde, Atienza and Sarmiento  
(C.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 4877, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE GOOD NEWS  
SORSOGON FOUNDATION, INC.,  
A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT,  
INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN  
FOR RELIGIOUS, EDUCATIONAL AND  
COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, RADIO AND  
TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS  
WITHIN THE BICOL REGION AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Escudero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE  
FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 4878, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE RADIATION AND NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION, PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION AND CONTROL OF NUCLEAR AND OTHER RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS, FACILITIES, AND RADIATION GENERATING EQUIPMENT, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Salo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 4879, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS AND AMENDING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO GATEWAY U.H.F. TELEVISION BROADCASTING INC. NOW GATEWAY TELEVISION BROADCASTING, INC. DOING BUSINESS UNDER THE NAME AND STYLE HOPE CHANNEL PHILIPPINES, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7223”

By Representative Abayon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

#### RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 729, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING 2016 BB. PILIPINAS - UNIVERSE TITLIST MAXINE GUILLERMO MEDINA FOR EARNING A SPOT IN THE ‘FINAL SIX (6)’, IN THE RECENTLY CONCLUDED 65TH MISS UNIVERSE BEAUTY PAGEANT HELD LAST JANUARY 30, 2017, IN OUR COUNTRY”

By Representative Romualdez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 730, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING ALL THE STAKEHOLDERS AND ORGANIZERS FOR A VERY SUCCESSFUL STAGING OF THE 65TH MISS UNIVERSE BEAUTY PAGEANT HELD IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Romualdez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 731, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE COLLECTIVE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO COMMEND AND THANK CHAIRMAN LUIS ‘CHAVIT’ SINGSON AND HIS LCS GROUP OF COMPANIES FOR BEING INSTRUMENTAL IN MAKING THE MS. UNIVERSE PAGEANT HAPPEN IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR ENSURING THE SUCCESSFUL STAGING OF THE SAID PAGEANT”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 732, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING FILIPINO-AMERICAN NINIO FETALVO FOR BEING APPOINTED AS ASSISTANT PRESS SECRETARY OF THE WHITE HOUSE UNDER THE NEWLY INSTALLED TRUMP ADMINISTRATION”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte for House Bill No. 4521;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bill No. 447;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 1320, 1722, 1723, and 1728;

Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel for House Bills No. 1339, 2635, and 4742;

Reps. Ben P. Evardone and Arnulfo P. Fuentebella for House Bill No. 4174;

Reps. Enrico A. Pineda, Ramon V.A. “Rav” Rocamora, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Deogracias B. Ramos Jr., Raul A. Daza, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Salvador B. Belaro Jr., Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu, Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, and Raul V. Del Mar for House Bill No. 4742;

Rep. Vincent “Bingbong” P. Crisologo for House Bills No. 1858, 1859, 2758, 4689, and 4742;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 400, 927, 2782, 3169, 3986, 4365, 4724, and 4735;

Reps. Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI, Divina Grace C. Yu, Mark O. Go, and Sitti Djalia A. Turabin-Hataman for House Bill No. 4689;

Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar for House Bills No. 1554, 1555, 1853, 2141, 3557, and 3632;

Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria for House Bills No. 1853, 3556, 3557, and 4127;

Rep. Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan for House Bills No. 2141, 3556, 3557, 3632, and 4127;

Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo for House Bill No. 438;

Rep. Ronald M. Cosalan for House Bill No. 381;

Rep. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang for House Bills No. 381, 581, and 735;

Rep. Celso L. Lobregat for House Bills No. 3671, 4365, and 4689;

Reps. Ana Cristina Siquian Go, Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, and Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao for House Bills No. 4570 and 4571;

Rep. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba for House Bills No. 34 and 2135;

Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr. for House Resolution No. 198;

Rep. Rodel M. Batocabe for House Bills No. 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 262, 263, 264, 265, 436, 437, 438, 565, 566, 567, 568, 569, 956, 957, 958, 959, 960, 961, 962, 963, 964, 965, 966, 967, 992, 1241, 1242, 1243, 1244, 1245, 1246, 1339, 1340, 1556, 1557, 1558, 1587, 1588, 1589, 1590, 1685, 1794, 1795, 2133, 2430, and 4742, and House Resolution No. 79;

Rep. Tom S. Villarín for House Bill No. 263;

Reps. Salvio B. Fortuno, Gabriel H. Bordado Jr., Elisa “Olga” T. Kho, Dennis C. Laogan, Marisol C. Panotes, Evelina G. Escudero, Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Deogracias B. Ramos Jr., Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Michael L. Romero, Ph.D., Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Francisco Jose F. Matugas II, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, Geraldine B. Roman, Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Micaela S. Violago, Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno, Arnel U. Ty, Ron P. Salo, Salvador B. Belaro Jr., Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr., Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II, Strike B. Revilla, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Edwin C. Ong, Dale “Along” R. Malapitan, John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Manuel F. Zubiri, Munir M. Arbison, Maanyag “Jun” B. Papandayan Jr., Eric M. Martinez, Fernando V. Gonzalez, and Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia for House Bill No. 2430;

Rep. Reynaldo V. Umali for House Bill No. 1859;

Rep. Arnel U. Ty for House Bills No. 515, 516, 517, 1038, 1039, 1378, 1536, 1537, 1836, 1837, 2263, 2264, 2265, and 3435;

Rep. Lawrence H. Fortun for House Bill No. 2466;

Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda for House Bill No. 4742 and House Resolution No. 198;

Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. for House Bill No. 4783;

Rep. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D. for House Bill No. 4820;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bill No. 4575;

Rep. Frederick “Erick” F. Abueg for House Bill No. 3010;

Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo for House Bills

No. 1159, 3776, 4262, 4266, 4267, 4268, 4292, and 4394;

Rep. Isidro S. Rodriguez Jr. for House Bill No. 2635;

Reps. Francisco Jose F. Matugas II, H. Harry L. Roque Jr., Allen Jesse C. Mangaoang, Oscar “Richard” S. Garin Jr., Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, Maria Valentina G. Plaza, Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas, and Prospero A. Pichay Jr. for House Bill No. 4105;

Rep. Henry C. Ong for House Bill No. 1675;

Rep. Jesus “Boying” F. Celeste for House Bills No. 4570 and 4742;

Rep. Jose Carlos L. Cari for House Bill No. 3254;

Reps. Winston “Winnie” Castelo, Deogracias B. Ramos Jr., Arnel U. Ty, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Orestes T. Salon, Randolph S. Ting, Luisa Lloren Cuaresma, and Doy C. Leachon for House Resolution No. 198;

Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate for House Bill No. 4800;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bills No. 1608 and 3879;

Rep. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo for House Bills No. 1554, 1555, 1853, 2141, 3556, 3557, 3632, 3945, and 4127;

Rep. Mark O. Go for House Bill No. 4273;

Rep. Arnel M. Cerafica for House Bill No. 3451;

Rep. Emmanuel F. Madrona for House Bills No. 1853, 2141, 3556, 3557, 3632, 3945, and 4127; and

Rep. Alexandria P. Gonzales for House Bill No. 209.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Letters dated December 16, 2016 and January 9, 16, 19, 25 and 26, 2017 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas issuances, to wit:

1. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-095 dated 2 December 2016;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-096 dated 1 December 2016;
3. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-105 dated 28 December 2016;
4. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-106 dated 22 December 2016;
5. Memorandum No. M-2016-025 dated 28 December 2016;
6. Circular No. 938 dated 23 December 2016;
7. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-001 dated 9 January 2017;
8. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-002 dated 9 January 2017;
9. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-003 dated 9 January 2017;

10. Circular Letter No. CL-2016-107 dated 29 December 2016;
11. Circular No. 939 dated 12 January 2017;
12. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-004 dated 12 January 2017;
13. Circular No. 940 dated 20 January 2017;
14. Circular No. 941 dated 20 January 2017;
15. Circular No. 942 dated 20 January 2017;
16. Memorandum No. M-2017-001 dated 17 January 2017; and
17. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-005 dated 20 January 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND  
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated January 16, 2017 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the Consolidated Report on the audit of the Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Fund for the Calendar Year 2015.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 17, 2017 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, submitting the Revised Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program ((RAFPMP) First Quarter Report, and approved First and Second List of Projects for Phase I of the RAFPMP, pursuant to Section 3 of Republic Act No. 7898, as amended by Republic Act No. 10349.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AND SECURITY

Letters dated January 17, 2017 of Peter Tiu Laviña, Administrator, National Irrigation Administration, furnishing the House of Representatives with the following reports, to wit:

1. CY 2016 Fourth Quarter Report for Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agriculture Development Project (MinSAAD); and
2. Fourth Quarter Report of NIA CARP-Irrigation Component for CY 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

Letter dated January 24, 2017 of Adoracion M. Navarro, Undersecretary for Regional Development and Officer-in-Charge, National Economic and Development Authority, submitting to the House of Representatives the list of foreign retailers selling high-end or luxury goods, pursuant to Section 8 of Republic Act No. 8762.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND  
INDUSTRY

Letter dated January 24, 2017 of Diwa C. Guinigundo, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting the Report to Congress on Public Sector Foreign Loans approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), Fourth Quarter 2016 and the entire year.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND  
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 76), re H.B. No. 2924, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY CRISTO REY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAPAS, PROVINCE OF TARLAC”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Villanueva

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 77), re H.B. No. 4923, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY PAMPANGA IN THE CITY OF DAVAO INTO THREE (3) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY PAMPANGA, BARANGAY ALFONSO ANGLIONGTO, SR., AND BARANGAY V. HIZON”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2003

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Garcia-Albano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 78), re H.B. No. 4924, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY MAGUGPO IN THE CITY OF TAGUM, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE INTO FIVE (5) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY MAGUGPO POBLACION, BARANGAY MAGUGPO EAST, BARANGAY MAGUGPO NORTH AND BARANGAY MAGUGPO SOUTH”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4507

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Alvarez (P.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 79), re H.B. No. 4925, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING THE ONE-BARANGAY MUNICIPALITY OF DUMALNEG IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE INTO THREE (3) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY KALAW, BARANGAY CABARITAN AND BARANGAY QUIBEL”  
recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4496

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 80), re H.B. No. 3841, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY CENTRAL SIGNAL VILLAGE IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METRO MANILA”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Cayetano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 81), re H.B. No. 4927, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING BARANGAY UPPER PUGAAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DITSAAN-RAMAIN, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL SUR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1516

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Adiong  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 82), re H.B. No. 3840, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY SOUTH SIGNAL VILLAGE IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METRO MANILA”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Cayetano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 83), re H.B. No. 3839, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY NORTH SIGNAL VILLAGE IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METRO MANILA”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Cayetano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 84), re H.B. No. 4934, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY SAN ISIDRO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TITAY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2501

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Hofer  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 85), re H.B. No. 4935, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY DON ALBINO T. TARUC IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOCORRO, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 214

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Matugas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 86), re H.B. No. 4937, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY CARE IN THE CITY OF TARLAC, PROVINCE OF TARLAC”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 867

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Yap (V.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 87), re H.B. No. 3845, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY NEW LOWER BICUTAN IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METRO MANILA”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Cayetano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 88), re H.B. No. 3850, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY SAN MIGUEL IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METRO MANILA”

recommending its approval without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Cayetano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government  
(Committee Report No. 89), re H.B. No. 4938,  
entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY POBLACION 3  
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLANUEVA,  
PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL”

recommending its approval in substitution of House  
Bill No. 1927

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Uy (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government  
(Committee Report No. 90), re H.B. No. 4940,  
entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY LIWON IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF ASIPULO, PROVINCE  
OF IFUGAO”

recommending its approval in substitution of House  
Bill No. 1109

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Baguilat  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government  
(Committee Report No. 91), re H.B. No. 3849,  
entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY TANYAG IN THE  
CITY OF TAGUIG, METRO MANILA”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Cayetano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government  
(Committee Report No. 92), re H.B. No. 3848,  
entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY KATUPARAN  
IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METRO  
MANILA”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and  
Cayetano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government  
(Committee Report No. 93), re H.B. No. 4941,  
entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY RIZAL IN THE  
CITY OF MAKATI”

recommending its approval in substitution of House  
Bill No. 3424

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Campos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government  
(Committee Report No. 94), re H.B. No. 3843,  
entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY SOUTH DAANG  
HARI IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METRO  
MANILA”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Cayetano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government  
(Committee Report No. 95), re H.B. No. 3844,  
entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY CENTRAL  
BICUTAN IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG,  
METRO MANILA”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Cayetano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government  
(Committee Report No. 96), re H.B. No. 3842,  
entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY NORTH DAANG  
HARI IN THE CITY OF TAGUIG, METRO  
MANILA”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and  
Cayetano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government  
(Committee Report No. 97), re H.B. No. 4942,  
entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE  
KNOWN AS BARANGAY PUDO IN THE  
MUNICIPALITY OF NATONIN, MOUNTAIN  
PROVINCE”

recommending its approval in substitution of House  
Bill No. 284

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Dalog  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government  
(Committee Report No. 98), re H.B. No. 4943, entitled:

“AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY CANUMAY  
IN THE CITY OF VALENZUELA INTO  
TWO (2) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT

BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY CANUMAY WEST AND BARANGAY CANUMAY EAST”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1327

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 99), re H.B. No. 4946, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING PANGLAO ISLAND CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD TRAVERSING BARANGAYSTANGNAN, BIL-ISAN, LOOC, POBLACION, DANA O, TAWALA, BOLOD AND LIBAONG IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PANGLAO AND BARANGAYS TOTOLAN, SONGCULAN, TABALONG, BINGAG, DAO, SAN ISIDRO, BIKING 1, BIKING 2, CATARMAN, MAYACABAC, POBLACION AND UNION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DAUIS, AS PANGLAO ISLAND-ANOS FONACIER CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4053

Sponsors: Representatives Lobregat, Relampagos and Del Mar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 100), re H.B. No. 4947, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE ROAD TRAVERSING BARANGAYS SAN JOSE, TOLENTINO WEST, TOLENTINO EAST, FRANCISCO, SUNGAY WEST (LEFT SIDE), SUNGAY EAST (RIGHT SIDE), SUNGAY EAST, IRUHIN WEST, IRUHIN CENTRAL, IRUHIN EAST AND DAPDAP WEST IN THE CITY OF TAGAYTAY, PROVINCE OF CAVITE TO ISAAC O. TOLENTINO AVENUE”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1992

Sponsors: Representatives Lobregat and Tolentino

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Floor Leader is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, today being a Monday, and pursuant to our Rules, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Privilege Hour is hereby opened.

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I now move that the Gentleman from the Lone District of Bacolod City, Hon. Greg G. Gasataya, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

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

The Hon. Greg Gasataya from the Lone District of Bacolod City is hereby recognized to deliver his privilege speech.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. GASATAYA

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

Mme. Speaker, perhaps the most painful question a farmer can hear from his child before he sleeps is “Tay, matulog na lang kita nga indi akapanyapun?” or in Tagalog, “Tay, matutulog na lang ba tayo nang hindi maghahapunan?”

We were once in a very challenging situation when the sugar industry in the early 1980s was in crisis. Negros experienced a major devastation in its centenary history as the Sugarlandia of the Philippines. Thousands of sugarcane workers faced hunger because of the collapse of the sugar industry. As to how those who came before us described them, they were nearly walking dead. In our place, we call it “tiempo muerto” or “dead season.” Mme. Speaker, the United States of America stopped buying most of its sugar from the Philippines, and sugar prices fell to its lowest. In that fateful month of May of 1984, that boy that you can see on the wide screen, Joel Abong, was confined in a government hospital and died two weeks later after that picture was taken by a journalist from *The San Francisco Examiner*. He died because of tuberculosis and third-degree malnutrition. In simple terms, Mme. Speaker, he died because he had nothing to eat.

No less than Ka Freddie Aguilar was inspired to compose the song “Sagipin natin ang mga bata sa Negros” to show his support to improve the condition of children in Negros. Si Joel po, Mme. Speaker, ang mukha ng batang Negros noong mga panahong iyon. That part of our history will always be remembered as a precious lesson—when the character of the people was tested and faith was measured by choosing between dying and living in the face of hunger and death. It was a difficult moment but just like any adversity, it too had come to pass. Our resiliency had given us renaissance. Mme. Speaker, our farmers now are back to farming



with high hopes, while their children enjoy the right to education, taking their lessons no longer under the trees, but inside the four corners of a classroom.

Three decades later, Negros is once again confronted with an issue threatening to bring us back to a situation we all despise. Kung sa terminology ng mga kabataan ngayon, this is not the kind of throwback we want for our people. With the importation of high-fructose corn syrup or HFCS and its impending domination in industries using sugar as an essential ingredient, today, we feel something is dragging us back after we have courageously moved forward. Mme. Speaker, we take this matter very seriously as it gives us horrible figures showing its adverse effects on the Philippine sugarcane industry, which is a huge industry contributing no less than P87 billion to our economy annually.

According to the sugar planters and sugar organizations, Mme. Speaker, the importation of HFCS as an artificial sweetener has caused a dramatic drop in the price of sugar from P1,800 per 50-kilogram bag in September 2016 to P1,500 in December of the same year, and a stagnation of the sugar inventory. Mme. Speaker, they further stated that, as per records of the Bureau of Customs, around 235,000 metric tons of HFCS, equivalent to 352,000 metric tons of sugar, entered the country in 2016, translating to a loss of about P10.5 billion in the sugar industry. Mme. Speaker, these organizations had projected an opportunity loss in the amount of P25 billion. Evidently, the entry of HFCS, which is almost 50 percent cheaper than our locally produced sugar, is a big problem not only of the sugar planters but also of our sugar workers.

Negros Island, the Sugar Bowl of the Philippines and producer of 57 percent of the Philippines' total volume of domestic sugar, considers this industry as the lifeblood of its economy. Certainly, the continuous importation of HFCS or the high-fructose corn syrup will cause a damage of very unimaginable proportions to all sugar stakeholders. For the businessmen, this is loss of income, but for the farmers and sugar workers, this is loss of hope.

According to the Sugar Regulatory Administration, 82 percent of the total number of farmers in the country, consisting of 63,000, own less than five hectares of land, and only less than one percent or 370 farmers own 100 hectares or bigger, contrary to the popular notion that the sugar industry is only for the hacenderos with thousands of hectares of land. Mme. Speaker, it is also noteworthy that the lands owned by some of these farmers were actually given by the government through the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program. In other words, it is the government which gave them the chance to farm and thus, they are able to feed their families. Now, it is the same government to which they are calling for help, to let them continue living through farming. Mme. Speaker, there are about 750,000 to

800,000 plantation workers, 15,000 sugar mill workers, and about a million migrant laborers commonly known as sacadas who are directly dependent on the sugar industry. Hence, to say that these people need protection is an understatement, Mme. Speaker.

There are unprecedented, adverse possibilities emerging from this continuous importation. Aside from the inevitable reduction of market outlets for locally-produced sugar, living conditions will suffer. If this continues, Mme. Speaker, poverty and hunger will result in turmoil, causing chaos in the erstwhile peaceful island of Negros we are living in. If we let the sugar industry die in the hands of the unregulated industry of HFCS, how will our farmers and sugar workers be able to sustain their living?

Mme. Speaker, we cannot afford to create monsters out of our hungry farmers and workers who would possibly settle for or engage in illegal activities just to earn money to have food on their tables and be able to send their children to school. Mme. Speaker, how about our brothers and sisters who used to hold guns to fight for and claim their right to their lands and now, have set their feet onto the path of government? We cannot let them go back to the same thing again and create another widespread problem of insurgency just because the government is not able to protect their industry. Mme. Speaker, money is no longer the root of all evil but the lack of money is. In this particular issue, we do not only fear unemployment, we do not only fear loss of income or the loss of access to education. What we fear most is the loss of hope in life and the loss of faith in humanity.

Mme. Speaker, I will not pretend to be an expert in these things. I do not want to say that I am an authority when it comes to the sugar industry because, Mme. Speaker, this Representation is not a sugar planter, neither is my family. It would have been a different story, Mme. Speaker, if what we advance here is the interest of the transport sector because being a son of a jeepney driver, I would have hundreds and thousands of stories to tell.

Mme. Speaker, we do not need much of or a lot of science to be able to understand the cause of the planters, the workers, as well as our farmers. We do not need a degree in economics or commerce to understand this. We only need the heart and the eyes to feel and to see the situation they are in right now. We need not be businessmen or sugar tycoons for us to take an interest and join in this fight. We only have to listen to and feel what they are saying and feeling right now, Mme. Speaker. Let us listen to these farmers' and sugar workers' shout for help. Let us listen even more to the shouts of the farmer's wife and the farmer's children.

Mme. Speaker, and my dear colleagues, this Representation, together with 14 other Members coming from the sugar-producing provinces, will file

a resolution calling for an inquiry in aid of legislation on the importation of high-fructose corn syrup. Mme. Speaker, this is our simple way of echoing the voices of our farmers and workers, the voices that scream—and I am looking at the picture—that “There should be no more Joel Abongs,” Mme. Speaker.

Maraming salamat at salamat sa pagbibigay ng oras sa akin, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Thank you, Representative Gasataya. The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of Hon. Greg Gasataya to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The speech of the Honorable Gasataya is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, the next one to deliver her privilege speech is the Hon. Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra A. Sema. May I ask that we recognize her.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Our colleague, the Hon. Bai Sandra Sinsuat A. Sema, is recognized to deliver her privilege speech.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. SEMA

REP. SEMA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, honorable colleagues.

Good afternoon. Assalamalaikum.

As the Deputy Speaker representing the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao or the ARMM, this Representation would like to express the full support of the Bangsamoro people to the peace efforts being undertaken by our President—President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. We know that it is not easy to be the President. There are many Members of Congress, both in the Senate and in the House of Representatives; and there are many members in the Judiciary, both in the Supreme Court and in the lower courts created by law, but we only have one President who is our Chief Executive and our head of state. We, in Mindanao, pin our hopes on the first Mindanaoan President we ever had. We, in war-torn Mindanao, are now saying, “This may be our last hope to peace.”

We witnessed the roller-coaster direction of our peace process. Recently, Mme. Speaker, this Representation, together with other Members of this august Body, was

in Rome, Italy to observe the peace talks between the government of the Republic of the Philippines and the National Democratic Front or the NDF. As we know, we still have the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro awaiting the appointment of its commissioners. We still have our Tripoli Agreement and the 1996 Final Peace Agreement awaiting full implementation, and many others. Many are saying that the documents were signed, but the goods had not been delivered. Promises were sealed, but actions were not undertaken. More than anybody else, the Bangsamoro people have been suffering way beyond recorded history. This has, indeed, been a long and bumpy road to peace. But we must not grow tired as peace is the only battle worth fighting, for peace is not a distant goal that we seek, but the means by which we arrive at that goal. The best things in life cannot be forced, according to Albert Einstein, and peace cannot be kept by force but can only be achieved through understanding.

So, Mme. Speaker, we must keep on talking and listening, even listening to our perceived enemies. If we want to make peace, we do not talk to our friends but we talk to our enemies and make them our friends. The more we sweat in peace, the less we bleed in war. Of course, things may have their limitations but, nonetheless, we repose our trust in the President. He makes a balancing act in the interplay of interests in this multifaceted nation, that while he may be sailing in precarious waters, he is in a better position to see the horizon than those who may only have a glimpse of it; and for him to stand firmly, we must provide him with the necessary support so that he can properly direct our way.

As for the Bangsamoro people, Mme. Speaker, we are banking on the sincerity of our Mindanaoan President in whose veins runs the blood of a Moro. We have been discriminated against after the Zamboanga siege and the Mamasapano massacre, not to mention that we have always been discriminated against. The road to peace may be bumpy and thorny, but we know that the President feels our pains and has witnessed our sufferings.

We understand that some sectors have the habit of putting us always in a bad light. When one see evildoers in other parts of the country, the perceived practical solution is to send them to Mindanao. We have always been a recipient of bad eggs—bad policemen, bad military, bad government employees. But because for the first time our President hails from Mindanao, we hope that he will no longer send us anything bad, and that our situation would be better this time. We must keep in mind that there are saboteurs of peace—people who promote impatience, desire division, accuse the innocent, malign the upright, divert attention from truths to lies. Simply put, these are the people who muddle up things because they are not at peace with peace. That unpeace serves their purpose.

In summary, Mme. Speaker, honorable colleagues, the road to peace may be bumpy and thorny, but it is only after we have risen above the cloud of temptations that we will be able to see how clear peace can be.

Marami pong salamat. Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Thank you, Deputy Speaker Sema.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the honorable Deputy Speaker Sandra Sema to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none: the motion is approved.

The speech of the honorable Deputy Speaker Sema is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, next to avail of the Privilege Hour, may we recognize the Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus from the GABRIELA Party-List for her privilege speech. I so move Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The honorable Rep. Emmi De Jesus from the Party-List GABRIELA is hereby recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. DE JESUS

REP. DE JESUS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, mga kabaro, kapwa Kinatawan at panauhin ng Mababang Kapulungan.

Magandang hapon sa ating lahat.

Gabi ng ika-uno ng Pebrero nang mabilis na kumalat ang balita tungkol sa malaking sunog sa pabrika ng House Technology Industries sa Cavite Export Processing Zone, General Trias, Cavite. Nilamon ng apoy ang anim na ektaryang gusali ng HTI, kung saan ang bilang ng manggagawang nagta-trabaho na sa kabuuan ay humigit-kumulang sa 15,000. Ang aktuwal na bilang ng mga manggagawa noong nangyari ang sunog, hanggang ngayon, ay hindi pa rin masabi dahil karamihan sa kanila ay kontraktwal at ang tunay na bilang ay nasa kanilang agencies. Kagimbal-gimbal ang larawan ng paglilibay ng malaking pabrika na may tatlong palapag, na agad nagpaalala sa atin ng trahedya naganap sa pabrika ng Kentex Manufacturing at iba pang pagawaan, na ang naging mga biktima ng sunog ay ang mga manggagawa.

Mabilis ang naging pagtataya ng danyos sa property ng HTI. In fact, umaga ng Huwebes, may mga pagtantiya na at mayroon nang mga binabanggit

na plano para tiyakin na hindi matitigil ang operasyon ng mga orders mula sa pagawaang nabanggit, subalit ang malungkot, walang opisyal at maagap na pagtala ng mga bilang ng mga manggagawang malubhang nasugatan o mas malala, kung may nasawi ba. Tila mas nababahala pa ang mga lokal na opisyal at ang PEZA sa idinulot na pinsala sa ari-arian ng HTI, isang Japanese-Singaporean manufacturing company na gumagawa ng mga prefabricated housing materials, kabilang ang fireproof materials.

Sa pinakahuling ulat, si Jerome Sismaet, isang manggagawa doon, ay pumanaw na matapos magtamo ng matinding burn injuries. Nangangamba kami na marami pang manggagawa ang nasa kritikal na kondisyon at nasa bingit ng kamatayan. May ilang ulat din kaugnay sa mga manggagawang naipit sa second and third floors ng gusali dahil sa sunog na naapula matapos pa ang dalawang araw.

Mme. Speaker, mga kapwa Kinatawan, inilalantad ng malaking sunog sa HTI kung paano ang buhay at kaligtasan ng mga manggagawa sa economic zones ay nagiging sekundarya na lamang sa kapital at ari-arian, na para bang kolateral lamang ang mga manggagawa, na para bang sila ay panggatong sa industriyal na pugon na alay sa kapital. Pero sa aktuwal, hindi tatakbo ang makina at gagana ang pabrika ng HTI kung wala ang lakas ng manggagawa. Sila ang buod at kaluluwa ng pabrika na lumilikha ng yaman ng isang malaking exporter.

Sinasalamin din ng sunog-industriyal sa HTI ang reyalidad sa special economic zones, na para bang may sarili itong batas at kumpas ng pribadong sektor. Sa katunayan, sinabi na mismo ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Cavite na hindi nito saklaw ang malawak na lupain ng economic zone, at kahit mismo ang mga bumbero at kapulisan ay hindi agad nakapasok sa lugar pagawaan ng HTI. Sa ganitong konteksto, higit na naging mailap ang katotohanan kaugnay ng pangyayari. Hindi ba dapat na mangamba na tayo na may whitewash sa insidente para pagtakpan ang pananagutan ng kompanya at mga opisyal ng PEZA, at para pangalagaan ang imahe ng special economic zones sa bansa. Subalit noon pa man, ang Representasyong ito ay nagpahayag na ng kanyang pagkabahala sa kalagayan ng mga manggagawa sa loob ng mga sonang ito kung saan talamak ang kontraktualisasyon at mahigpit na ipinagbabawal ang pag-uunyon.

Hindi maaaring tawagin lamang na aksidente ang sunog sa HTI. Sa katunayan, dalawang araw pa bago naapula ang sunog sa pabrika. Ang sunog-industriyal gaya nito ay naglilantad kung gaano ka-atrasado ang kapasidad ng Cavite Export Processing Zone para rumesponde sa malaking sunog, at ang ibayong pagtitipid sa kaligtasan ng mga manggagawa.

Inirerehistro namin sa GABRIELA, kasama ang iba pang Kinatawan mula sa Makabayan bloc, na hindi

maaaring mag-move on na lamang mula sa sunog sa HTI. Dapat magkaroon ng kagyat at publikong imbestigasyon kaugnay sa sunog at tiyakin at tukuyin ang pananagutan ng kompanya at ng Philippine Export Zone Authority. Dapat din maging tuntungan ang sunog sa HTI para aralin at repasuhin ang Special Economic Zone Act of 1995, na nagta-transporma sa mga engklabo bilang “sonang libre” na hindi saklaw ng batas at regulasyon ng pamahalaan. Dapat magkaroon ng masusi at komprehensibong pagsisiyasat sa mga economic zones sa bansa at silipin ang pagpapatupad ng mga pamantayan, lalo na iyong kaugnay sa occupational health and safety.

Mariin naming ipinapanawagan ang katarungan para sa mga manggagawa ng HTI, subalit ang panawagang ito ay hindi dapat ilimita sa tulong medikal at pinansiyal sa mga nasawi at nasaktan. Ang panawagang katarungan at hustisya ay panawagan para wakasan na ang abuso at pagtitipid sa kaligtasan ng mga manggagawa para sa layuning higit na makapiga ng mas maraming tubo. Ang panawagang katarungan ay pagtitiyak na hindi na mauulit ang katulad na trahedyang.

Magandang hapon sa ating mga kasama sa Kongreso.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Emmi De Jesus from GABRIELA Party-List to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The speech of the Hon. Emmi De Jesus is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ORTEGA (V.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Second District of Surigao del Norte, Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers, to avail of the Privilege Hour. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Robert Ace S. Barbers from the Second District of Surigao del Norte is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BARBERS.

REP. BARBERS. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker. Thank you very much, Mr. Floor Leader.

Mme. Speaker, esteemed colleagues, ladies and gentlemen.

I rise on behalf of all legitimate and responsible mining companies, not only in Surigao del Norte but all over the country, which have been threatened with closure by DENR Secretary Regina Lopez. I will be short and straight, Mme. Speaker. When Secretary Lopez was appointed, she ordered the audit of all mining firms nationwide. Unfortunately, she chose Leo Jasareno, the long-time Director of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB), to head the audit team. Later on, Leo Jasareno was dismissed by the President, but newspaper reports said that Secretary Lopez kept him as her consultant and still heads the audit team.

For the information of everybody, the so-called environmental violations, if true, could be the result of years of neglect or tolerance of former Secretaries or heads of the DENR, the likes of Secretary Paje and Leo Jasareno who led the MGB. They were supposed to examine, issue permits, monitor and report mining activities. Violations do not happen overnight, Mme. Speaker. Clearly, Paje, Jasareno, et. al have a lot of explaining to do. In the meantime, those big legitimate and responsible mining companies which are included in the list, are at a loss as to how they ended up in that list. There was no transparency in the audit and the DENR Secretary was apparently fed highly technical information that only Jasareno, et. al can understand and interpret.

Now, may we get answers from the DENR Secretary and her people on the following concerns:

1. Who are the members of the audit team and what are their qualifications?
2. What are the parameters of the audit?
3. How and when was the audit conducted?
4. What is the participation of the mining firms during the audit?
5. What and where are the results of the audit?
6. What is the basis of the Secretary for her decision?
7. Why is the Secretary keeping the audit report secret?

There are thousands upon thousands of constituents of mine who will lose their jobs permanently, Mme. Speaker. They are not multibillionaires who will never go hungry. Who will feed them and their families until we achieve what the Secretary calls “green economy” to replace the mining industry? Who will send their children to school when these companies pull out altogether? Does the DENR Secretary know that the lands being mined now are not arable?

People in these areas cannot plant rice and other root crops for the simple reason that the land cannot sustain these kasi nga po ito ay highly mineralized na mga lupa. Moreover, these are mostly mountainous terrains. Perhaps, it will serve the Secretary well if she will talk to these people personally so that

she would know what I am talking about. Mining gave them livelihood. Mining gave their children a chance to get education because part of the social responsibilities of these firms is to put up schools for the children of people in the area and offer scholarships as well. Mining gave them money to buy things for themselves, to build modest houses and to send their children to college. Take mining away now and you will have zombie communities.

What do we want—feed fuel to the insurgency problem that we could not resolve for decades? Does the DENR Secretary even have the slightest idea of the enormity of the impending problem that is about to explode on our faces? Perhaps the Secretary can take an unsolicited advice from this Representation, Mme. Speaker: put up your “green economy” first, develop it and employ these people, only then can you tell the mining companies to stop and close shop. It is easy to say that you have an alternative, but doing it is another thing. You have to show that it can be done, and that your ideas can be a reality.

Mme. Speaker, this Representation requests that this House immediately look into this so that we can put in place the much-needed legislation.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Thank you, Congressman Barbers.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The speech of the Honorable Barbers is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Privilege Hour is hereby terminated.

#### ROLL CALL

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).

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. 66, dated February 6, 2017:*

#### PRESENT

Abaya	Campos
Abayon	Canama
Abellanos	Cari
Abu	Castro (F.L.)
Abueg	Castro (F.H.)
Acharon	Cayetano
Acosta	Ceramica
Advincula	Cerilles
Agarao	Chavez
Aggabao	Chipeco
Aglipay-Villar	Collantes
Albano	Cortuna
Almonte	Cosalan
Alvarez (F.)	Crisologo
Alvarez (M.)	Cua
Alvarez (P.)	Cuaresma
Amatong	Cueva
Angara-Castillo	Dalipe
Aragones	Daza
Arbison	De Jesus
Arenas	De Venecia
Atienza	De Vera
Bag-ao	Defensor
Baguilat	Del Mar
Banal	Del Rosario
Barbers	Deloso-Montalla
Barzaga	Dimaporo (A.)
Bataoil	Dimaporo (M.K.)
Batocabe	Dy
Bautista-Bandigan	Elago
Belmonte (F.)	Enverga
Belmonte (J.C.)	Eriguel
Belmonte (R.)	Ermita-Buhain
Benitez	Escudero
Bernos	Espina
Bertiz	Evardone
Biazon	Fariñas
Billones	Fernando
Biron	Ferrer (J.)
Bondoc	Ferrer (L.)
Bordado	Ferriol-Pascual
Bravo (A.)	Flores
Bravo (M.V.)	Fortun
Brosas	Fortuno
Calderon	Fuentebella
Calixto-Rubiano	Garbin

Garcia (G.)  
 Garcia (J.E.)  
 Garcia-Albano  
 Garin (R.)  
 Garin (S.)  
 Gasataya  
 Gatchalian  
 Geron  
 Go (A.C.)  
 Go (M.)  
 Gonzaga  
 Gonzales (A.P.)  
 Gonzales (A.D.)  
 Gonzalez  
 Gullas  
 Herrera-Dy  
 Hofer  
 Jalosjos  
 Javier  
 Kho  
 Khonghun  
 Lagman  
 Lanete  
 Lazatin  
 Leachon  
 Lee  
 Lobregat  
 Lopez (B.)  
 Lopez (M.L.)  
 Macapagal-Arroyo  
 Madrona  
 Malapitan  
 Mangaoang  
 Marcoleta  
 Marcos  
 Marquez  
 Martinez  
 Matugas  
 Mellana  
 Mercado  
 Mirasol  
 Montoro  
 Nieto  
 Noel  
 Nolasco  
 Nuñez-Malanyaon  
 Olivarez  
 Ong (H.)  
 Ortega (P.)  
 Ortega (V.N.)  
 Pacquiao  
 Paduano  
 Palma  
 Pancho  
 Panganiban  
 Panotes

Papandayan  
 Pichay  
 Pimentel  
 Pineda  
 Primicias-Agabas  
 Quimbo  
 Ramos  
 Roa-Puno  
 Rocamora  
 Rodriguez (I.)  
 Rodriguez (M.)  
 Roman  
 Romualdez  
 Romualdo  
 Roque (H.)  
 Sacdalan  
 Sagarbarria  
 Salimbangon  
 Salo  
 Salon  
 Sambar  
 Sandoval  
 Sarmiento (C.)  
 Sarmiento (E.M.)  
 Savellano  
 Sema  
 Silverio  
 Singson  
 Suansing (E.)  
 Suansing (H.)  
 Suarez  
 Sy-Alvarado  
 Tambunting  
 Tan (A.)  
 Tejada  
 Teves  
 Tiangco  
 Ting  
 Tinio  
 Tolentino  
 Tugna  
 Unabia  
 Ungab  
 Unico  
 Uy (R.)  
 Uybarreta  
 Vargas-Alfonso  
 Velarde  
 Veloso  
 Vergara  
 Villanueva  
 Villaraza-Suarez  
 Villarica  
 Villarin  
 Violago  
 Yap (A.)

Yap (M.)  
 Yu  
 Zamora (M.C.)

Zarate  
 Zubiri

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 209 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). With 209 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Honorable Atienza is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. We would like to keep our roll call always accurate, and right now, we have 186 on the floor, not 209. So, to put it on record, the count, again, of the Secretariat seems to be erroneous because there are only 186 Members on the floor right now.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, the Secretariat has already called the roll and the Chair has declared the presence of a quorum. With that, Mme. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Please proceed.

REP. GULLAS. In the gallery are the guests of the Hon. Gavini “Apol” C. Pancho from the Second District of Bulacan and Cong. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado from the First District of Bulacan. They are from the Bulacan First District Engineering Office, namely: Engr. Dalmacio Cruz and Engr. Ruben Santos.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Will the engineers so named please rise, so that their presence can be acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

1. House Bill No. 766, from the Committee on Health, to the Committee on Local Government;
2. House Bill No. 1598, from the Committee

on Appropriations, to the Committee on People's Participation and the Committee on Appropriations;

3. House Bill No. 2218, from the Committee on Social Services, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;

4. House Bill No. 740, from the Committee on Social Services, to the Committee on Labor and Employment;

5. House Bill No. 1883, from the Committee on Social Services, to the Committee on Government Reorganization and the Committee on Social Services;

6. House Resolutions No. 19 and 29, from the Committee on Public Works and Highways, to the Special Committee on Southern Tagalog Development;

7. House Bills No. 162, 327, and 1305, from the Committee on Government Reorganization and the Committee on Justice, to the Committee on Justice; and

8. House Bill No. 140, from the Committee on Public Works and Highways, to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The change of referral of the House measures so mentioned is hereby approved.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Atienza, delivered on January 31, 2017, to the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). 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. Garcia-Albano). The motion to suspend is approved.

*It was 4:54 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:57 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4682 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 4682, contained in Committee Report No. 46, as reported out by the Committee on Local Government.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4682, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY CUMAWAS IN THE CITY OF BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the author of House Bill No. 4682, the Gentleman from the Second District of Surigao del Sur, our colleague, the Hon. Johnny Ty Pimentel, is present to sponsor said measure. I move for his recognition, Mme. Speaker.

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

The honorable Congressman Pimentel is hereby recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the Honorable Pimentel has indicated his desire that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as his sponsorship speech. Therefore, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 4682 as the sponsorship speech on the said measure.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, there being none of our colleagues who wishes to interpellate the honorable

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

Sponsor, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 4682.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments to House Bill No. 4682, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4682.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 4682 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor of the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4682, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4682 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 4682 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The motion to suspend is approved.

*It was 5:00 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:00 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is hereby resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4767 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 4767, contained in Committee Report No. 48, 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. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.\*

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 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."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

May I ask that we recognize the Hon. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica of the Fourth District of Bulacan for her sponsorship speech.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby opened.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be put on record as the sponsorship speech of the Honorable Villarica.



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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, with no Member wishing to interpellate, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

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

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

The period of amendments is hereby opened.

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

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 4767 on Second Reading.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). As many as are in favor of the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 4767, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4767 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 4767 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to suspend is hereby approved.

*It was 5:03 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:05 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 691

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 691, contained in Committee Report No. 49, as reported out by the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). 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. 691, entitled: RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO ESTABLISH A PASSPORT ISSUANCE OFFICE IN THE PROVINCE OF ABRA.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 691

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 691.

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

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

House Resolution No. 691 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 318

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 318, contained in Committee Report No. 50, 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. Garcia-Albano). 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. 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.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 318

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 318.

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

House Resolution No. 318 is adopted.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to suspend the session is approved.

*It was 5:06 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:07 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4814 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 4814, contained in Committee Report No. 56, as reported out by the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4814, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING AMNESTY IN THE PAYMENT OF ESTATE TAX.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate. May I ask that we recognize the Hon. Dakila Carlo E. Cua for his sponsorship speech.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be put on record as the sponsorship speech of the Honorable Cua. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, with no Member wishing to interpellate, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby terminated.

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

I so move.

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

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

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 4814 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). There is a motion to vote on House Bill No. 4814.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4814 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 4814 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4815 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 4815, contained in Committee Report No. 57, as reported out by the Committee on Ways and Means.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4815, entitled: AN ACT SIMPLIFYING THE ESTATE TAX RATE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 84 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate. May I ask that we recognize the Hon. Dax Cua for his sponsorship speech.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be put on record as the sponsorship speech of the Honorable Cua.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, with no Member wishing to interpellate, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby terminated.

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

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

The period of amendments is hereby opened.

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

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

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 4815 on Second Reading.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

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

As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 4815, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4815 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano).

The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 4815 is approved on Second Reading.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is suspended.

*It was 5:11 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:12 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 65, dated February 1, 2017.

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

The Journal is hereby approved.

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until February 7 at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until February 7 at four o'clock in the afternoon.

*It was 5:12 p.m.*