



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

Vol. 4

Monday, March 6, 2017

No. 78

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Ferdinand L. Hernandez called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The session is called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Everybody will please rise to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

INVOCATION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Please remain standing for the Invocation to be delivered by Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto, Representative of the Sixth District of Batangas.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. SANTOS-RECTO. In the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for this chance that we are gathered today to celebrate International Women's Month. This is a time to remember how far we have come in achieving equal rights for women across the world.

These are our hard-earned rights: to vote, to be educated, to work and earn a living, and to be elected as leaders. Still, our work in achieving equal rights for women and men is far from over. So, allow us to ask for Your help, O Lord, so that we may be guided as women leaders.

Help us make decisions always for the benefit of our people, to be fair and just at all times.

Guide us as we pave the way to a better future not only for us women, but for our children, families, and fellowmen.

We ask these through Your merciful grace. Amen.
Good afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). As part of the celebration of International Women's Month, today's session will be presided over by the women Legislators as we discuss issues relating to the rights and welfare of women.

Relative to this, the Chair would like to inform the Body that pursuant to Section 15, paragraph (h), Rule IV of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez has designated the following House Members to preside successively over today's session: Rep. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica of the Fourth District of Bulacan; Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar of Party-List DIWA; Rep. Glona B. Labadlabad of the Second District of Zamboanga del Norte; and Rep. Lorna C. Silverio of the Third District of Bulacan.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The session is suspended.

It was 4:03 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:05 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica presiding.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is resumed.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the calling of the roll of Members is hereby deferred.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is suspended.

It was 4:05 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:06 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is resumed.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). 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, Communications and Committee Report and the Presiding Officer made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5127, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING SCHOLARSHIPS TO CHILDREN OF PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5128, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ADOPTION OF CALAMITY-PROOF DESIGNS IN CONSTRUCTION OF PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURES”

By Representative Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5129, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE OFFICE OF

THE OMBUDSMAN AND INCREASING AND BROADENING THE SCOPE OF ITS POWERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tugna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5130, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE SECURITY OF TENURE OF WORKERS IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSES ARTICLES 248, 279, 280, 281, AND 288, AND INTRODUCING NEW ARTICLES 106-A, 106-B, 106-C, 106-D, 106-E, 280-A AND 280-B TO PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Tugna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5131, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND WELFARE OF SENIOR CITIZENS, FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NOS. 9257 AND 9944, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2003', AND THE 'EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010', AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tugna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 5132, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3019, ALSO KNOWN AS THE 'ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT', TO CRIMINALIZE GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tugna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5133, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE TEACHING AND INCULCATION OF THE NEED OF EVERY PERSON TO FIGHT THE EVILS OF GRAFT AND CORRUPTION IN THE SOCIETY, OF THE VARIOUS PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES IN GOVERNMENT AND OF TRANSACTIONS OCCURRING IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, OF THE STEPS THAT CAN BE UNDERTAKEN IN CASE GRAFT AND CORRUPTION OCCURS, AND OF

THE RIGHT AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CITIZENS IN GOVERNANCE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tugna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5134, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, UPGRADE EMPLOYEE SKILLS AND AUGMENT COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS, ENHANCE FISCAL AUTONOMY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6770, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMBUDSMAN ACT OF 1989, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tugna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5135, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES FOR PERSONS FLEEING FROM ACCIDENT SCENES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5136, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM OF ACCREDITATION FOR GARBAGE COLLECTION SERVICE BUSINESS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Batocabe, Garbin and Co
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 5137, entitled:

“AN ACT MAKING A SEPARATE COURSE ON ETHICS COMPULSORY AT ALL LEVELS OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION, AND IN EVERY DEGREE COURSE IN ALL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES”

By Representative Mariño
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5138, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE LICENSURE OF PHYSICIANS AND PRACTICE OF MEDICINE IN THE PHILIPPINES,

REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2382, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 5139, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE TENTH OF SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS A NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF POLOMOLOK, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO IN COMMEMORATION OF THE MUNICIPALITY’S FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY AND CELEBRATION OF THE 'F'LOMLOK FESTIVAL' ”

By Representative Acharon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5140, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF TALISAY DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN TALISAY CITY, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO TALISAY MEDICAL CENTER, A TERTIARY HOSPITAL WITH ADDITIONAL SPECIALTIES AS TRAUMA, PHYSICAL AND REHABILITATION MEDICINE, AND SPORTS MEDICINE CENTER IN THE VISAYAS UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gullas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5141, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE KALBAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY SUGAL, MUNICIPALITY OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL, FROM THE KALBAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS EMELIANO S. FONTANARES SR. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5142, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE FISHING VILLAGE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY

MANA, MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL, FROM THE FISHING VILLAGE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BENJAMIN VELASCO BAUTISTA SR. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5143, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE HERACLEO CASCO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY SAN ISIDRO, MUNICIPALITY OF STA. MARIA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL, FROM THE HERACLEO CASCO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PEDRO MARISCAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5144, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE LAWA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY LAPUAN, MUNICIPALITY OF DON MARCELINO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL, FROM THE LAWA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS LUISA JOYCE MALLARI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bautista-Bandigan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5145, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE, AND SUPPORT, AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HIV AND AIDS PLAN, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE

REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8504, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'PHILIPPINE AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998,' AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Mendoza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5153, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9262 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN ACT OF 2004, DEFINING ELECTRONIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN (E-VAW), PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 5154, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMULGATING A COMPREHENSIVE POLICY IN ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF PERSONS AFFLICTED BY RARE DISORDERS”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5155, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE MARCELO GREEN HIGH SCHOOL (PARAÑAQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX) IN BARANGAY MARCELO GREEN, CITY OF PARAÑAQUE, FROM THE PARAÑAQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MARCELO GREEN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tambunting
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5157, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF EXPIRY DATES ON GIFT CHECKS, GIFT CERTIFICATES AND GIFT CARDS BY COMMERCIAL ESTABLISHMENTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 5158, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING A SOCIALIZED MICROFINANCING PROGRAM FOR MICRO ENTERPRISES THEREBY PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP”

By Representatives Unabia, Limkaichong, Abellanos, Acosta, Gonzales (A.P.), Panotes, Marquez, Belaro and Herrera-Dy

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5163, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE 54 KILOMETER-ROAD LOCATED IN BRGY. MUELANG, MANGATAREM, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN TO BRGY. GUISGUIS, STA. CRUZ, PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES AND DECLARING IT AS A NATIONAL ROAD TO BE KNOWN AS THE DAANG KALIKASAN NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bataoil
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5164, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SULU STATE COLLEGE (SSC) IN THE PROVINCE OF SULU INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE SULU STATE UNIVERSITY (SSU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (S.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5165, entitled:

“AN ACT ON THE PROVISION OF AUDIBLE TRAFFIC SIGNALS (ATS) AS A MEANS OF ALERTING THE BLIND AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED PEDESTRIANS”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5166, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING NORTHEASTERN BROADCASTING SERVICES, INCORPORATED A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN ISABELA PROVINCE AND IN REGION TWO”

By Representatives Albano, Dy, Go (A.C.), Aggabao and Panganiban
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 5167, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SUSTAINABLE FUNDING MECHANISM FOR ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES TO COVER THE COST OF RECONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION OR REPAIR OF DAMAGED DISTRIBUTION INFRASTRUCTURES IN THE AFTERMATH OF A DISASTER OR CALAMITY AND ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR IN THE ANNUAL NATIONAL BUDGET”

By Representatives Singson and Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 5168, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAN ISIDRO, CITY OF ORMOC IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS SAN ISIDRO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5169, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SALVACION, CITY OF ORMOC IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS SALVACION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5170, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MACABUG, CITY OF ORMOC IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS MACABUG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5171, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NUMERICAL NAMES OF THE CEBU 1ST, 2ND, AND 4TH DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICES (DEOs) IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU

TO CONFORM TO THE NUMERICAL NAMES OF THE CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS WHERE THE DEOS EXERCISE JURISDICTION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NOS. 9043 AND 9218”

By Representatives Salimbangon, Gullas, Caminero, Cortes, Garcia (G.) and Calderon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5174, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING CANCER PATIENTS THIRTY (30) DAYS PAID LEAVE TO UNDERGO TREATMENT OF THEIR DISEASE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5178, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF RECAPPED TIRES IN PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5179, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL CRUISE SHIP PORT AND APPROPRIATE FACILITIES IN CATAGBACAN, LOON, PROVINCE OF BOHOL”

By Representative Relampagos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5180, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION BY PROVIDING FOR FREE TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND STATE-RUN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND STRENGTHENING THE UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10687, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘UniFAST LAW’, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Hofer
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 818, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE INTER-AGENCY SUMMIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF RENDERING METRO MANILA PREPARED FOR THE IMPENDING MEGA-QUAKE ENGENDERED BY THE WEST VALLEY FAULT MOVEMENT AS FORECASTED BY STATE SEISMOLOGISTS”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 819, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO FOR HER SOLID AND GENUINE SHOW OF LOVE AND CONCERN FOR THE CRESTFALLEN PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA BY EXTENDING THE MUCH NEEDED SOCIO-ECONOMIC HELP TO THE REGION ON FEBRUARY 19, 2017 AND BY CONDUCTING INTERNATIONAL EVANGELICAL AND OUTREACH PROGRAM”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 820, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE ILL-FATED BUS ACCIDENT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TANAY, PROVINCE OF RIZAL ON 20 FEBRUARY 2017”

By Representative Robes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 821, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF THE INCREASING IMPORTATION OF HIGH FRUCTOSE CORN SYRUP (HFCS) TO THE DOMESTIC SUGAR INDUSTRY; AND THE NEED TO REVIEW GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON THE IMPORTATION OF HFCS TO PROTECT THE INTERESTS OF OUR SMALL FARMERS, AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES AND THE DOMESTIC SUGAR INDUSTRY”

By Representatives Suansing (H.) and Suansing (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 822, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO OPEN A PHILIPPINE CONSULATE GENERAL IN HOUSTON, TEXAS”

By Representative Lacson
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 823, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS ON THE PRODUCTION, QUALITY, ROADWORTHINESS, SAFETY AND RELIABILITY STANDARDS OF ALL PUVS IN THE COUNTRY IN LIGHT OF THE INCREASING NUMBER AND FREQUENCY OF FATAL ROAD ACCIDENTS”

By Representative Barbers
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 824, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, TO INQUIRE AND REVIEW, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, PROGRESS IN THE COLLECTION OF SSS CONTRIBUTIONS WITH A VIEW TO ADDRESS DELINQUENCY IN REMITTANCE AND PENALTIES FOR LATE REMITTANCE AND/OR NON-COMPLIANCE BY EMPLOYERS, INCLUDING COOPERATIVES, WITH SECTIONS 18, 19 AND 22 OF THE SSS LAW TO ENSURE THE VIABILITY OF THE FUND”

By Representative Mendoza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 828, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE NATURE OF EMPLOYABLE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE REPORTED 11.2 MILLION UNEMPLOYED FILIPINOS FOR THE LAST QUARTER OF 2016”

By Representative Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 829, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO SEEK EXECUTIVE CLEMENCY FOR THE CASE OF FILIPINA OVERSEAS WORKER JENNIFER ARESGADO DALQUEZ TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES TO SAVE HER FROM DEATH SENTENCE WITH A VIEW TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIP TO THE PROMOTION AND PROTECTION OF THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS (OFWs)”

By Representatives De Jesus, Brosas, Arenas, Zarate, Casilao, Tinio, Castro (F.L.) and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 830, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON TECHNICAL AND HIGHER EDUCATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CHED SCHOLARSHIP ALLOWANCE FOR IDENTIFIED BENEFICIARIES”

By Representative Velasco
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 831, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN CONDEMNING THE ESCALATING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND POLITICAL REPRESSION AGAINST CIVILIANS AND COMMUNITIES, INSTIGATED BY THE MILITARY'S DECLARATION OF AN ALL-OUT WAR AND THE IMPLEMENTATION OF OPLAN KAPAYAPAAAN”

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

House Resolution No. 832, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTr) TO RECOGNIZE THE SUPREME COURT'S DECISION AWARDED THE P208 MILLION IN BACK WAGES AND SEPARATION PAY DUE TO THE 221 ILLEGALLY DISMISSED FORMER EMPLOYEES OF LIGHT RAIL TRANSIT 1 (LRT 1) AS SOLIDARY LIABILITIES OF BOTH THE LIGHT RAIL

TRANSIT AUTHORITY (LRTA) AND
METRO TRANSIT ORGANIZATION, INC.
(METRO)”

By Representative Zarate

TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Resolution No. 833, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE
ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT
AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE PUBLIC UTILITY
JEEPNEY MODERNIZATION PROGRAM
WHICH CONTAINS THE QUESTIONABLE
JEEPNEY PHASE-OUT PROGRAM OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
(DOTr) AND THE LAND TRANSPORTATION
FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY
BOARD (LTFRB)”

By Representative Zarate

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 834, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND
CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES TO THE BEREAVED
FAMILY OF FORMER DEPUTY SPEAKER
SIMEON A. DATUMANONG”

By Representatives Sema, Garcia-Albano,
Mangudadatu (Z.), Sahali, Papandayan,
Arbison, Adiong and Turabin-Hataman

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. for House Bills
No. 2286 and 2627, and House Resolution No.
769;

Rep. Sitti Djalila A. Turabin-Hataman for House
Bill No. 115;

Rep. Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno for House
Bill No. 1341;

Reps. Rolando “Klarex” A. Uy, Salvador B.
Belaro Jr., Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Roger G.
Mercado, and Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta for House
Resolution No. 769;

Reps. Divina Grace C. Yu, Luisa Lloren
Cuaresma, Reynaldo V. Umali, Erlpe John “Ping” M.
Amante, Renato J. Unico Jr., Rene L. Relampagos,
Winston “Winnie” Castelo, Salvador B. Belaro Jr.,
Arlene D. Brosas, Edwin C. Ong, Greg G. Gasataya,
Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz
III, and France L. Castro for House Bill No. 4800;

Rep. Edgar R. Erice for House Bills No. 396 and
399;

Rep. Juliette T. Uy for House Bill No. 2627;

Reps. Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta, Christopher S.
Co, and Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. for House Bill No. 2286;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-
Alvarado for House Bills No. 1928, 2028, 2029, 2039,
2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2747, 4876, 5034, and 5037
and House Resolution No. 786;

Reps. Corazon T. Nuñez-Malanyaon, Romeo M.
Acop, Ferdinand L. Hernandez, Christopher “Toff”
Vera Perez De Venecia, Marlyn B. Alonte, Suharto T.
Mangudadatu, Benjamin C. Agarao Jr., Gwendolyn F.
Garcia, Reynaldo V. Umali, Johnny Ty Pimentel,
Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Abdullah D. Dimaporo,
Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang, Salvador B. Belaro Jr.,
Winston “Winnie” Castelo, Benhur L. Salimbangon,
Jesus Nonato Sacdalan, and Abraham “Bambol” N.
Tolentino for House Bill No. 2881;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bills No.
812 and 3862;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bill No.
4689;

Rep. Enrico A. Pineda for House Bills No. 2627
and 2881;

Reps. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Wes
Gatchalian, Luis Jose Angel N. Campos Jr., Orestes T.
Salon, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III, Anthony M.
Bravo, Ph.D., Tricia Nicole Q. Velasco-Catera,
Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D., Estrellita B.
Suansing, and Anna Katrina M. Enverga for House
Resolution No. 829;

Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II for House Bill
No. 2345;

Reps. Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia,
Florida “Rida” P. Robes, Marlyn B. Alonte, Joseph
Stephen S. Paduano, Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales
Jr., and Juliette T. Uy for House Bill No. 4661;

Rep. Juliet Marie D. Ferrer for House Bill No.
3931;

Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria for House Bills
No. 2192 and 2193;

Reps. Deogracias B. Ramos Jr. and Leopoldo N.
Bataoil for House Bills No. 2627 and 2628;

Rep. Isagani S. Amatong for House Bill No.
2628;

Rep. Gwendolyn F. Garcia for House Bill No.
2039;

Reps. Rogelio “Ruel” D. Pacquiao, Raul “Boboy”
C. Tupas, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III, Luis Jose
Angel N. Campos Jr., Alfredo A. Garbin Jr., Anthony
M. Bravo, Ph.D., Richard C. Eusebio, Eugene
Michael B. De Vera, and Eric M. Martinez for House
Bill No. 4879;

Rep. Jesus “Boying” F. Celeste for House Bills
No. 2627, 2628, and 2881;

Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo for House Bills
No. 3683, 3747, 3783, 3827, 4701, 4738, 4791, 4811,
4821, and 4822;

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House Bill No. 4735;

Rep. Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño for House Bill No. 2881;

Rep. Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr. for House Bills No. 2192 and 2193;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 139, 991, and 5031;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bills No. 2286, 2627, 2628, 2818, 2881, and 4689;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bills No. 898, 2881, 3490, 3527, 3529, 3542, 3657, and 4675;

Rep. Salvio B. Fortuno for House Resolution No. 769;

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bill No. 5000;

Rep. Napoleon S. Dy for House Bill No. 2286;

Rep. Ronaldo B. Zamora for House Bill No. 2192;

Reps. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Virgilio S. Lacson, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III, Estrellita B. Suansing, Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo, Elisa “Olga” T. Kho, Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Romeo M. Acop, Joseph Stephen S. Paduano, Rodel M. Batocabe, Gary C. Alejano, Victor A. Yap, Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga, Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, Alberto T. Ungab, Henry S. Oaminal, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, Abdullah D. Dimaporo, Manuel F. Zubiri, Rogelio Neil P. Roque, Eric M. Martinez, Dale “Along” R. Malapitan, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Arthur R. Defensor Jr., Marlyn B. Alonte, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Salvador B. Belaro Jr., Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso, Prospero A. Pichay Jr., Ramon V.A. “Rav” Rocamora, Gwendolyn F. Garcia, Raul V. Del Mar, Edcel C. Lagman, and Celso L. Lobregat for House Resolution No. 807;

Rep. Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia for House Bills No. 2318, 2319, 2474, 2953, and 3782;

Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon for House Bill No. 4774;

Rep. Manuel Luis T. Lopez for House Bills No. 208, 209, 210, 264, 391, 392, 393, 394, 516, 577, 578, 579, 595, 1667, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672, 1859, 2192, 2193, 2247, 2567, 2635, 3457, 3458, 3459, 3761, 3777, and 4689, and House Resolution No. 393;

Reps. Bellaflor J. Angara-Castillo, Florencio T. Flores Jr., M.D., Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano, Jorge T. Almonte, and Franz E. Alvarez for House Bill No. 4174;

Rep. Jerry P. Treñas for House Bill No. 5072;

Reps. Romero “Miro” S. Quimbo, Alfredo A. Garbin Jr., Roger G. Mercado, H. Harry L. Roque Jr., Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Harlin Neil J. Abayon

III, Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada, Henry S. Oaminal, Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Rodel M. Batocabe, Ricardo “RJ” T. Belmonte Jr., Rodante D. Marcoleta, Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr., and Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro for House Bill No. 4989;

Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda for House Bills No. 2319, 2474, 2863, 2864, 3556, 3852, 3943, 4337, and 4526;

Rep. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. for House Bill No. 3335;

Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte for House Bills No. 2192 and 2193, and House Resolution No. 198;

Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. for House Bills No. 2192, 2193, 2627, 2628, 2863, 2881, 3689, 3852, 3853, 3943, 3945, 4127, and 4337;

Rep. Florida “Rida” P. Robes for House Bills No. 26, 106, 118, 121, 192, 193, 194, 453, 476, 477, 478, 479, 480, 555, 564, 1301, 1302, 1554, 1555, 1563, 1853, 2141, 2287, 2330, 2396, 2397, 2531, 2798, 2977, 3556, 3557, 3632, 3771, and 4814, House Joint Resolution No. 4, and House Resolutions No. 318 and 393;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bills No. 1298, 1300, and 1886;

Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers for House Bill No. 1883;

Rep. Benhur L. Salimbangon for House Bill No. 4117;

Reps. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang and Cesar V. Sarmiento for House Bills No. 2627 and 2628;

Rep. Gwendolyn F. Garcia for House Bill No. 488;

Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy for House Bill No. 2628;

Reps. Rodante D. Marcoleta, Doy C. Leachon, Marisol C. Panotes, Salvador B. Belaro Jr., Suharto T. Mangudadatu, Imelda R. Marcos, Arnulfo P. Fuentesbella, Arthur R. Defensor Jr., Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II, Ben P. Evardone, Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas, Jerry P. Treñas, Francisco Jose F. Matugas II, Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano, Deogracias B. Ramos Jr., Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño, Arnel M. Cerafica, Leopoldo N. Bataoil, Lianda B. Bolilia, Ruby M. Sahali, and Jesus “Boying” F. Celeste for House Bill No. 2286;

Reps. Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas, Ben P. Evardone, Arthur R. Defensor Jr., and Jerry P. Treñas for House Bill No. 5107;

Reps. Marisol C. Panotes, Rolando “Klarex” A. Uy, Elenita Milagros “Eileen” Ermita-Buhain, and Jesus Nonato Sacdalan for House Bill No. 4742;

Rep. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III for House Bills No. 1858, 2286, 4526, and 4742;

Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda for House Bill No. 4689;

Reps. Divina Grace C. Yu, Cesar V. Sarmiento, Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Alexandria P. Gonzales, John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Vilma Santos-Recto, Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno, Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Roger G. Mercado, France L. Castro, and Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III for House Bills No. 440, 748, 848, 953, 982, 1345, 1971, 2550, 3407, 3428, 3530, 3826, 3968, 4552, and 4738;

Reps. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, and Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez for House Bill No. 516;

Reps. Christopher S. Co and Eric L. Olivarez for House Bill No. 2881;

Reps. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong and Gus S. Tambunting for House Bill No. 2019;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bill No. 3312;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 198, 929, 2011, 2097, 2110, 2112, 2484, 2497, 2580, 2618, 2627, 2628, 2692, 5017, 5080, and 5081 and House Resolution No. 740;

Rep. Frederick “Erick” F. Abueg for House Bill No. 5125;

Rep. Antonio R. Floirendo Jr. for House Bill No. 4774;

Reps. H. Harry L. Roque Jr., Gerald Anthony “Samsam” V. Gullas Jr., Jose L. Atienza Jr., Danilo E. Suarez, Sabiniano S. Canama, Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, Orestes T. Salon, Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro, Divina Grace C. Yu, Frederick W. Siao, and Edwin C. Ong for House Bill No. 4879;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bill No. 328;

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House Bills No. 2286, 4886, 4899, and 4900 and House Resolutions No. 757, 788, 792, 793, and 795;

Rep. Suharto T. Mangudadatu for House Bill No. 555 and House Resolution No. 527;

Rep. Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta for House Bills No. 2627, 2628, and 2881;

Rep. Elisa “Olga” T. Kho for House Bills No. 2192 and 2286;

Rep. Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II for House Bill No. 2627;

Rep. Raul V. Del Mar for House Resolution No. 834;

Rep. Alexandria P. Gonzales for House Bills No. 2192, 2193, 2286, and 2881;

Rep. Manuel Luis T. Lopez for House Bill No. 3254;

Rep. Joey Sarte Salceda for House Bill No. 2617;

Rep. Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano for House Bills No. 188, 189, and 436;

Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. for House Bills No. 458, 1894, 2192, 2193, 2627, and 2628;

Rep. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III for House Bill No. 3855;

Rep. Teodoro “Ted” G. Montoro for House Bill No. 187;

Reps. Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Orestes T. Salon, H. Harry L. Roque Jr., Harlin Neil J. Abayon III, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III, Luis Jose Angel N. Campos Jr., Richard C. Eusebio, Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, Arlene B. Arcillas, and Rodel M. Batocabe for House Resolution No. 842; and

Reps. Edwin C. Ong, France L. Castro, Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado, Peter John D. Calderon, Jonas C. Cortes, Rodrigo A. Abellanosa, Rodante D. Marcoleta, Salvador B. Belaro Jr., Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Ann K. Hofer, Manuel T. Sagarbarria, Celso L. Lobregat, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Juliette T. Uy, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Noel L. Villanueva, Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica, Florida “Rida” P. Robes, Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla, Edward Vera Perez Maceda, Arnel M. Cerafica, Manuel Luis T. Lopez, Eric L. Olivarez, John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto, Rosanna “Ria” Vergara, Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Micaela S. Violago, Mark O. Go, Jorge “Bolet” Banal, Gil “Kabarangay” P. Acosta, Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco, Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr., Dennis C. Laogan, Mark Aeron H. Sambar, Pia S. Cayetano, Raul V. Del Mar, Rogelio Neil P. Roque, Manuel F. Zubiri, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Julieta R. Cortuna, Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, Arlene B. Arcillas, Luis Jose Angel N. Campos Jr., Anna Marie Villaraza-Suarez, Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III, Richard C. Eusebio, Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III, Orestes T. Salon, Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr., Carlito S. Marquez, Leo Rafael M. Cueva, Greg G. Gasataya, Joseph Stephen S. Paduano, Juliet Marie D. Ferrer, Raul “Boboy” C. Tupas, Henry C. Ong, and Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. for House Bill No. 225.

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated February 15, 2017 of Benel D. Laguna, Executive Vice President, Development Bank of the Philippines, submitting a report on the status of implementation of the Barangay Micro Business Enterprises (BMBEs) Act of 2002.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (Committee Report No. 143), re H.R. No. 769, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO CONTINUE THE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (GRP) AND THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES (NDFP), CONSIDERING THE UNPRECEDENTED AND SIGNIFICANT ADVANCES MADE ON THE SUBSTANTIVE AGENDA OF THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE”

recommending its adoption with amendments

Sponsor: Representative Sahali

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 144), re H.B. No. 705, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AGOO, PROVINCE OF LA UNION, TO BE KNOWN AS 'AGOO DAY' ”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Eriguel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 145), re H.B. No. 5172, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 19 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF LAGUNA IN HONOR OF THE BIRTH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR NATIONAL HERO, DR. JOSE P. RIZAL, TO BE KNOWN AS 'ARAW NG KAPANGANAKAN NI DR. JOSE P. RIZAL' ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2321

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Chipeco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 146), re H.B. No. 5173, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 17 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LOS BAÑOS, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY AND THE ANNUAL BAÑAMOS FESTIVAL”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3561

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Chipeco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 147), re H.B. No. 735, entitled:

“AN ACT INCLUDING A NATIONAL ARTIST AS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND ARTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7356, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE 'LAW CREATING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS' ”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsor: Representative Escudero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 148), re H.B. No. 5175, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO BETA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8026, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE BETA BROADCASTING SYSTEM CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House bill No. 3864

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.) and Go (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 149), re H.B. No. 5176, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SARRAGA INTEGRATED AND MANAGEMENT CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7478, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE SARRAGA INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4668

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.) and Romualdo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 150), re H.B. No. 5177, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO INFOCOM COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, INC. (PRESENTLY KNOWN AS NOW TELECOM COMPANY, INC.) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7301, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING INFOCOM COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, INC. (ICNI), A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN MOBILE RADIO SYSTEMS SUCH AS RADIO PAGING SYSTEMS, CELLULAR PHONE SYSTEMS, PERSONAL COMMUNICATION NETWORK (PCN), AND TRUNK RADIO SYSTEMS WITHIN OR WITHOUT THE PHILIPPINES FOR A PERIOD OF TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7940”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1422

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.) and Cosalan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Information (Committee Report No. 151), re H.R. No. 835, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING FILMMAKER DIRECTOR BRILLANTE MENDOZA FOR WINNING THE AWARD FOR BEST DIRECTOR FOR HIS FILM ‘MAROSA’ AT THE 54TH GIJON INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL FOR AND RECEIVING THE ECUMENICAL JURY PRIZE-SPECIAL MENTION IN THE 68TH CANNES FILM FESTIVAL FOR HIS FILM ‘TAKLUB’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 57, 406 and 618

Sponsors: Representatives Tinio, Olivarez, Nieto, Maceda, Castelo and Gonzales (A.D.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 152), re H.B. No. 5183, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY HAMPANGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF HILONGOS, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS HAMPANGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 200

Sponsors: Representatives Escudero, Nograles (K.A.) and Cari

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of our guests in the gallery.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The Lady will please proceed.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. We would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Emmanuel F. Madrona from the Lone District of Romblon.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Please stand.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. We have Vice Mayor Arsenio G. Gadon, ... (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. ... Sangguniang Bayan Member Romeo M. Fabella, Sangguniang Bayan Member Laureto F. Guro, Sangguniang Bayan Member Araceli M. Gabaldon, Sangguniang Bayan Member Joel G. Ibañez, Sangguniang Bayan Member Patrick G. Vicente, Sangguniang Bayan Member Raymundo F. Galanga and Sangguniang Bayan Member Aguedo M. Mortel.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. ARCILLAS. Mme. Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The Lady will please proceed.

REP. ARCILLAS. Mme. Speaker, may I inquire on the status of House Bill No. 4982, which I co-authored, entitled: AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION (SOGIE) AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Will the Acting Floor Leader respond?

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, the parliamentary status of House Bill No. 4982 is that it is already in the Calendar of Business.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Is the distinguished Lady satisfied with the response of the Acting Floor Leader?

REP. ARCILLAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker, I am satisfied, and I appreciate the update given by the Acting Floor Leader on the status of the said Bill.

I hope that the House gives due haste to the passage of the Bill by taking it up on the floor for discussion the soonest possible time.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is suspended.

It was 4:23 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:25 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar presiding.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar). The session is resumed.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. UY (J.). Mme. Speaker, today being a Monday, and pursuant to our rules, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. UY (J.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing from the First District of Nueva Ecija to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar). Rep. Estrellita Suansing is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. SUANSING (E.)

REP. SUANSING (E.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished Members of this august Chamber, I rise before you today in relation to the observance of Woman's Role in History Month.

Today, we begin to observe Woman's Role in History Month in vital recognition of the historic contributions of the Filipino women in the country's growth and development. Pres. Rodrigo R. Duterte in his State of the Nation Address directed all agencies, oversight bodies and local government units or LGUs down to the barangay level to fully implement Republic Act No. 9710, otherwise known as the Magna Carta of Women. Only through the realization of this landmark law can we assure that both man and woman, side by side, can harness their full potentials to contribute to the country's economic, social, cultural and political developments.

Mme. Speaker, the celebration of Woman's Role in History Month also coincides with the birth anniversaries of two important figures in Philippine history. Gabriela Silang was born on March 19, 1731, and Rosa Sevilla de Alvero on March 4, 1879. Gabriela Silang was the first woman to lead a revolt and continue the libertarian movement against Spain in Ilocos Sur after the assassination of her husband, Diego. Considered as the "Joan of Arc" of the Ilocandia, Gabriela Silang valiantly fought and stood triumphantly in many battles, suffered thrashing defeats with heavy casualties and courageously faced her death by hanging, upon her capture by the colonizers. On the other hand, Rosa Sevilla was an educator who joined the revolution and founded the first Filipino-initiated school, the *Instituto de Mujeres*, a school for Filipino lay women.

Rosa Sevilla lobbied, campaigned and fought for the women's right to suffrage. In April 1937, the Filipino women have been finally granted their right to vote and be voted in elective office.

We have been witnesses to the passage of significant pieces of legislation that empower the Filipino woman and further strengthen her rights. However, despite the fact that our country and the rest of the world has advanced so far, since the time of the women's suffragist movement in terms of passing laws that provide equal rights, equal opportunities and protection for the female gender, we must all admit, oppression still exists against women today.

This year's celebration is anchored on the commitment to "Malasakit at Pagbabago" or "True

Compassion and Real Change” captured through the theme: “We Make Change Work for Women.” This is the opportune time to review our laws, our policies and programs that ensure the protection of women. After all, we are legislators voted into office by our people and are depended on to preserve what is truly just and equitable for all.

The Filipino women are integral in our larger society and thus should be afforded equal opportunities with men regardless of class, ethnic or religious background, to participate in every political, social, cultural and economic activities. Let us ponder over our thoughts for a genuine action to empower the women sector and transform them into a cohesive force in our society, capable of leading us to a future free from the shackles of poverty and oppression.

In the United States, a million women’s march was held in Washington D.C. to loudly protest the inauguration of a president who has shamelessly disrespected women with his sexist and offensive remarks.

In several parts of Africa and Asia, slavery and prostitution not only of women but of children, too, still continue often without restraint or check. How can countries turn a blind eye to the maltreatment of women and weak sectors in their communities or far worse, openly encourage such dastardly behavior? All souls, irrespective of gender or status, are equal before the kingdom of heaven; as it is above, and so it shall be below.

Let us make our world a better place for humanity instead of heading into a dark age by allowing the rise of fascism, racism, bullying and warmongering. The struggle for gender equality is just one of the fronts in the larger battlefield against hate, discrimination, prejudice, exploitation and division. *Quo Vadis?* Where are we heading? There is no other way but to rally together in support of tolerance, inclusion, reproductive rights, civil rights, racial justice, LGBTQ rights, protection of the environment and wage equality, as well as we celebrate the National Women’s Month—gender equality.

Let us be inspired by the lives of Gabriela Silang and Rosa Sevilla who selflessly dedicated their lives in the service of their people and their country. I take this opportunity to call on this august Chamber to advance and protect women rights because women rights are also human rights.

Mme. Speaker, like that great women, Gabriela and Rosa, let us learn from their perseverance and determination to achieve their goals and objectives which ultimately benefited the entire Filipino nation. Together, let us empower every Filipino woman and join them in their daily struggle to put food on the table, defeat domestic violence, overcome discrimination and perform their central function as that bright light of hope that illuminates every home in this nation.

In closing, let me paraphrase Corazon C. Aquino, the country’s first woman President who once said, and I quote:

There is much that women can bring into politics that would make our world a kinder, gentler place for humanity to thrive in.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished colleagues. *(Applause)*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. UY (J.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of Rep. Estrellita Suansing be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the speech of Representative Suansing is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. UY (J.). Mme. Speaker, next to avail of the Privilege Hour is Rep. Sol Aragon from the Third District of Laguna. I move that she be recognized for her privilege speech.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar). Rep. Sol Aragon is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ARAGONES

REP. ARAGONES. Mme. Speaker, my fellow Representatives, ladies and gentlemen.

I stand before all of you today not to talk about the triumph and success of women, but to talk about their struggles and the challenges that lie ahead. I am not here to talk for the sake of speaking, but to urge all of you to take action sooner and not later, now and not never.

This month, we celebrate the annual National Women’s Month, supposedly. Supposedly, not in the sense that it is not National Women’s Month, but in the sense that if and when we are going to celebrate, then there must be a reason for us to celebrate.

Mayroon po akong isang malapit na kaibigan. Hindi siya mahirap pero hindi rin siya mayaman. Simple ngunit sapat ang pamumuhay ng kanilang pamilya, pero nagtatrabaho at nagsusumikap upang makamantan ang kanilang mga pangarap.

Dumating ang panahon na unti-until nang umangat ang estado nila sa buhay. Mula sa pagkakaroon ng sapat, ngayon, may kaunting extra na. Ramdam ang ginhawa at masaya. Maayos na sana pero isang malungkot na balita ang nagwasak ng lahat. Nalaman nila na may

malubhang sakit ang kanilang ina—breast cancer, stage 4. Nakakapanghina, nakakalungkot, nakakaiyak.

Lahat ng mga bagay na maaari sanang bilhin, fancy restaurants na puwede sanang kainan at mga lugar na puwede naman sanang puntahan ng kanilang buong pamilya ay hindi na mangyayari. Bakit? Dahil huli na nang nalaman nila. Way too late. The fact that they could still have done something, anything, had they learned about it earlier makes it even more painful. Their situation was just so hapless, so helpless, so hopeless. What happened to them should not be experienced by everybody else, or anybody else for that matter. So please allow me to make a heartfelt request.

According to the Department of Health and the Philippine Society of Medical Oncology, breast cancer is the most common form of cancer in the country. Yes, breast cancer, not colon cancer, not prostate cancer, not even lung cancer which is a distant second in the ranking. Breast cancer accounts for at least 16 percent of the 80,000 reported cancer cases each year. Breast cancer is so common that one in every 13 Filipino women are expected to develop it in their lifetime. It is the leading form of cancer among Filipino women making up 28 percent of all reported cancer cases. One out of four Filipinas who are diagnosed with breast cancer dies within the first five years and no less than 40 percent die within 10 years.

The Philippines has the highest breast cancer incidence in the entire Asian continent. Figures from the Philippine Cancer Society show that more than 90 percent of Filipino women diagnosed with breast cancer choose complete removal rather than breast conservation as surgical treatment. This then gives our country the highest mastectomy rate in Asia and one of the lowest breast conservation rates in the continent.

One thing is very clear and very convincing at this point—breast cancer is a real medical and health concern confronting modern Filipino women today.

Perhaps, some of you in this Chamber may know of someone—a constituent, a friend, a relative, or even a close family member—who has been diagnosed with breast cancer. I repeat, I really do hope not, because this killer just comes, snuffs the life out of a person you love and care about, then leaves. Walang pakialam sa buhay ang cancer na ito. Walang iginagalang na pamilya. Walang kinikilalang pangarap. Sakit, pait lamang ang dulot nito. Kung hindi tayo kikilos at kung hindi ngayon, napakarami pang buhay ang sisirain nito, napakarami pang pamilya ang wawasakin nito, at napakarami pang pangarap ang gigibain nito.

I am not a doctor, and we in the House of Representatives are obviously not part of a medical institution that can directly cure breast cancer. But we, as legislators, can do something concrete and tangible through legislation to address this serious matter of breast cancer in our country.

Last year, I filed a measure to highlight the urgency of addressing breast cancer. The key objective is to institutionalize early detection, coupled with breast cancer education. Mahalaga ang pagbibigay-kaalaman sa breast cancer, lalo na sa mga kababaihan natin sa kanayunan. The earlier breast cancer is detected, the easier it is to cure. For all the dark and grim statistics that I cited earlier, breast cancer is actually preventable and treatable. Yes, preventable and treatable. We, as legislators, need to do our part to be active in that crucial process of prevention and treatment. We want to empower our women. We want them to be proactive in detecting, preventing, and curing breast cancer. We want them to take control of their bodies to combat this killer. Early detection and prevention is really the best cure. There is no better way. An institutionalized program combating breast cancer will lessen the incidence of this type of ailment to Filipino women who are our mothers, sisters, daughters, friends, and constituents.

In high-income countries such as Japan, Sweden and the US, the breast cancer survival rate is around 80 percent. In middle-income countries, it is about 60 percent. In low-income countries such as ours, women with breast cancer have an average survival rate of below 40 percent. Tatanggapin na lang ba natin na kapag breast cancer ang usapin, suko na tayo agad at hindi tayo lalaban?

The key is awareness and education, especially for our low-income Filipino women who may not have access to early detection and treatment. If they were not otherwise provided for free by the government, the State should guarantee their health and well-being, not just in rhetoric but through actual policies, programs, and projects on the ground and nationwide, mula Aparri hanggang Jolo, or from Batanes to Tawi-Tawi o saan man sa mundo.

We may suffer from many figurative societal cancers, mga sakit at kanser ng lipunan, ‘ika nga, that equally need to be cured, but these can be better discussed on another date and time, in another speech and act. In the meantime, let us address a real cancer that threatens the Filipina, a real cancer that we, collectively, can prevent. This is especially so during this National Women’s Month, but it should also be so each and every single day of the year.

This, then, is my heartfelt request, ito po ang hiling ng aking puso sa inyo: Let us raise breast cancer awareness and patient education to promote women’s health and well-being. Nasa ating mga kamay ang kapakanan, kahihinatnan, at kinabukasan ng mga kababaihan. Huwag po natin silang biguin lalo na ngayong Buwan ng Kababaihan. Let us give women a reason to celebrate the National Women’s Month.

Mabuhay ang kababaihan!

Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat. Magandang hapon, Mme. Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar).
The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. UY (J.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of Representative Sol Aragonés be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar).
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The speech of Hon. Sol Aragonés is referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. UY (J.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar).
Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Privilege Hour is suspended.

ROLL CALL

REP. UY (J.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar).
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. 78, dated March 6, 2017:

PRESENT

Abayon	Alvarez (P.)	Biazon	Garin (R.)
Abellanosa	Amatong	Billones	Gasataya
Abu	Andaya	Bolilia	Gatchalian
Abueg	Angara-Castillo	Bondoc	Geron
Acharon	Aragones	Bordado	Go (A.C.)
Acop	Arcillas	Bravo (A.)	Go (M.)
Acosta	Arenas	Bravo (M.V.)	Gonzales (A.P.)
Acosta-Alba	Atienza	Brosas	Gonzales (A.D.)
Advincula	Bag-ao	Cagas	Gonzalez
Agarao	Bagatsing	Calderon	Gorriceta
Aggabao	Barzaga	Calixto-Rubiano	Hernandez
Aglipay-Villar	Bataoil	Caminero	Herrera-Dy
Albano	Batocabe	Campos	Hofer
Alejano	Bautista-Bandigan	Canama	Kho
Almario	Belaro	Cari	Labadlabad
Almonte	Belmonte (F.)	Castelo	Lacson
Alonte	Belmonte (J.C.)	Castro (F.L.)	Lagman
Alvarez (F.)	Belmonte (R.)	Castro (F.H.)	Lanete
Alvarez (M.)	Bertiz	Cayetano	Laogan
		Cerafica	Lazatin
		Chavez	Limkaichong
		Chipeco	Lobregat
		Co	Lopez (B.)
		Cojuangco	Lopez (M.L.)
		Collantes	Macapagal-Arroyo
		Cortes	Maceda
		Cortuna	Madrona
		Crisologo	Mangaoang
		Cuaresma	Marcos
		Cueva	Mariño
		Dalipe	Marquez
		Dalog	Martinez
		Daza	Matugas
		De Venecia	Mellana
		De Vera	Mending
		Defensor	Mercado
		Del Mar	Montoro
		Deloso-Montalla	Nava
		Dimaporo (A.)	Nieto
		Dimaporo (M.K.)	Noel
		Elago	Nolasco
		Eriguel	Nuñez-Malanyaon
		Ermita-Buhain	Oaminal
		Escudero	Ocampo
		Espina	Ong (E.)
		Estrella	Ortega (P.)
		Eusebio	Ortega (V.N.)
		Evardone	Pacquiao
		Fariñas	Paduano
		Ferrer (J.)	Palma
		Flores	Pancho
		Fortuno	Panganiban
		Fuentebella	Panotes
		Garcia (G.)	Papandayan
		Garcia (J.E.)	Pichay
		Garcia-Albano	Pimentel

Pineda	Suarez
Plaza	Sy-Alvarado
Primicias-Agabas	Tambunting
Quimbo	Tan (A.)
Ramirez-Sato	Tejada
Ramos	Teves
Relampagos	Tiangco
Roa-Puno	Ting
Robes	Tinio
Rocamora	Tolentino
Rodriguez (I.)	Tugna
Rodriguez (M.)	Tupas
Roman	Turabin-Hataman
Romualdo	Ty
Roque (H.)	Umali
Roque (R.)	Unabia
Sagarbarria	Ungab
Sahali	Unico
Salceda	Uy (J.)
Salimbangon	Uy (R.)
Salo	Uybarreta
Salon	Vargas-Alfonso
Sandoval	Velasco-Catera
Santos-Recto	Veloso
Sarmiento (C.)	Vergara
Sarmiento (E.M.)	Villanueva
Savellano	Villaraza-Suarez
Sema	Villarica
Siao	Villarin
Silverio	Violago
Singson	Yap (V.)
Suansing (E.)	Yu
Suansing (H.)	Zubiri

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 216 Members responded to the call.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar). With 216 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. UY (J.). Mme. Speaker, may we request that the presence of the guests of Congresswoman Villarica be acknowledged. They are all here in the gallery. They are the following:

1. Soroptimist International of Meycauayan, headed by President Anne Mizuse; *(Applause)*
2. Soroptimist International of the Philippines Region, Inc., headed by Governor Cherry Tumaneng, together with the officers and members of the following clubs: Soroptimist International of Baliuag, Soroptimist International of Bocaue, Soroptimist International of Congressional, Soroptimist International of Founder

Manila, Soroptimist International of Malabon, Soroptimist International of Metro Cabanatuan, Soroptimist International of Ortigas Environs, Soroptimist International of Quezon City, Soroptimist International of Sampaloc, Soroptimist International of San Juan, and Soroptimist International of Taguig;

3. Soroptimist International of Meycauayan-Sto Niño, headed by President Cora Coma;

4. Soroptimist International of Bagong Marilaw, headed by Vice President Gladys;

5. Soroptimist International of San Jose del Monte 1, headed by immediate past District Director Mercy Sta. Maria;

6. Soroptimist International of San Jose del Monte 2, headed by President Milagros Duran;

7. Soroptimist International of Bocaue, headed by past President Amy Tiongco;

8. Soroptimist International of Sta. Maria, headed by President Emy Bautista;

9. Meycauayan City, headed by Mayor Henry Villarica and Vice Mayor Jojo Manzano; *(Applause)*

10. From Marilao, headed by Mayor Tito Santiago and Vice Mayor Henry Lutao; *(Applause)*

11. From Obando, headed by Councilor Ding Valeda and Councilor Arthos Sayao;

12. From Sta. Maria, headed by Mayor Rusel Pleyto and Vice Mayor Quirino Buenaventura;

13. Dr. Norma Esteban, from Meycauayan City, Bulacan; and

14. Theresa B. Sevilla, from Meycauayan West Central School and president of the Philippine Elementary School Principal Association.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar). Guests of Hon. Linabelle Villarica, welcome to the House of Representatives.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. UY (J.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Aglipay-Villar). The session is suspended.

It was 4:59 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:00 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Glona G. Labadlabad presiding.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Labadlabad). The session is resumed.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez from the municipality of Malimono, province of Surigao del Norte, headed by the Municipal Mayor, Wallace Sinaca, together with his wife, Ms. Pelluchi Sinaca, and the Liga ng mga Punong Barangay President Virgie Rivas, and Sangguniang Bayan members: Date Geraldino, Marilyn Macarine, Gerardo Quinto Sr., Eulogio Ferol, Abdon Estrella Jr., Julie Geraldino, Herannie Del Carmen, Georgita Laurenciana and Marianne Marina Escano.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Labadlabad). The presence of the guests is acknowledged. *(Applause)*

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, may we also acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Juliette T. Uy of the Second District of Misamis Oriental, the honorable Councilors of Libertad, Misamis Oriental: Councilor Lillian Lucille Gallogo, Councilor Sharon Ballangan, Councilor Jed Christian Sayre and Councilor Keith Warren Jagus.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Labadlabad). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

Continuation

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, may we resume the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Labadlabad). The Privilege Hour is resumed.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that Rep. Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano of the Lone District of Pasay be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Labadlabad). The Lady from the Lone District of Pasay City, Representative Calixto-Rubiano, is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO

REP. CALIXTO-RUBIANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Good afternoon, Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues in this august Chamber, ladies and gentlemen.

Maligayang Pandaigdigang Araw ng mga Kababaihan sa ating lahat.

International Women's Day was first recognized in 1975 by the United Nations during the International Women's Year. For the past century, the world has witnessed the status of women being raised in many countries from the extension of the right to vote, paid employment, and recognition of women's basic human rights.

Nakita natin kung paano unti-unting nabigyan ng patas na karapatan sa lipunan ang ating mga kababaihan. Marami ring pagkakataon na naipakita natin kung paano nagbago ang pagtingin ng mundo sa mga kababaihan dahil sa ipinakitang galing, talino at ganda ng kalooban. Mula sa pinakamataas na nanunungkulan sa pamahalaan pati na sa mga pinakamaimpluwensiyang posisyon sa lipunan hanggang sa mga supervisory positions, naipakikita ang galing at paninindigan ng kababaihan.

"Be Bold for Change"—iyan ang panawagan at hamon ng ating tema sa pagdiriwang ng natatanging araw na ito. Sa lahat ng larangan, kaya nating mga kababaihang pantayan ang kakayanan ng kahit sino man, mabigyan lang tayo ng patas na oportunidad, notwithstanding of course kung ito ay sa larangan ng palakasan.

If I may, Mme. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, please allow me to concentrate our focus now on Pinays as we are fondly called.

As we celebrate International Women's Day, I would like to give honor to all our outstanding Pinays who, in many occasions, have proven that we can do much more in any given field; but please allow me to focus on one aspect.

Pinays have proven time and again their worth, be it in their family, their community, their country, and, of course, even to the world. This is what it means to be a certified Gandang Pinay. We have shown the world last year what it meant when a certified Gandang Pinay was crowned Miss Universe 2015, and she is no other than our very own Ms. Pia Wurtzbach and, of course, in the not-so-distant past, Misses Gloria Diaz, Margie Moran and, of course, in the not-so-distant—the Miss International winners: Misses Gemma Cruz, Aurora Pijuan, Melanie Marquez, Precious Lara Quigaman, Bea Rose Santiago and Kylie Verzosa, and let us not forget Miss World 2013, Megan Young, and all the other winners in the different international pageants.

Nitong nagdaang Enero, isa na namang certified Gandang Pinay ang napalaban. Hindi lamang gandang panlabas ang kanyang taglay bagkus higit dito ay ang ganda ng kanyang kalooban. Sa gitna ng matinding pressure bilang host ng isang malaking international event, isama pa rito ang sarili niyang paghahanda bilang kinatawan ng ating bansa, siya, kasama ang buong Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc., ang Kagawaran ng Turismo at iba pang government agencies, ang LCS Group at iba pang pribadong grupo, ay nagpakita sa mga kapwa niya kandidata kung ano ang tunay na ibig sabihin ng Gandang Pinay at ganda ng ating bansa.

She brought pride to Filipinos all over the world as she belonged to the top six among the 86 Miss Universe aspirants. She has provided an inspiring and shining example of grace under pressure, the trait of a Gandang Pinay. Evidently, she was able to capture the attention and the hearts of everyone when she elicited the loudest cheer from the audience when she took the center stage to represent our country, along with the other deserving beauties representing their respective countries. Even though she was not able to get the crown, she received numerous praises from all sectors of our society for her excellent performance. She, indeed, is an epitome of hard work and dedication.

Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, as we celebrate Women's Day, allow me to acknowledge the presence in this august Chamber, accompanied by her family and who will forever remain as one of our most beautiful queens, may I invite all of you to give a round of applause to a certified Gandang Pinay who is in the top six of the 65th Miss Universe 2016 Pageant, Ms. Maria Mika Maxine Medina. Please rise. (Applause) Thank you.

It is for this reason that I have filed House Resolution No. 816, entitled: "RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MS. MARIA MIKA MAXINE MEDINA FOR HER OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATION AT THE 65TH MS. UNIVERSE PAGEANT AND BEING A SOURCE OF CONTINUED PRIDE FOR FILIPINOS."

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker and my dear colleagues, for this opportunity.

Mabuhay ang kababaihan! Mabuhay ang mga tunay na Gandang Pinay!

Magandang hapon po sa inyong lahat. Maraming-maraming salamat and God bless us all.

Thank you.

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of Representative Calixto-Rubiano be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Labadlabad). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the speech of Representative Calixto-Rubiano is referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, I move that Rep. Arlene D. Brosas of the Party-List GABRIELA be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Labadlabad). Representative Brosas of GABRIELA is recognized.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Labadlabad). Okay.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, as women all over the world rise, claim their rightful place, and uphold the tradition of militant struggle and victories that make March 8 International Women's Day, allow me then to take this opportunity to give this august Chamber a glimpse of the deteriorating plight of Filipino women.

One of four Filipinos is considered poor. Nine of 10 Filipino farmer families do not till their own land and are subjected to steep land rents, unfair agricultural trading prices and usury. Almost three million Filipinos are unemployed. Those statistically considered as employed are mostly contractuales with slave-level wages and hazardous work conditions. The fire that left five workers dead and more than 1,300 still unaccounted for at the HTI factory in Cavite more than underscores this fact. Many have been forced to leave their families to risk their lives in jobs overseas.

It is from among these ranks of the poorest and marginalized, the Filipino workers and peasants, that we find the most vulnerable women and their children. From the rank of Filipino workers and peasants, indigenous peoples and migrant workers, we find the women and children who doubly bear the burden of poverty and are most vulnerable to abuse and gender violence.

Mga kapwa ko Kinatawan, hindi natin maihihiwalay ang kalagayan ng kababaihan Pilipino sa kalagayan ng kabuuan ng mga mamamayang pinananatiling hikahos at pinagsasamantalahan sa patuloy na pananalasa ng mga patakarang neo-liberal sa ating bayan katulad ng pribatisasyon, liberalisasyon at deregulasyon.

Kinakaharap ng mga kababaihan manggagawa ang iba't ibang iskema ng pleksibilisasyon sa paggawa at kontraktuwalisasyon, kung saan 7 sa bawat 10 manggagawang kababaihan na matatagpuan sa service industry bilang mga salesladies o call center agents ay mga kontraktual. Hinding-hindi pa rin nakasasapat ang minimum na sahod para sa mga batayang pangangailangan ng pamilya lalo pa at tuluy-tuloy ang pagtaas ng presyo ng bilihin, mga bayaring tubig at kuryente, at maging pamasaha. Sa katunayan, ang minimum na sahod sa NCR na siyang pinakamataas sa buong bansa ay 60 percent lamang ng family living wage na P1,088.

Patuloy rin ang pagtaas ng halaga ng serbisyong kalusugan, edukasyon at pabahay. Negosyo na kung ituring at pinagkakakitaan ng malalaking dayuhang interes ang mga ito kaya mistulang ginigisa sa sariling mantika ang mga maralitang naghahangad ng pabahay. Itinulak ng kalagayang ito ang maraming manggagawa na lumabas ng bansa at makipagsapalaran. Kaya ngayon, itinatayang 6 sa bawat 10 migranteng lumalabas ng bansa ay pawang mga kababaihan. Kabilang sa mga nakipagsapalaran ang mga tulad nina Mary Jane Veloso

at Jennifer Dalquez na nahatulang maparusahan ng kamatayan sa Indonesia at sa United Arab Emirates.

Hanggang sa kasalukuyan, ang mga kababaihang magsasaka, kasama ang kanilang mga anak, ay itinuturing na ekstensiyon lamang ng padre de pamilya sa paggampan ng gawain sa sakahan at samakatuwid ay maliit, kung hindi man wala na talagang kabayaran nakukuha sa kanilang pinagpaguran. Itinatoboy sila ng malawakang kumbersiyon ng mga lupaing agrikultural para makipagsapalaran bilang mga kasambahay o mga manggagawa sa kalunsuran.

Sa pagkakataong igiit nila ang kanilang karapatan sa lupang sinasaka o sa lupang ninuno, o sa pagkakataong sila ay tumindig laban sa pagpasok ng malalawak na plantasyon at mga minahang pinahihintulutan ng mga patakarang neo-liberal, sinasalubong sila ng mga bala mula sa mga paramilitar o maging mismo ng Armed Forces of the Philippines.

Ganito ang kuwento ng tatlong kababaihang magsasaka na pinagbabaril kasama ang dalawa pa nilang kasamahan sa Capiz habang kanilang ipinagtanggol ang kanilang mga lupain. Mahigit 100 ang napilitang lumikas nang pinaulanan ng bala ang isang komunidad ng mga Lumad sa Alabel, Sarangani dahil sa paratang na ang komunidad diumano ay sumusuporta sa mga miyembro ng New People's Army. Aabot sa halos 700 ang lumikas sa Maddela, Quirino at sapilitang pinaaamin ang ilang residente at magsasaka na sila ay miyembro ng NPA. Isang malakihang operasyon ng AFP ang nakaantala at nakapinsala rin sa kanilang kabuhayan at pag-aaral ng mga bata sa Barangay Namal, Asipulo, Ifugao.

Sa buwan lamang ng Pebrero, mula nang magdeklara ng all-out-war ang AFP, aabot sa 14 nang sibilyan at aktibista ang napaslang sa mga isinasagawang operasyong militar ng AFP. Ilang araw lamang ang nakalipas simula nang tumambad sa balita ang pagpaslang sa mag-asawang Ramon at Leonela Pesadilla na kapwa sumusuporta sa paaralang Lumad sa Compostela Valley.

Sa mahigit 400 bilanggong pulitikal sa bansa, 30 ang naaresto sa ilalim ng kasalukuyang administrasyon. Ang ilan sa kanila ay inaresto sa kabila ng isinasagawa pa noong mga negosasyon para sa usapang pangkapayapaan.

Mme. Speaker, fellow colleagues, in behalf of the women from the poorest and marginalized sections of society, let me reiterate once more our call for the resumption of peace negotiations between the National Democratic Front and the Philippine government.

Every farmer and worker killed and violated is a reason compelling enough to prod both parties to return to the negotiating table just as every Filipino woman languishing in poverty is a reason compelling enough for all of us in this august Chamber to do what we can,

as legislators, to reverse the policies of privatization, liberalization and deregulation.

Each of us must be compelled to support and pass legislations such as the Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill, the Regular Employment Bill, the Workers' SHIELD Bill, and the People's Mining Bill. Every woman violated is a compelling reason to support amendments to strengthen the Anti-Rape Law and the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act.

Just as we in GABRIELA Women's Party view our stint in every Congress as an opportunity to do what we can to uplift the lives of Filipino women, we also view the negotiations between the Philippine government and the National Democratic Front as a most opportune venue to demand the reversal of neo-liberal policies and the implementation of socio-economic reforms that are part of the substantive agenda being discussed in negotiations.

Ang pagsasakatuparan ng mga repormang isinusulong at pinag-uusapan sa negosasyon ay nangangahulugan hindi lamang ng pag-alwan ng kabuhayan ng nakararaming mamamayan at ng kababaihan. Ito ay nangangahulugan ng hustisyang panlipunan at ganap na kapayapaan.

Ang Pandaigdigang Araw ng Kababaihan na siya nating ginugunita ngayon ay bunga ng pakikipaglaban ng kababaihang ANAKPAWIS para sa lupa, trabaho, kabuhayan, karapatan, hustisya at kapayapaan.

Taong 1910 nang isulong sa Second International Conference sa Denmark ang pagkakaroon ng natatanging araw para sa kababaihang manggagawa. Sinundan ito ng mga malalaking pagkilos ng kababaihan sa iba't ibang panig ng daigdig kung saan itinatala ng kababaihan ang paninindigan para sa sapat na sahod, maayos na kalagayan sa pagawaan laban sa child labor at karapatang mag-organisa at bumoto.

Dear colleagues, it has been over a hundred years yet the dismal and dreary conditions that forced women to rise, protest and revolt then continue to exist and have since worsened.

We, the women today, are being challenged by the existing conditions of the present and the cries of our children, the citizens of the future, to fight back the neo-liberal attacks and the fascism that its implementation entails. We are being called upon to rise and fight back just as our foremothers did.

Let us take on this challenge to make genuine change, social justice and peace happen.

Magandang gabi at mapagpalayang Araw ng Kababaihan sa ating lahat. *(Applause)*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Labadlabad).
The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ENVERGA. Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of Representative Brosas be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Labadlabad). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the speech of Representative Brosas is referred to the Committee on Rules.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ENVERGA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Labadlabad). The session is suspended.

It was 5:24 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:24 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Lorna C. Silverio presiding.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). The session is resumed.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. VILLARICA. Mme. Speaker, I move that Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago of the Party-List KABATAAN be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). Representative Elago is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

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

I rise as the youth stands in solidarity with the observance of International Working Women's Month.

On the first day of March, I saw hundreds of women from various sectors gathered in Cebu for the kick-off event of the National Women's Month led by the Philippine Commission on Women, with the theme: "WE Make Change Work for Women." This was our theme and our battle cry as we commenced the Visayas leg of the PCW forum series, where I participated as one of the guest speakers.

Mme. Speaker, dito ay natutunan natin na napakarami na nating napagtagumpayan sa laban para sa pantay na karapatan at mga oportunidad, ngunit napakarami pang kailangang gawin at ipaglaban.

We have high hopes that through our collective determination, we are now poised to gain more victories, especially on women's economic empowerment.

This year, we join all women's rights advocates to call for an end to labor contractualization, a policy that makes the Filipino youth and women vulnerable to exploitation.

Contractualization is a scourge that continues to torment women and the youth in the workplace. This policy has directly resulted in the depression of wages, the loss of job security and the continued violation of labor rights. It is no secret that contractualization has become so widespread in the country that a whole generation of youth has already come to age and enter the labor force in an era where flexible labor has become the norm. Even if the Labor Code of the Philippines requires employers to regularize their employees after serving for six months, various schemes have been implemented by businesses and companies to go around this rule.

Mme. Speaker, women are doubly hit by the scourge of the contractualization policy. Gender discrimination in the workplace, coupled with intensified contractualization, easily targets women workers and pushes them to further destitution. Thus, the fight against contractualization is a fight for women's labor rights. Likewise, we should also solidly follow through on the youth agenda, from upholding national sovereignty and territorial integrity, to improving the wage and living conditions of workers, and promoting all possible means of livelihood, to stopping corruption and expanding social services, especially in education, health, housing and transportation, to fighting for gender equality, the right to self-determination of national minorities, and to calling for wise utilization of natural resources and protection of the environment. Filipinos have long organized and struggled for all these meaningful demands.

Ang panawagan ng mga kabataan ay ang panawagan din ng ating mga kababaihan. These are all part of the aspiration for a truly independent, democratic and prosperous Philippines.

Mme. Speaker, this august Chamber is but one of the few avenues where we collectively forward our struggle. We must reinvigorate our struggles and strengthen our movement.

Mga kabataan, kababaihan, lahat po tayo ay may maaaring maiambag sa pagbabago na nais nating makamit, for wherever there is a struggle, there is hope. Hope springs eternal because the history of the Filipino people is a history of struggle. The youth have always played a key role in advancing struggles and waving the banner of victory with the people. The youth possess vitality, courage and idealism. These traits are our instruments in fulfilling our historic role: to fight for the marginalized and the oppressed.

At present, when we are robbed of our democratic rights and our future, we face the challenge of promoting an alternative brand of politics that contradicts the rotten system. Our politics—the politics of the youth—is that of hope, struggle and change. We have a power greater than what the law alone can bring about. The law may change but principles do not. And the youth is ready to heed the call of the times. Enflamed with the love for

country and our countrymen, freedom and liberty, we accept the challenge to fulfill our role as the hope of our motherland.

Mga kapwa kabataan, mga kababaihan, mga kababayan, our dearest colleagues, there can be no more fitting way to honor Gabriela Silang, Teresa Magbanua and Tandang Sora, than to pledge our commitment towards achieving genuine social change. We draw inspiration from them and the heroes of the revolution, who taught us the essence of liberty and freedom. We are enlivened by their bravery and the ardour of contemporary women heroes of Philippine upsurge and uprisings—Jessica Sales, Lilosia Hilao, Rizalina Ilagan, Lorena Barros, and countless and nameless others who fought against an oppressive regime and sacrificed their lives for the resurgence of democracy. To them and to the toiling nation, we muster our energies to make this country a better place to live in.

Ngayon pong lalo pang nangangamba ang mga kabataan sa paglaganap ng ibayong pasismo ng ating Estado, hindi po tayo titigil na lumaban, hindi tayo aatras. Let us tread to the path of struggle despite and in spite of the hardships it entails—the path of struggle where we have become the child of countless fathers and mothers, the path of struggle where we have become sisters and friends to many, the path of struggle where we strive to be one with the toiling masses in the fight for a just future.

Ang mga kababaihan ay pinagbubuklod, tayong mga Pilipino, ng ating mithiin ng paglaya at mas magandang bukas, dahil ang pagpapalaya sa mga kababaihan ay pagpapalaya sa ating bayan. Sa sama-samang pagsisikap, tayo ay magtatagumpay. Sa sama-samang pagkilos, makakamit natin ang makabuluhang pagbabagong panlipunan.

Mme. Speaker, maligayang Araw ng Kababaihan sa lahat. Patuloy nating ipaglaban ang tunay na kalayaan at demokrasya sa ating bayan.

Maraming salamat. (*Applause*)

REP. ROBES. Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of Representative Elago be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the speech of Representative Elago is referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. ROBES. Mme. Speaker, I move that Rep. France L. Castro of the Party-List ACT TEACHERS be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). Representative Castro is recognized.

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

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

Mme. Speaker, mahigit isang siglo na ang nakararaan mula nang tumindig para sa kanilang mga pundamental na karapatan ang mga kababaihang sosyalista sa Amerika. Ngayong taon na ating gugunitain muli ang International Women's Day ay nagpapatuloy pa rin ang pakikibaka ng mga kababaihan para sa trabaho, nakabubuhay na sahod, ligtas na kondisyon ng paggawa, hustisyang panlipunan at ang paglaya ng mga kababaihan sa lahat ng uri at porma ng opresyon, karahasan at pananamantala.

Mula noon hanggang ngayon, ang Buwan at ang Araw ng Kababaihan ay paggunita sa nananatiling umaalab na laban sa patriyarka at imperyalistang matindi ang pagpapahirap sa atin.

Mme. Speaker, I am a mother of two children, who has raised my family working as a high school Mathematics teacher for the last 25 years. Alam ko po ang hirap na pinagdadaan ng mga manggagawang ina. Sa kabila ng mga konstitusyonal na probisyon, mga batas at iba't iba pang regulasyon ay nanatiling vulnerable ang mga kababaihan sa kanyang araw-araw na pagbabanat ng buto.

Section 14, Article II of the 1987 Constitution mandates the State to recognize “the role of women in nation-building” and to “ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men.” Napakaganda po ng probisyong ito ngunit nakalulungkot na nananatiling laganap pa rin ang diskriminasyon lalung-lalo na po sa pag-eepleyo. Hindi pa rin nasusunod ng gobyerno ang iniatas ng Konstitusyon ayon sa Sections 11 and 14, Article XIII na pagtitiyak sa kaligtasan at pangangalaga sa kalusugan ng mga kababaihang manggagawa.

Kalunus-lunos ang hinaharap ng mga kababaihang manggagawa. Kabilang na rito ang mga kawani. Women government employees are currently allowed to avail only of 60 days paid maternity leave, be it normal delivery or caesarian. The government preferred to fund PhilHealth and privatize hospitals rather than subsidize their operation to actually provide accessible health care.

What is even more bothering is the lack of job security of almost 600,000 government employees classified as job order/contract of service employees. These are our daughters, sisters and mothers who are deprived of benefits and are continuously facing the uncertainty of whether or not they can provide food on the table after every end of contract.

Mme. Speaker, hindi na nga po tumataas ang suweldo ay nagbabawas pa ng benepisyo ang kasalukuyang Duterte administration. Sa bisa ng Joint Circular No. 1, series of 2017, na pinirmahan ng Department of Budget and Management, Department of Education at Department of the Interior and Local Government

ay inaalís na sa gastusin ng Special Education Fund ang pagbabayad ng local allowance ng mga guro sa buong kapuluan. Ang mawawalang P1,000 hanggang P3,000 na local allowance ay magiging kabawasan sa pinaggagastusan ng mga guro upang punan ang mga pangangailangan sa classroom tulad ng chalk, erasers at iba pang mga materyales na hindi napopondohan ng pamahalaan. Higit na magiging mahirap ang pagbabadyet ng mga gurong ina para sa pang-araw-araw na bilihin at pambaon sa kanilang mga anak.

Mme. Speaker, equally important po ang ating mga buildings, ang ating mga facilities sa eskuwelahan at siyempre po ang mga benepisyo ng ating mga kaguruan.

Ang sabi ay “Change is coming.” Iyan po ang inaabangan nating lahat, ang mga makabuluhan at makabayang pagbabagong ipinangako ng Pangulo. However, eight months into his presidency, there are still no concrete steps to address the fundamental problems of the country such as chronic poverty caused by widespread landlessness, joblessness, foreign control on our economy, and corrupt officials. The 2017 national budget reflects the continuation of anti-poor neoliberal policies that deprive Filipino mothers and their children access to quality social services such as education, housing and health care.

Ang K to 12 naman na nagpapahirap sa bawat maralitang ina ay nagpapatuloy pa rin ang implementasyon na may hindi sumasapat na badyet. Ang ipinangakong pagtaas ng SSS pension para sa ating mga lolo at lola ay ginawang P1,000 lamang sa halip na P2,000 at may mga kapalit pang mga pagtaas ng premium para sa ating mga empleyado. Hindi na po tayo magtataka kung bakit marami sa ating mga kababayan, kabilang na ang ilang mga guro, ang lubog sa utang at pinagsasamantalahan ng mga loan sharks dahil sa kahirapan sa pagbabayad ng di makatarungang interes. Ilang mga guro na rin ang nakulong at kung maaalala po natin, dalawang Pangasinan National High School teachers ang pinagbabaril noong 2014 dahil lamang hindi makabayad. Patunay po ang mga ganitong insidente na hindi overpaid ang mga guro gaya ng sinasabi ng ating kasalukuyang DepEd Secretary Liling Briones.

Alongside these anti-poor economic schemes and policies, we have a climate of violence caused by abuses of the police and the military in the name of the administration’s “war on drugs” which already caused 7,000 fatalities mostly, if not, all coming from the impoverished sectors of our society. Ilan pa bang ina ang mawawalan ng anak?

Mme. Speaker, maliban dito ay patuloy pa rin ang represyong politikal at paglabag sa karapatang pantao. Maraming mga kababaihan ang mga bilanggong pulitikal tulad na lamang ni Amelia Pond na guro sa isang Lumad school.

Matapos sampahan ng mga gawa-gawang kaso, siya ngayon ay nakapiit at may malubhang karamdaman. Maliban kay teacher Pond, 45 pang kababaihan ang kasalukuyang detinidong pulitikal. Kaliwa’t kanan din ang pandarahas ng militar sa mga pamayanang pinaghihinalaang rebelde. Ang mga ina at ang mga bata ang pangunahing biktima rito.

The halt of the peace talks between the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines had placed into uncertainty the advances we have witnessed in drafting the Comprehensive Agreement on Socio-Economic Reforms or CASER which seeks to address the roots of armed conflict. It contains provisions on poverty working conditions, social services and other democratic rights such as gender equality. Women believe that peace is not just the absence of war. What we want is peace rooted on social justice where the majority of the Filipino people are not exploited for the benefit of the few, even foreign imperialists.

Bagama’t nakamit na ang right to suffrage at iba pang mga politikal na karapatan ng mga kababaihan sa loob ng isang siglong pakikibaka, hindi pa rin tunay na malaya ang mga kababaihan hangga’t nananatiling lugmok sa kahirapan ang mga kababaihang magsasaka at manggagawa sa kalakhan ng ating populasyon dahil sa malakolonyal at malapiyudal na sistemang panlipunan ng ating bansa. Marami pang dapat gawin at malayo pa ang ating mararating.

As teachers, I know that we can take on this great task at hand, to mold the minds of the youth, to raise awareness, and to organize and mobilize the people in forwarding their democratic rights. All women-workers must remain hopeful as well. Naniniwala po tayo sa kasabihang, “A woman’s place is in the struggle.” As the founding President of the ACT-NCR Union, the biggest union of teachers in the public school in the Philippines, I believe that women-workers cannot only fight for gender equality, but more so, we are instruments in forging the real change we want to see, a society where justice and peace shall prevail for all the Filipino people.

Mme. Speaker, at mga kasamahan ko dito sa Kongreso, isang pagbati po muli ng mapagpalayang Araw ng mga Kababaihan.

Muli, magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

REP. ROBES. Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of Representative Castro be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The speech of Representative Castro is referred to the Committee on Rules.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is suspended.

It was 5:42 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). The session is resumed.

REP. ROBES. Mme. Speaker, the last to avail of the Privilege Hour is Deputy Speaker Pia S. Cayetano. I move for her recognition.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). Deputy Speaker Cayetano is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CAYETANO

REP. CAYETANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Honorable Speaker, distinguished Members of this House and our guests gathered here today, good afternoon.

As we celebrate Women's Month here in the House of Representatives, outside this august halls, millions of Filipino women and girls continue to suffer because of the prolonged denial of access to reproductive health services and information.

Consider the following: There are women who want to be responsible parents and limit the number of children they have so that they can provide better for their family. I have met women from all over the country, many of them with seven, eight, nine, ten or more children, and many of them live in poverty. They tell me their stories, their desire to have—and wish they have access to family planning, but because they did not, they ended up with children they love but cannot feed.

Then, there are the women of childbearing age, who have serious health issues and should not get pregnant. And yet, they still become pregnant and they risk their lives every time they get pregnant. Again, this would not happen if they have access to family planning.

Then, there are the women who end up having an abortion because they did not want to get pregnant but had no access to family planning. They have such sad stories to tell. They made painful and difficult choices that they would not have had to make if they had access to family planning.

Then we have our high rate of teen pregnancies—these are teenage girls who should be in school. Instead, they are forced to become mothers when they can barely take care of themselves.

All these result in higher maternal and infant mortality rates, higher rates of abortion and other sexually transmitted diseases, and young women who will never reach their full potential. This is just a small picture of the millions of women whose lives are drastically changed because of the lack of access to reproductive health supplies.

Our President is a known supporter and original advocate of access to reproductive health since he was Mayor in Davao City. He has recognized the plight of women and has thrown his support behind the full implementation of the RH Law. Congress has likewise supported the 2017 budget for RH, with the full support of our Speaker, the Hon. Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

In the meantime, the government's ability to fully implement the RH law is delayed yet again because the Supreme Court issued a temporary restraining order which effectively restricts the Food and Drug Administration from doing its job, granting the certifications needed for the procurement and distribution of the much needed family planning products and supplies.

Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, today I am here to amplify the voice of millions of Filipino women and girls, many of whom are among us here at the gallery, outside, in our homes, and in our districts. I call on each one of you, my dear colleagues, to open your eyes to the plight of these women and girls. They are all around us, in our districts and in our barangays. Hear them out. This is not about your religious beliefs or preferences. This is about their access to a basic right—the right to health, in this case, reproductive health.

Thank you.

REP. ROBES. Mme. Speaker, I move that the speech of Deputy Speaker Cayetano be referred to the Committee on Rules.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROBES. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Silverio). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is suspended.

It was 5:48 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:50 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica presiding.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is resumed.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOSOMONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move that we close the Privilege Hour.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. The Privilege Hour is closed.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNALS

REP. DELOSOMONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve the Journal of the previous session, Journals No. 76 and 77, dated February 28 and March 1, 2017, respectively.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOSOMONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of our guests in the gallery, the guests of Hon. Eric L. Olivarez from First District of Parañaque. The guests of Hon. Eric Olivarez are from Haeundae-gu, District Busan, South Korea, Haeundae-gu Council Chairman, Jeong Seong Cheol, ... (*Applause*)

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Please stand up. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. DELOSOMONTALLA. ... Yeo Chang Joo, Congressional Affairs Staff; Cho Hyun-ho, Attendant Staff; and Lee Chan Ho, also an Attendant Staff.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 816

REP. DELOSOMONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I

move that we consider House Resolution No. 816, as reported out by the Committee on Rules.

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). 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 resolution.

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. 816, entitled: RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MS. MARIA MIKA MAXINE MEDINA FOR HER OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATION AT THE 65TH MS. UNIVERSE PAGEANT AND BEING A SOURCE OF CONTINUED PRIDE FOR FILIPINOS.

REP. DELOSOMONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 816, in consolidation with similar measures, namely: House Resolutions No. 729, 734 and 738.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 816

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

House Resolution No. 816, in consolidation with House Resolutions No. 729, 734 and 738, is hereby adopted.

REP. DELOSOMONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Acting Minority Leader, Rep. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). What is the pleasure of the Lady from Party-List BUTIL Farmers?

REP. CHAVEZ. Mme. Speaker, I move that all women Legislators of this House be made coauthors of this Resolution commending Ms. Maria Mika Maxine Medina for her outstanding representation at the 65th Ms. Universe Pageant and for being a source of continued pride for Filipinos.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Is

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

All the Women Legislators of the House are hereby made coauthors of the said Resolution.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is suspended.

It was 5:54 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:56 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is resumed.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of Ms. Maria Mika Maxine Medina in our gallery. *(Applause)*

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Welcome to the House of Representatives and thank you for your visit, Ms. Maria Mika Maxine Medina. *(Applause)*

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes in order to allow our colleagues to greet Ms. Maxine Medina in the gallery.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is suspended.

It was 5:57 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:09 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is resumed.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, earlier we adopted House Resolution No. 816. May we request the Secretary General to read once again the title of the said House Resolution.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the Resolution.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 816, entitled: RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING MS. MARIA MIKA MAXINE MEDINA FOR HER OUTSTANDING REPRESENTATION AT THE 65TH MS. UNIVERSE PAGEANT AND BEING A SOURCE OF CONTINUED PRIDE FOR FILIPINOS.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is suspended.

It was 6:11 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:11 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is resumed.

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. May we request Ms. Maria Mika Maxine Medina to ascend the rostrum to receive a copy of the Resolution from Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra Sinsuat A. Sema. *(Applause)*

At this juncture, Ms. Maria Mika Maxine Medina together with the members of her family ascended the rostrum to receive a copy of House Resolution No. 816 from Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra A. Sema.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is suspended.

It was 6:12 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:12 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). The session is resumed.

The Acting Floor Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DELOSO-MONTALLA. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Villarica). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, March 7, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 6:13 p.m.