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House of Representatives

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No. 82

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 now called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Please rise for the singing of the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Please remain standing for a one-minute silent prayer.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Floor Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session.

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

It was 4:02 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). 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, Messages from the Senate, Communication and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5236, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE RANK CLASSIFICATION IN THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 28 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT OF 1990’,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Acop, Bataoil and Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5237, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE
CONSTRUCTION OF A COASTAL ROAD
TRAVERSING THE CITIES OF BACOLOD,
SILAY, TALISAY AND VICTORIAS, AND
THE MUNICIPALITY OF ENRIQUE B.
MAGALONA IN THE PROVINCE OF
NEGROS OCCIDENTAL”

By Representatives Benitez and Gasataya
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5238, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 13 OF
EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-
WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN THE CITY
OF PARAÑAQUE, METRO MANILA”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 5239, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS
TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS TO
PURSUE GRADUATE STUDIES”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 868, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO
INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
THE ALLEGED TAX EVASION OF
CERTAIN TRANSPORTATION NETWORK
COMPANIES”

By Representative Batocabe
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 869, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE
ON HOUSING AND URBAN
DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
OF THE FORCED OCCUPATION OF
THE MEMBERS OF THE URBAN
POOR LED BY THE KALIPUNAN NG
DAMAYANG MAHIHIRAP (KADAMAY)

OF HOUSING PROJECTS LOCATED
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PANDI
AND THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL
MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN AND
DIRECTING THE NATIONAL HOUSING
AUTHORITY TO REVIEW ITS POLICIES
ON GOVERNMENT RESETTLEMENT
PROGRAMS”

By Representative Robes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 870, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING,
COMMENDING AND AWARDING
OF CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF
DISTINCTION TO MR. ROMERO DUNO FOR
WINNING THE WORLD BOXING COUNCIL
(WBC) YOUTH INTERCONTINENTAL
LIGHTWEIGHT TITLE”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 871, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE
ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL
INTERMEDIARIES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON
THE OWNERSHIP CLAIM OF THE BANGKO
SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS (BSP) OF AN 18-
HECTARE PROPERTY IN SITIO TIYAKAD,
BARANGAY SAN MATEO, NORZAGARAY,
BULACAN WHICH WAS DECLARED
AS A SANITARY LANDFILL AND
DISPOSAL FACILITY BY PRESIDENTIAL
PROCLAMATION 1655 DATED 28 OCTOBER
2008”

By Representative Silverio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 872, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE TOP
10 GRADUATES AND THE GRADUATING
CLASS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL
POLICE ACADEMY (PNPA) 'MASIDLAK'
CLASS OF 2017”

By Representative Loyola
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 873, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING
AND COMMENDING MERIAM
LIBONGCOGON FOR GRADUATING
FROM THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY
ACADEMY”

By Representative Garcia (G.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 874, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CRUEL, INHUMAN AND DEGRADING TREATMENT OF PRISONERS AT THE CEBU PROVINCIAL DETENTION AND REHABILITATION CENTER (CPDRC) DURING THE RAID CONDUCTED ON 28 FEBRUARY 2017”

By Representative Garcia (G.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 1530, 5137, and 5163;

Rep. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. for House Bill No. 4277;

Rep. Ron P. Salo for House Resolution No. 822;

Reps. Reynaldo V. Umali and Joey Sarte Salceda for House Bill No. 4637;

Rep. Mark O. Go for House Bill No. 5120;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 4667 and 4690;

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House Bill No. 735;

Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D. for House Bills No. 4367, 4368, and 4690;

Rep. Noel L. Villanueva for House Bills No. 4144 and 4373;

Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo for House Bills No. 159 and 167;

Reps. Manuel F. Zubiri, Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D., Rodante D. Marcoleta, Greg G. Gasataya, Mariano Michael M. Velarde Jr., Alberto T. Ungab, Mark Aeron H. Sambar, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Gwendolyn F. Garcia, Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr., and Ron P. Salo for House Bill No. 167;

Reps. Aileen C. Radaza and Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI for House Bill No. 5140;

Reps. Mercedes “Didi” C. Cagas and Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. for House Bill No. 2881;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bills No. 1608 and 3283;

Reps. Arthur C. Yap, Karlo Alexei B. Nograles, Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, and Michelle M. Antonio for House Bill No. 4774;

Rep. Eric L. Olivarez for House Bill No. 875;

Rep. Romeo M. Acop for House Bill No. 180;

Rep. Manuel T. Sagarbarria for House Bill No. 2286;

Rep. Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento for House Bills No. 167, 2192, 4689, and 4774;

Rep. Sol Aragonés for House Bill No. 53;

Rep. Oscar “Richard” S. Garin Jr. for House Bill No. 5072;

Reps. Sitti Djalía A. Turabin-Hataman, Ramon V.A. “Rav” Rocamora, Ron P. Salo, Magnolia C. Antonino, Tom S. Villarín, Manuel F. Zubiri, Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III, Ann K. Hofer, Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte, Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Kaka J. Bag-ao, Bai Sandra Sinsuat A. Sema, Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Lorna C. Silverio, Lawrence H. Fortun, Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. and Rodel M. Batocabe for House Bill No. 516;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 440, 748, 848, 953, 982, 1345, 1971, 2550, 3407, 3428, 3530, 3826, 3968, 4552, and 4738;

Rep. Ramon V.A. “Rav” Rocamora for House Bill No. 4982;

Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda for House Bills No. 2794, 4989, and 5159;

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bills No. 159, 4749, and 5240;

Rep. Ann K. Hofer for House Bill No. 4688;

Rep. Joaquin M. Chipeco Jr. for House Bills No. 1859 and 4174;

Rep. Florencio T. Flores Jr., M.D. for House Resolution No. 769;

Reps. Rodrigo A. Abellanosa, Wilfredo S. Caminero, Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI, Peter John D. Calderon, Jonas C. Cortes, and Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza for House Bill No. 687;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bill No. 4974;

Rep. Leopoldo N. Bataoil for House Bills No. 1418, 1419, 2043, 3100, 4106, 4462, 4463, 4572, 4671, 4672, and 4700; and

Rep. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza for House Bills No. 167 and 4174.

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated March 13, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1277, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FREE INTERNET ACCESS PROGRAM IN PUBLIC SPACES IN THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated March 13, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1304, entitled:

“AN ACT ACCELERATING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO TERTIARY EDUCATION BY PROVIDING FOR A TUITION SUBSIDY AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO STUDENTS ENROLLED IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCS), PRIVATE HIGHER

EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIs)
AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS (TVIs) AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Message dated March 13, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 4631, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO REPUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., PRESENTLY KNOWN AS GMA NETWORK, INC. AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7252, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE REPUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated March 13, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 4637, entitled:

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated February 1, 2017 of Jesus I. Yabes, Undersecretary, Office of the Undersecretary for Migrant Workers’ Affairs, Department of Foreign Affairs, submitting their Report to Congress on Assistance to Nationals for the period January to June 2016, in CD digital format, pursuant to Section 33 of Republic Act No. 8042.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 168), re H.B. No. 5241, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY, THE PRINCIPAL PATRONESS OF THE PHILIPPINES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4661

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Fariñas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 169), re H.B. No. 1928, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 16 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLANUEVA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS ‘ARAW NG VILLANUEVA’ ”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Uy (J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 170), re H.B. No. 2130, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JASAAN, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS ‘ARAW NG JASAAN’ ”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Uy (J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, with the leave of the House, I move to open the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Third District of Camarines Sur, Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Representative Bordado is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BORDADO

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, for the past few weeks, there appears to be a systematic campaign being conducted by anonymous individuals in the social media to denigrate and besmirch the outstanding public service record and reputation of the late former Naga City Mayor and DILG Secretary Jesse M. Robredo, long acknowledged as a veritable icon of good governance in the country.

Mr. Speaker, in what can be viewed as a Machiavellian sense of logic, the online campaign seeks to demolish the image of the late Secretary with the ultimate aim of destroying, for all intents and purposes, his widow, the incumbent Vice President Leni Gerona Robredo.

As most of us here know, Mr. Speaker, then DILG Secretary Robredo figured in a fatal plane crash off the coast of Masbate. A lot of people from all over the country considered Secretary Jesse's death as a tragedy of monumental proportions, with the Philippine government according him a State funeral and the highest citation for a civilian. Almost five years later, Mr. Speaker, obliterating and blasting to smithereens Jesse's name and extraordinary accomplishments as a genuine servant-leader seem to be the order of the day. And to think, Mr. Speaker, that he cannot even defend himself because he is dead. This, I believe, Mr. Speaker, is another tragedy of gargantuan proportions.

Mr. Speaker, some people say that we, as government officials, as Congressmen, as Congresswomen, should never be onion-skinned. Well and good, Mr. Speaker. Yet, as pointed out by my former colleague at the Sangguniang Panlungsod ng Naga, lawyer Mila Raquid-Arroyo, and I quote: "The exercise of one's constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of speech or expression becomes unreasonable when it tramples upon the rights of others." In the case of the late Secretary Robredo, the social media excoriation went a bit too far, linking him to illegal activities and even questioning the legitimacy of his Ramon Magsaysay Award, arguably Asia's counterpart of the Nobel Prize. This prompted the Ramon Magsaysay Award Foundation, through its President, Mme. Carmencita Abella, to issue a statement the other day, dragging my name in the process. The statement is self-explanatory. Indeed, I never lobbied and was never involved in the Foundation's review, deliberation, and selection of Jesse Robredo as the 2000 Ramon Magsaysay Awardee for

Government Service. Mr. Speaker, I also appreciate and wholeheartedly agree with Mrs. Abella's assertion that the Ramon Magsaysay Foundation considers Jesse Robredo a fully deserving and highly respected Ramon Magsaysay laureate. The great St. Augustine once said: "The truth is like a lion. You don't have to defend it. Let it loose. It will defend itself."

Mr. Speaker, what is terrifying though in the current social media attacks on the late Secretary and his wife, the Vice President, has been the online threat posted by a male Facebook user, diabolically expressed in graphic detail, to rape their three young daughters. This I believe, Mr. Speaker, goes well beyond the line of trampling the rights of other people. Mr. Speaker, there really ought to be a tough law aimed at addressing the misuse and abuse of social media.

As a colleague here at the House of Representatives eloquently put it, and I quote:

Its harm is far more damaging because the trauma it can inflict, even when no physical injury is involved, can strip one's dignity, sow fear or incite violence in an environment that has no boundaries and where malicious posts can be distributed rapidly.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to refer the privilege speech of Rep. Gabriel Bordado to the appropriate Committee.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Gentleman from Party-List BUHAY, Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr. of BUHAY Party-List is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ATIENZA

REP. ATIENZA. Salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Floor Leader, dear colleagues.

We would like to call the attention of those in continuous disregard for our history and culture. Kanina po, napadaan ako sa Paco, Maynila. Nakita ko po iyong monumento ng isang dakilang Hapones na nagnangalang Lord Ukon Takayama ng Takatsuki,

Japan. Ito pong taong ito ay kinikilala hindi lamang po sa Japan kung hindi dito sa ating bansa bilang isang taong namuhay nang marangal, respectable, kagalang-galang, at higit sa lahat, mayroong kabayanihan.

This gentleman was a “lord” in his city in Takatsuki during his lifetime, and because of his past historical record, he was recognized by the Philippine government. The city of Manila, no less, constructed a monument for him located at Plaza Dilao, Paco, Manila.

Iyon pong kaniyang monumento ay ginawang tambakan ng basura, debris, construction materials, iron bars, cement bags, stone, gravel and sand, at ginawang mistulang tambakan ng kung anu-anong mga bagay, na hindi po binigyan ng paggalang iyong parkeng iyon na itinalaga sa alaala nitong si Lord Ukon Takayama.

Hindi po tama iyon, Mr. Speaker, sapagkat itong taong ito ay minamahal ng mga taga-Maynila at minamahal ng kaniyang bansang Hapon sa kaniyang buhay na kaniyang ginawang larawan ng maayos at tamang pamumuhay. Lord Ukon Takayama lived at the time when Christianity was banned in the country of Japan, when to be a Christian believing in God was punishable by death at the time when no one stood for the genuine meaning of Christianity in our world. But he stood up to be converted, to become a Catholic and to excel in his public office as a man respecting and believing in the Almighty God. For that, he was banished from Japan. Pinaalis doon sa kaniyang lungsod na pinamumunuan at siya ay binalaan na “Kapag ipinagpatuloy mo ang iyong pananampalataya, ikaw ay aming pupugutan ng ulo at lahat ng ari-arian ng iyong pamilya ay aming kukunin, kukumpiskahin.”

Hindi po natakot itong taong ito; nagpakalalaki at siya ay nangatwiran hanggang sa siya ay itinapon sa labas ng bansa. Itinapon siya sa isang bansang naniniwala sa kapangyarihan ng Panginoong Diyos—doon nga po, dito po sa ating lungsod ng Maynila in 1614.

Hindi nagtagal ang kaniyang buhay sapagkat siya ay inabot ng lahat ng sakit sa kaniyang sama ng loob at pangungulila. And, because of that, the Spanish government ruling our islands then even threatened to invade Japan, sakupin ang Japan at turuan sila ng mahalagang leksiyon. Siya ang tumayo upang hindi pumayag, at siya ang nagreklamo at nagsabing hindi siya sasang-ayon kailanman, na ang kaniyang minamahal na bansa, nagkamali man, ay hindi niya nais parusahan. So, he stood for his principles, he fought for his faith and for that, he was punished with banishment. The memory of this man is not ordinary, especially today when the good is considered bad and the bad is considered good, now that our young are growing up with the influences of the world, and losing their Filipino character, even their culture, their historical perspective.

Narinig natin ang isa nating kasamahan na naglahad ng kaniyang sama ng loob tungkol sa paninira sa alaala

ng isang dakilang Pilipino rin na si Jesse Robredo. Iyang mga ganiyang pangyayari, Mr. Speaker, at iyong nakikita nating pambabastos sa alaala ng mga magigiting na tao ay hindi magbibigay ng magandang direksiyon sa ating bansa, sa ating lipunan, lalung-lalo na sa mga kabataan na kailangang-kailangang bigyan natin ng tamang pamumuhay at paniniwala.

We must now correct what is seemingly becoming a habit of the government, that culture and history are not given the importance they deserve in our daily way of life.

Iyong pambabastos na iyon na ginagawa natin sa isang dakilang tao, banyaga man siya subalit nagpakita ng kaniyang kagalingan, ay dapat nating pansinin at bigyan natin ng panawagan. We are calling on the National Historical Commission, we are calling on the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, we are calling on the local government of Manila, we are calling on the national government to do something about this continuous disregard for history and culture.

Iyan po ay isang bagay na napakaliit para pansinin ng karamihan subalit napakahalaga. Dahil sa mga pangyayari ngayon na kailangang-kailangang ang kabataan ay mabigyan ng tamang leksiyon, ang ating naririnig, ang ibibigay pa sa mga kabataan ngayon ay condom. Ang ibibigay ay kung paano huwag magbuntis kapag sila ay nagtalik. Anong klaseng lipunan ang ating daratnan kung ito po ang ating pananaigin samantalang binabastos natin ang alaala ng mga taong dapat ay dinadakila natin?

Kung papayagan nating sirain ang alaala ni Jesse Robredo, kung papayagan nating bastusin ang alaala nitong Lord Ukon Takayama na ito, na hindi man natin kilala ngayon subalit nabuhay bilang isang dakilang tao, ay tunay na may problema tayo. Itong problemang ito ay kailangang bigyan ng pansin sa lalong madaling panahon sapagkat nakikita na po natin ang mga bunga ng ganitong uri ng pagsasawalang-bahala.

Kamakailan lang, ginunita natin ang anibersaryo ng ating katangi-tanging People Power Revolution. Ginanap ito dito po sa dambana ng EDSA Revolution sa EDSA. Dumaan kayo roon anumang araw at makikita ninyo na iyong mga bandilang ginagamit nila roon at inilahad nila noong anibersaryo ay mga bandilang nanggigitata na, may putik na at gutay-gutay na. Nakakahiya, Mr. Speaker. Nakakahiyang amining wala tayong pagpapahalaga sa ating bandila subalit ito ang nakikita natin sa mga dambana na itinuturing nating dapat ay ating binibigyan ng galang. Kung walang pambili ng bandila itong mga ahensiya na dapat nangangalaga, ibibigay ko na ang aking allowances dito sa Kongreso, ibili natin ng bandila, buwan-buwan palitan nila upang makita ang ating bandila sa kanyang kulay, sa kanyang alaala, sa kanyang gunita, at kabayanihan ng ating bansa. Ibibili ko ng bandila, gamitin nila kung ayaw nilang gamitin iyong kanilang

kapangyarihan sa pagtupad sa kanilang tungkulin.

Mr. Speaker, valuing our flag, valuing our heroes, valuing those who lived properly in this world and have passed this way, and showed greatness in their lives should be given importance by our government, national and local. We have to defend the righteousness of this principle; otherwise, we will go in the wrong direction.

A few years back, we built monuments for Ninoy Aquino and Evelio Javier. If my colleagues do not know Evelio Javier, I would not blame you. But if you lived through the dark days of Martial Law, and you had worked with this man, this young man, this young politician, the political leader of Antique, then you will realize that, indeed, he was a hero of his time. Binigyan namin siya ng paggalang sa pamamagitan ng isang monumento doon po sa Roxas Boulevard, kasama po ang bayaning si Ninoy Aquino. Noong inayos po ang Roxas Boulevard, hindi ko malaman kung sinadya o sa kapabayaan, hindi naman po siguro sinadya sapagkat ang Pangulo noon ay anak nitong bayaning ito, pero hindi ako makapaniwala na iyong monumento ay inalis, itinapon kung saan. Na-trace namin, nakatambak sa basurahan.

Ganoon po ba ang ating pagpapahalaga sa mga Pilipinong nagbigay-aral sa wastong pagmamahal sa bayan? Iyong monumento ni Evelio Javier, ni hindi namin makita kung saan. Unang-una, iyon po ay kasalanan hindi lamang sa tao kung hindi sa batas sapagkat ang salaping ginugol doon ay salapi ng bayan.

So, these are just some of the very glaring incidents of total disregard for our history and culture. If we do not value the past, we will never get to our future. We must remember that, and our fellow Filipinos, even the foreigners who have crossed the path of our great Philippine islands, should be given relevance and importance. They should be given their proper place in history, the contemporary and the future, so that the young will have people to emulate, they will have people to look up to, like Evelio Javier, a simple local politician who stood pat to defend the ballot of his province. He defended the ballot in Antique, and for that, he was murdered, mutilated, tinadtad po ng armalite itong taong ito na hindi sumunod sa tamang payo, “Umalis ka na diyan sapagkat papatayin ka.” The last conversation I had, what he told me was simple: “Lito, I am willing to die for the integrity of our election.” And that is exactly what happened to him. He was murdered in the plaza of San Jose, Antique, and for that, we who are now benefitting for the continued sacrifices of people who defended democracy when the need for it was given then, we should honor them and continue to cherish their memory and their lessons.

Hindi po tama itong mga nakikitang ito. Inumpisahan ko po, sinabi ko sa inyo, Lord Ukon Tagayama—iginagalang, minamahal, nirerespeto, and even

venerated by his people in Takatsuki, Osaka, Japan—a country which we consider now as our special ally, special friend, a country which host now hundreds of thousands of Filipinos so that they may be given an opportunity and employment in Japan, a country which now is offering itself to be an ally of the Philippines in defense of our territorial waters—ganito po ba ang ating iaalok kung dumating po si Prime Minister Abe rito, kung siya ay bumisita at madaan siya roon sa nakita namin na ibinabasura iyong alaala ng isang dakilang Hapon?

Kung kayo po naman ay naniniwala na ang demokrasya natin ay ating natamo sa kabayanihan ng Pilipino ay hindi po naman dapat nating payagan na mawalang-bahala ang alaala ng isang katulad ni Evelio Javier, Ninoy Aquino at marami pang mga nawalang mga kabataan noong tayo ay nagkaroon ng batas militar. We have to defend exactly what transpired in our history by reminding the young today that, indeed, there were those who were willing to offer their lives for us to enjoy a democratic way of life.

We must honor and respect our fellowmen who have given us the example of a strong faith, like Lord Ukon Takayama. We must continue to admire those who lived right and condemn those who lived wrongly in this earth. We must continue to adulate and even venerate people who show respect for human life. Mr. Speaker, I really feel very, very sorry for our country if we do not take note of this.

The Philippines is a great nation. To me, we are the greatest nation belonging to—pinagpala tayo ng Panginoong Diyos. Ang pinakamaliit na bagay na maaari nating pagtulung-tulungan, ipagtanggol natin ang kahalagahan ng bawat buhay ng isang taong nabigyan ng hamon at tumugon nang tama. These are the gentlemen that I have mentioned. But most importantly, unless we honor and respect our own national emblem, the flag that we see in this hall, hindi po tayo uunlad kailan man.

Inuulit ko, kung wala silang pambili ng bandila, handa po akong isakripisyo ang aking suweldo dito at allowance, ibibili ko ng bandila, gamitin natin sa lahat ng dambana na nagbibigay alaala sa ating bansa at sa pagmamahal natin sa ating minamahal na Pilipinas. Patnubayan tayo ng Dakilang Lumikha.

Maraming-maraming salamat po sa pagkakataong ito.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move ...

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker.

REP. DE VENECIA. ... I move to recognize the Hon. Rodante D. Marcoleta.

REP. MARCOLETA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Honorable Marcoleta is hereby recognized.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, may I know if the Honorable Atienza is willing to take a few clarificatory questions.

REP. ATIENZA. With pride and honor, coming from a Gentleman like Congressman Marcoleta, I am willing to answer any question.

REP. MARCOLETA. Salamat po.

Mr. Speaker, nakalulungkot po na marinig iyong naging bahagi po ng inyong privilege speech. Unang-una po, hindi namin lubos maisip na mayroon palang isang Japanese national na ginawaran ng pagkilala ng ating bansa. Iyon po iyong higit na nakalulungkot sa panig namin sapagkat ako lamang po, bilang isa—ngayon ko lamang nalaman na mayroon po pala tayong kinilalang isang banyaga mula sa bansang Hapon. Bakit po nagkaganoon? Saan po iyong pagkukulang? Ang pagkukulang po ba ay iyong buong kapamahalaan ng ating bansa o ito po ay pagkukulang ng mga taong mayroong pananagutan para makilala ang mga taong binigyan ng pagkilala ng ating bansa? Halimbawa po, Mr. Speaker, iyon pong ating National Historical Institute o kung anuman pong ahensya ang may kinalaman, para paulit-ulit na ipaalam sa atin, lalung-lalo na po iyong mga kabataan at mga susunod na henerasyon? Kasi po kung walang magpapakilala sa atin, ito po, puro biglaan na lang ang narinig namin ngayon, kung wala pong magpapakilala at walang magre-remind sa ating lahat na mayroon po palang mga naganap na mga pagkilala at ginawaran ng pagdakila ng ating bansa, hindi po siguro natin tuluyang masisisi iyong mga taong nag-akala na baka kung ano lamang iyong nakatayong iyon.

Hindi po ba, Mr. Speaker, ang may higit na pananagutan dito ay iyong may kinalaman doon sa pagkakalagay ng monumento na iyon at palagiang ipinaaalala sa mga taong malapit doon na itong taong ito na isinasagisag ng isang monumento ay dapat nating igalang sa tuwi-tuwina at sa mga darating pang mga panahon?

Sino po ba ang nagkulang? Halimbawa po, iyong paaralan doon, Mr. Speaker, kung anuman pong paaralang pampubliko ang malapit doon, wala po bang ginawa iyong mga tagapagturo natin, iyong principal, na ipakilala sa kanilang mga estudyante, mga mag-aaral o kaya po iyong mga pinuno noong lugar na nandoon? Bakit po nagkaganoon, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ATIENZA. Kagalang-galang na Kinatawag Marcoleta, Mr. Speaker, ang pagkukulang ko ay maituturing kong pagkukulang nating lahat. Kaya nga po pinilit kong magsalita sa hapong ito upang masabi ko sa ating kapulungan at maipakilala natin itong mga taong aking binanggit.

Hindi po naman natin kilala si Lord Ukon Takayama, kaya minabuti po ng Lungsod ng Maynila na ipagpatayo siya ng monumento doon sa kinaroroonan niya sapagkat iyong Plaza Dilao ay naging pamayanan ng mga Hapon na pumunta rito kasama niya. Mahigit 300 po iyong mga Hapon na itinapon ng gobyerno nila, namuhay sa Paco, Maynila. Dumami sila, naging 3,000. Iyon po naman ang tinatawag natin ngayong Plaza Dilao at doon po namin itinayo iyong monumento ni Lord Ukon Takayama.

Tama po, dapat ay mayroong patuloy na pagpapaalala ang mga ahensyang ating inaasahan katulad po ng National Commission on Culture and the Arts, katulad po ng National Historical Commission. Ang ating mga local government units, dapat po ay patuloy na pinaaalalahanan ng Department of the Interior and Local Government to give history, culture and the arts a very important portion of their local governance. Dahil kung hindi po, talagang makakalimutan ng karamihan ang mga ginawa na mabubuti ng mga taong nagdaan.

Si Lord Ukon Takayama ay hindi lamang minamahal at iginagalang. He, in fact, is venerated by the Japanese. When tourists come to Manila by the busloads, they usually go there, park their bus, go down one by one, and pay homage to the figure that they venerate in their memory. Sila pong lahat ay yumuyuko sa harapan nitong estatwang ito.

Ngayon, kung makikita po ninyo, G. Marcoleta, mararamdaman ninyo iyong aking nararamdaman sapagkat para bagang balewala sa atin iyan. Eh kung si Prime Minister Abe ang dumating dito at nagpakilala bilang isang tunay na kaibigan ng ating bansa, at kung makikita niya ang ating trato sa kanilang bayaning si Lord Ukon Takayama, eh palagay ko ay magbabago ang isip noon at sasabihin niya, “Ang mga Pilipino, hindi ko kaibigan yan. Binabastos iyong aming dinadakila eh.” So the weakness is in our system itself. The agencies which are expected to defend history and culture may be lacking in their commitment to their service.

Kanina lang po, tinalakay namin sa Committee on Rules na nagpapanukala ang isa nating masipag na Kongresista, Congresswoman Escudero, na tiyakin natin na mayroong isang national artist sa NCCA Board. Nabanggit ko sa kaniya na bakit isa lang. Mabuti siguro dagdagan natin. The NCCA should be led by national artists, maybe at least two, three, four or five. Labinlima po iyong kanilang members eh. Iyong chairman nila ay si Chairman Almario ngayon. Iyon po ay committed sa ating kasaysayan at kultura. Pero iyong iba, hindi ko

na po kilala kung saan nagmula. Iyan ay ilalakad nila iyong appointment sa Pangulo, pero pagkatapos maupo ay kakalimutan na nila iyong ating bandila.

Sinabi ko nga sa inyo, dumaan kayo sa EDSA, pagdaan ninyo sa EDSA Shrine, tingnan po ninyo iyong nakahilera roong 15 bandila yata iyon, puro nanggigitata, kulay brown. Wala na po iyang bughaw, pula, puti, dilaw.

Ang makikita po ninyo ay nanggigitatang bandila. Kaya uulitin ko, iyong allowances ko rito, ibibili ko na lang ng bandila. Palitan ninyo buwan-buwan ng isang kumikinang na bandilang Pilipinas upang lahat tayo ay makinabang sa pagpapaalala sa ating bandila, ...

REP. MARCOLETA. Salamat po sa sagot ninyo.

REP. ATIENZA. ... so the shortcoming, Mr. Speaker, the shortcoming is ours if we do not call the attention of those who are involved and who are responsible for taking care of our history and culture.

REP. MARCOLETA. Salamat po sa pag-amin ninyo, G. Atienza, Mr. Speaker. Iyon lang naman po ang gusto kong marinig na hindi naman po siguro tahasang pagkukulang ng ating buong kapamahalaan sapagkat hindi naman sa lahat ng pagkakataon ang ating gobyerno ay tinitingnan lahat, pati mga monumento na nakakalat sa ating bansa. Pananagutan po ito noong mga institusyon na inilatag ng ating pamahalaan na sila ang magbantay. So, ang hindi ko po kayang tanggapin ay kailangan nating sabihin na ito ay pagkakasala ng ating buong gobyerno. Kasi po kung titingnan natin, maski iyong ating mga sari-sariling mga pamilya, iyong nuclear family po natin, dumadami po tayo sa pagdaan ng panahon. Kaya pananagutan ng mga padre de pamilya o ng mga lolo at lola na ipakilala iyong mga sumusunod na henerasyon kasi po kapag dumating ang mahabang panahon, hindi na sila halos magkakakilala. Ganoon po ang nangyari.

Naalala po ba ninyo, Mr. Speaker, iyong pelikulang *Heneral Luna*? Napakarami po iyong mga kabataan natin na biglang nagitla. Bakit daw po iyong adviser noong Pangulong Aguinaldo ay palaging nakaupo? Hindi po nila—ito po ay halos kailan lamang po iyon—hindi po nila kilala si Apolinario Mabini. Pilipino na po ito. Gaano pa kaya ang isang banyaga? Sabi ko nga po sa inyo, ngayon ko lang po nalaman na mayroon palang isang banyaga na tagabansang Hapon na kinilala pala natin. Pagkukulang po ito siguro mismo ng siyudad ng Maynila, lalung-lalo na po iyong mga ahensiya na nandoon sa pamamahala nito. Hindi man lang po naipakilala na ang monumentong ito ay itinayo bilang pagdakila at pag-alala sa mabuting ginawa para sa ating bayan. Iyon po iyong pagkukulang mismo noong mga nandoon mismo sa siyudad ng Maynila. Iyong atin pong pamahalaan, marami pong iniisip din. Iyon po

sana siguro iyong gusto nating sabihin na iyon muna ang sisihin natin, iyong binigyan ng responsibilidad o tungkulin na ipakilala iyong kasaysayan sa bawat Pilipino para po ito ay hindi nawawala. Habang tayo ay lumalakad patungo sa kinabukasan ay inaalala natin ang mga makasaysayang tao, bagay, lugar—na ito po ay magpapatungkad sa kahalagahan ng ating pagka-Pilipino at iyong yaman ng ating kasaysayan.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat po, Ginoong Kinatawang Lito Atienza.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, just to wrap up my message to the Body.

Of course, the fault lies in all of us. Tama po ang ating kagalang-galang na Kongresista Marcoleta. Maaari nating sisihin ang isang ahensiya. Maaaring bukas, ituwid nila ang kamalian subalit kung hindi po natin pupunahin tuwi-tuwina, palagian nating—tayong mga Mambabatas at Kinatawan ng ating iba't ibang mga distrito, mga Party-List ng ating bansa—kailangan tayo ang manguna.

We are leaders and, as I say always, we are not dealers. So, we must lead our nation to its proper direction. History is the best teacher. Culture is the soul of a nation. If we do not value history and culture, then we are lost as a nation. This Representation, Mr. Speaker, is committed to continuously remind all of us—as we had shown during our term as Mayor, we constructed that monument in memory of a great Japanese who came to the Philippines. We constructed the monument of a great Antiqueño, Evelio Javier, who defended the ballot in the most crucial times of our nation's narrow path towards democracy.

We also honor the memory of a great Filipino, Ninoy Aquino. Some people now denigrate him, the way they are denigrating Jesse Robredo, but to people like me, a humble Filipino like me, I will always cherish Filipinos who come this way and during their lifetime offered themselves to defend what is already ours as a God-given right, the Filipino, the greatest man on this planet Earth. We must now stand pat on that and defend that particular notion. We are a great people. We are a great nation, but if we do not honor our flag, we are nothing. So we must all take note of this.

Pagtulung-tulungan natin, Mr. Speaker, then the agencies concerned, the National Commission on Culture and the Arts, the National Historical Commission, the local government of Manila, the national government itself—President Duterte should take note of this. Without history and culture, there is nothing we can be proud of. Kaya sana po ay nakatulong ako sa pagbubukas ng inyong isipan na tayong lahat ay magtutungan.

Again, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Thank you, Congressman Marcoleta.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Lito Atienza and the interpellation to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the Privilege Hour.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the visitors of Rep. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II. So may we request the visitors to please stand once their names are called: Vice Mayor Jeannie Sandoval, Grace Torres, Payapa Ona, Director Jose Francia, Director Amparo Policarpio, Director Merlita P. Garcia, Director Rafael Gotuaco, Chapter Administrator Maria Joana Rosete and Lois Alog.

We would also like to acknowledge the presence of the visitors of Hon. Kaka J. Bag-ao: the LGBT organizations from LAGABLAB network and supporters, namely: UP Babaylan, College of St. Benilde BHive, PNU Kasarian, Babaylanes, Galang, Metro Manila Pride, TLF Share, Rainbow Rights, LGBT Bar of the Philippines, LGBT Chamber of Commerce, AKBAYAN, Ateneo Graduate School, UP School of Statistics Student Council, BUKLOD CSSP, BIGKIS UPM, PANTAY or Philippine Anti-Discrimination Alliance of Youth Leaders, UP ALYANSA and Psychological Association of the Philippines. They came to visit us. Those are the visitors of Hon. Kaka J. Bag-ao.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). To the visitors of Cong. Ricky Sandoval and Rep. Kaka Bag-ao, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Floor Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

REP. PIMENTEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). 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. 82, dated March 14, 2017:

PRESENT

Abaya	Calixto-Rubiano
Abayon	Caminero
Abellanos	Campos
Abu	Canama
Abueg	Cari
Acharon	Casilao
Acop	Castelo
Acosta	Castro (F.L.)
Acosta-Alba	Castro (F.H.)
Adiong	Cerilles
Advincula	Chavez
Agarao	Chipeco
Aggabao	Cojuangco
Aglipay-Villar	Collantes
Alejano	Cortes
Almonte	Cortuna
Alonte	Cosalan
Alvarez (F.)	Crisologo
Alvarez (P.)	Cuaresma
Amatong	Cueva
Angara-Castillo	Dalipe
Antonio	Dalog
Aragones	Daza
Arbison	De Jesus
Arenas	De Venecia
Atienza	De Vera
Bag-ao	Defensor
Bagatsing	Del Mar
Banal	Del Rosario
Barzaga	Deloso-Montalla
Bataoil	Dimaporo (M.K.)
Batocabe	Durano
Bautista-Bandigan	Elago
Belaro	Erice
Belmonte (J.C.)	Eriguel
Benitez	Ermita-Buhain
Bernos	Escudero
Bertiz	Estrella
Biazon	Evardone
Billones	Fariñas
Bondoc	Ferrer (J.)
Bordado	Ferriol-Pascual
Bravo (A.)	Flores
Bravo (M.V.)	Fortun
Brosas	Fortuno
Bulut-Begtang	Garcia (G.)
Cagas	Garcia (J.E.)
Calderon	Garcia-Albano

Gasataya
Go (A.C.)
Go (M.)
Gomez
Gonzaga
Gonzales (A.P.)
Gonzales (A.D.)
Gonzalez
Gorríceta
Gullas
Hernandez
Herrera-Dy
Hofer
Javier
Khonghun
Labadlabad
Lacson
Lagman
Lanete
Laogan
Lazatin
Lee
Limkaichong
Lopez (B.)
Lopez (M.L.)
Macapagal-Arroyo
Madrona
Malapitan
Mangaoang
Mangudadatu (Z.)
Marcoleta
Marcos
Mariño
Marquez
Martínez
Matugas
Mellana
Mendoza
Mercado
Mirasol
Montoro
Nava
Nieto
Noel
Nogales (K.A.)
Nolasco
Nuñez-Malanyaon
Oaminal
Olivarez
Ong (E.)
Ong (H.)
Ortega (P.)
Ortega (V.N.)
Paduano
Palma
Pancho

Panganiban
Panotes
Papandayan
Pichay
Pimentel
Pineda
Primicias-Agabas
Quimbo
Radaza
Ramos
Relampagos
Roa-Puno
Rodriguez (I.)
Rodriguez (M.)
Roman
Romualdo
Roque (H.)
Sacdalan
Sagarbarria
Sahali
Salceda
Salo
Salon
Sambar
Sandoval
Sarmiento (C.)
Sarmiento (E.M.)
Savellano
Sema
Siao
Silverio
Singson
Suansing (E.)
Suansing (H.)
Suarez
Sy-Alvarado
Tambunting
Tan (A.)
Tan (S.)
Tejada
Teves
Tiangco
Ting
Tugna
Tupas
Ungab
Unico
Uybarreta
Vargas
Vargas-Alfonso
Velarde
Velo
Vergara
Villanueva
Villaraza-Suarez
Villarica

Villarin
Yu
Zamora (M.C.)
Zarate
Zubiri

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 213 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. (Rep. Hernandez). With 213 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Gentleman from MANILA TEACHERS Party-List, the Hon. Virgilio S. Lacson, and the Gentleman from the Lone District of Malabon, the Hon. Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II. They are from the Red Cross–Malabon Chapter including Ms. Diane Co.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. (Rep. Hernandez). The guests of Representative Lacson and Rep. Ricky Sandoval, please rise so that your presence will be acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up business under our calendar.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to reiterate my motion. I move that we take up...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. (Rep. Hernandez). Is there any...

REP. DEFENSOR. ...business under our calendar.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. (Rep. Hernandez). There is a motion.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5240 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 5240, contained in Committee Report No. 167, as reported out by the Special Committee on Land Use.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5240, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTING A NATIONAL LAND USE AND MANAGEMENT POLICY, PROVIDING THE IMPLEMENTING MECHANISMS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, for this measure, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech thereon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). There is a motion.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, there being no interpellations, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments, both Committee and individual.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no amendment, Mr. Speaker, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 5240.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Those who are in favor of the motion, say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Those who are against, say *nay*. (*Silence*)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5240 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 5240 is approved on Second Reading. The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4982 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 4982, contained in Committee Report No. 101, as reported out by the Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4982, entitled: AN ACT PROHIBITING DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY OR EXPRESSION (SOGIE) AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality, the Lady from DIWA Party-List, the Hon. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar is hereby recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. AGLIPAY-VILLAR

REP. AGLIPAY-VILLAR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

When our islands were a colony of Spain, Filipinos had few rights under the law, and even fewer in practice. We were seen as lazy, even as we were required to provide weeks of forced labor to the Spanish government. For much of our life as a colony, only those of Spanish blood could reside in Manila, only those of Spanish blood could freely receive education or tax exemptions, and Filipinos, merely because of their blood, were required to make physical gestures of submission if we would meet a friar, or even an ordinary Spaniard. When the Americans took over, we Filipinos were frequently portrayed in the media as savages who would benefit greatly from the civilization that they would bring us. To this day, Filipinos' roles in foreign media are most often that of stereotypes or punchlines meant to accentuate the few characteristics of our culture that have trickled, into contextless worldwide consciousness.

Our nation, and our people as a whole, have long been the targets of discriminatory practices, of blind prejudice displayed with violence in word and in deed. At no time and in no place was this mistreatment warranted or based on any reasonable explanation to be found in science or morality. Anti-Filipino sentiment was never about the truth and never about us. Instead, it was always about our oppressors, their need to feel superior, their insecurity when faced with something new and different than what they had been used to, their desire to oppress and exploit us to further their own ends. Race, nationality, appearance—none of these have any impact on our individual capabilities,

our talents, our ability to excel in every range of human endeavor when given a fair chance. I think I can safely say that a majority of us here today can agree with that. And I ask that majority to apply that same logic, those same principles, to the Bill at hand, to the issue of discrimination on the basis of sex, orientation, gender identity, or gender expression, or SOGIE.

I am proud to stand here today to sponsor House Bill No. 4982, the SOGIE Equality Act, a consolidation of an array of bills that seek to protect some of the most vulnerable citizens of our society. That there is a dire need for legislation against discrimination based on SOGIE should be all the more evident today in our interconnected world where abusive language can assault our senses at every level—from casual conversation to online comments, to insensitive remarks from those in positions of authority. SOGIE rights are human rights, but many of those who spit on those rights question the very humanity of those who possess sexual orientation, gender identity, sex or gender expression that is different from their own. It is unfortunately a common flaw of human nature to debase those who are other, who are different, but as common as this is in human beings, it is not a flaw that should be found in the State. The State instead must provide the protection necessary to ensure that its people are protected from injustice brought about by these biases, whether carried out individually or institutionally.

The SOGIE Equality Act creates and codifies such protection, in a manner and in a fashion similar to the Bill of Rights and the Anti-Violence Against Women and Their Children Act. It serves as an efficient bulwark against abuse, and an efficient tool in the punishment thereof. To be more specific, the SOGIE Equality Act does the following:

1) it provides concise, conclusive definitions of “sexual orientation,” “gender orientation,” “gender identity” and “sex” that also cover terms such as “intersex” and “asexuality;”

2) it provides concise definitions of “discrimination,” “marginalization,” “hate crimes” and “stigma” in a manner that allows the same to be actionable within the law enforcement and legal systems;

3) it provides an inclusive list of discriminatory practices that cover the most common acts of discrimination based on prejudice against SOGIE;

4) it makes explicit that discriminatory practices can be performed through any medium, including telecommunications devices and the Internet, which proscribes some of the most common forms of discriminatory practices prevalent in modern times;

5) it proscribes parents from inflicting physical or emotional harm on their children because of SOGIE issues;

6) it protects the right to privacy of individuals and, in so doing, protects both the expression and non-expression of the same;

7) it sanctions government officials who do not act in accordance with their duty to investigate, prosecute or otherwise act on a complaint under this Bill;

8) it provides penalties for those convicted of discriminatory acts: a fine of not less than P100,000 but not more than P500,000, or an imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than six years or both, at the discretion of the court;

9) it makes explicit that discriminatory acts need not be motivated by bias, prejudice or hate of SOGIE to be illegal, by making such motivation into special aggravating circumstances rather than elements of the offense;

10) it provides for the Women and Children's Desk in all police stations which shall now become the Women, Children and Gender Rights Protection Desks;

11) it mandates the State to pursue initiatives and programs that seek to establish and maintain an environment free of stigma and discrimination;

12) it encourages positive and empowering portrayal of LGBT by media; and

13) it creates a Congressional Oversight Committee to monitor the compliance of public institutions to the provisions of the Bill.

The protection provided by the SOGIE Equality Act is important and essential because SOGIE rights are human rights. In a perfect world, being human itself would be enough to guarantee everyone the right to be treated fairly and with dignity. In a perfect world, all those who object to prejudice against Filipinos because of our very identity should object to prejudice against people on SOGIE grounds, because a person's sex, orientation, gender identity, and gender expression are as much part of them as their race or the color of their skin.

It is not a perfect world, but we can make it a better one by passing the SOGIE Equality Act, because we as a nation must stand against prejudice in every form or none at all. To do only less, to care only if we are the victims, or if they believe that what we do, is hypocrisy and a betrayal of our obligations as Representatives of this people.

Stand for a better world and pass the SOGIE Equality Act.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, next to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the Lady from the Lone District of Dinagat Islands, the Hon. Kaka J. Bag-ao.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Rep. Kaka Bag-ao of Dinagat Islands is hereby recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. BAG-AO

REP. BAG-AO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

The Anti-Discrimination Bill now known as the SOGIE or Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression Equality Bill was first filed in the Eleventh Congress by AKBAYAN Party List Rep. Etta Rosales. Under her stewardship, the Bill was approved on Third and final Reading in the Eleventh Congress. But in the Twelfth Congress, it was not enacted into law when it was stalled in the Senate. In 2006 during the Thirteenth Congress, the proposed measure reached Second Reading. Now, 11 years after, we find ourselves in the same position. It has been more than a decade since the Bill that seeks to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression has seen the light of this Session Hall.

Mula po noong ako ay unang pumasok sa Kongreso bilang Kinatawan ng AKBAYAN, hanggang ngayon sa aking ikalawang termino bilang Kinatawan ng Dinagat Islands, kasama ng iba pang naniniwala sa pantay na karapatan mula sa ating hanay, walang humpay po nating itinutulak ang pagpasá sa SOGIE Equality Bill.

Mr. Speaker, mga kasama, ngayon ay mas abot-kamay na ang pag-apruba sa isang panukalang noon pa man ay dapat nang isinabatas. Halos dalawang dekada na po ang ating hinintay. Halos dalawang dekada na po ang hinintay ng mga kapwa Pilipino nating nanonood sa atin ngayon. Sa mahabang panahong iyan, tiyak ko na mas nabubuksan na ang mga puso at isipan ng ating mamamayan sa pangangailangang ipagtanggol ang ating mga kapwa tao. Sa katunayan, nitong 2013 lang, ayon sa SWS survey, walumpu't limang porsiyento or 85 percent ng mga Pilipino ang naniniwalang may karapatang maprotektahan ang mga LGBT mula sa diskriminasyon. Pero sa totoo lang, maliit na dahilan lamang iyan para makumbinsi tayo. Ang mas matimbang na rason dapat ay magmula sa ating batayang prinsipyo, mga kasama sa Kongreso.

Mr. Speaker, mga kasama, hihiram po ako ng isang salita mula sa mga millennials, ang salitang "hugot." Lagyan po natin ng "hugot" mula sa ating mga puso ang pagboto para sa mahalagang panukalang ito. May mga mamamayang natanggal sa trabaho, dahil lamang nalaman sa opisina nila na sila ay umiibig sa kapwa nila lalaki o babae. May mga kabataang pinapaalis sa paaralan o kaya pinapapirma sa kontratang nagsasabing hindi sila kikilos na parang bakla o lesbiyana, at kung hindi, tatanggalin sila at parurusahan. Payag po ba tayo dito, Mr. Speaker, mga kasama? Carry lang ba sa atin ang ganitong klase ng sistema? Papayag po ba tayo na ang tingin sa pagiging LGBT ay isang sakit o isang social disorder? Sa mga Kongresistang naririto ngayon at nakikinig na mayroong staff members na LGBT, marami po sila at araw-araw natin silang kasama.

Mukha po ba silang may sakit? Sa mga naririto ngayon na may mga anak, kapatid, pinsan, pamangkin, apo o kaibigang LGBT, papayag ba kayo na mangyari sa mahal ninyo sa buhay ang dinanas ng iba na panlalait at pananakit? Pero ito po ang reyalidad, Mr. Speaker, mga kasama, Hindi pa rin tinatrato nang may pagkakapantay-pantay ang mga mamamayang nagkataon lamang na nabibilang sa LGBT community, lalo at higit sa mga nasa mahihirap na komunidad.

Kahit sinasabi pa na 85 percent ng mga Pilipino, na dapat silang protektahan sa pamamagitan ng batas, walang saysay ito kung hindi tayo kikilos para gampanan ang ating tungkulin para sa ating mamamayan at sa ating kapwa tao. Mr. Speaker, mga kasama, nasa punto tayo ngayon kung kailan mabibigyan natin ng pag-asa ang mga kapwa natin na matagal nang inaalipusta at tinatapan sa ating lipunan.

Ang SOGIE Equality Bill, kapag ito ay isinabatas, ay hindi magdadagdag ng bago o espesyal na karapatan. Ang hinihingi lamang nito ay panindigan at isakatuparan ang batayang mga karapatan ng mga kapwa natin tao at kapwa natin Pilipino. Mula Preambulo hanggang sa mga prinsipyo, tinitiyak ng ating Saligang Batas ang pagkakapantay-pantay. Nakapaloob din dito ang pagpapahalaga sa dignidad ng bawat tao at pagtitiyak ng buong paggalang sa karapatang pantao.

Sinasabi ng mga tutol sa panukalang ito, babae at lalaki lang daw ang kinikilala ng Saligang Batas. Oo, sinabi talaga ito ng isa nating kasama sa isang committee hearing noong Fifteenth Congress pa. Kung ganoon, ano po ang nais niyang sabihin, na dapat bumuo na lang ng sariling bansa ang mga LGBT? Huwag po sana nating paikutin ang diwa ng ating Konstitusyon at ng ating mga batas. Ang kinikilala ng mga ito ay ang lahat ng mga mamamayan. Sabi nga sa social media, “Don’t me.”

Sinasabi ng mga tutol sa panukalang ito, magkakaroon ng same-sex marriage kapag isinabatas ang SOGIE Equality Bill. Minsan, basa-basa po tayo kapag may time. Wala pong ano mang probisyon na nagsasabi na magkakaroon ng same-sex marriage sa panukalang batas na ito. Ibang usapin po iyon. Huwag po nating palawakin ang imahinasyon sa paggawa ng sariling interpretasyon. Kalma lang po tayo. Tungkol ito sa pagtatanggol sa mga LGBT mula sa pananakit, pang-aalipusta at pagkakait ng mga oportunidad na nagbibigay sa isang indibidwal na mamamayan ng access to education and health care, security of tenure, delivery of basic goods and services, safety in public places, at iba pa.

Sinasabi po ng mga tutol sa panukalang ito, matatakpan daw ang religious freedom nila kapag naipatupad ito. Una po sa lahat, matagal nang mayroong proteksyon ang kalayaan sa pananampalataya sa ilalim ng batas. Tama lang na mag-exercise tayo ng religious freedom. Ang mali ay kapag sinasabi na

okay lang manakit ng isang kapwa taong sa tingin nila ay makasalan. Iyon po ang susubukang pigilan ng SOGIE Equality Bill. Buksan po natin ang ating mga puso at isipan. Huwag po nating sabihing hindi na kailangan ng mga LGBT ang pagkakaroon ng batas na magtatanggol sa mga karapatan nila dahil mayroon nang existing laws na gagawa nito. Hindi po ito totoo.

Habang may mga batang sinasaktan ng kanilang mga magulang, binubuhusan ng kumukulung tubig, nilulunod sa drum para talikuran ang pagiging bakla, nire-rape ng tatay para lang maramdaman na maling umibig ang babae sa kapwa babae, kailangan po natin ng SOGIE Equality Act. Habang may mga mamamayang takot matanggal sa trabaho kaya pinipili nilang hindi ihayag ang kanilang pagkatao at kung sino ang minamahal nila, kailangan po natin ang SOGIE Equality Act. Habang may mga transgenders na hindi makaihi sa pampublikong banyo, na isang basic human function na may kinalaman sa kalusugan, dahil sa takot na masita o masaktan, kailangan po natin ang SOGIE Equality Act.

Napakarami ko pa pong gustong sabihing mga insidente ng diskriminasyon pero mas maganda po siguro kung pakinggan na lang natin ang sasabihin ng mga mamamayan.

(Video presentation)

REP. BAG-AO. Mr. Speaker, mga kasama, ang puso at sentro ng panukalang ito ay hindi lang pagkakapantay-pantay kung hindi pagmamahal sa kapwa natin.

Mr. Speaker, mga kasama ko dito sa Kongreso, noong unang termino ko po bilang Kongresista hanggang ngayon, paulit-ulit ko pong sinasabi at hindi po ako magsasawang sabihin ito—the time for the Anti-Discrimination Law, the time for the SOGIE Equality Act is now. Ipaglaban po natin ang pagkakapantay-pantay at pagmamahal sa ating kapwa.

Maraming salamat po. Magandang hapon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. I move for a suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 5:47 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:48 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, next to sponsor the measure is the distinguished Lady from the First District of Bataan. I move that we recognize the Hon. Geraldine B. Roman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Rep. Geraldine B. Roman is hereby recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. ROMAN

REP. ROMAN. Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, and fellow equality champs in this Seventeenth Congress.

I speak to you today not as the Representative from the First District of Bataan, nor as a colleague or a friend. I speak not as the first transgender woman to be elected in the House of Representatives. Today, I speak to you as a human being who is appealing on behalf of his, her brothers and sisters in the LGBT community for equality. I am appealing for equal rights, equal protection and equal opportunities under the law. There is a need to pass the SOGIE Equality Bill. This has been shown and explained to you by my fellow equality champs, Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar and Rep. Kaka Bag-a-o.

Despite the existence of some laws that supposedly guarantee that all citizens of our country be given the equal legal protection and opportunities in life, members of the LGBT community are still suffering from discrimination simply because of their sexual orientation and gender identity expression.

We have brothers and sisters who continue to be denied the chance to study, to find jobs, to grow in their careers, to avail themselves of basic government services, as they are even denied access to commercial and public establishments simply because they happen to be LGBT. As a result, they are subjected to humiliation, they are subjected to physical and verbal abuse. They are scorned and mocked. They are judged, marginalized and denied the opportunity to develop their full potentials and to become productive, law-abiding citizens of our country. They are deprived of their dignity as human beings, and as citizens of our country. Whether many or few, these cases should not and cannot be tolerated. I know that many of you understand and agree with me that there is something intrinsically unjust in these situations. There are many of us, in fact, in this Congress.

For the first time, in the past 18 years, this measure has gained the highest number of coauthors. Right now, we are around 150, more than one-half of the total number of Congressmen and Congresswomen, starting with our Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, our

Majority Leader Rodolfo Fariñas, and several Deputy Speakers. We have more than one-half of the total number of Congressmen and Congresswomen. And I am talking about Congressmen and Congresswomen who come from diverse religious and cultural background. I am talking about colleagues who have different political affiliations and different ideologies, and yet have decided to unite and support this Bill, whose main objective is simply to protect the rights of the citizens of our country, who just happen to be LGBT. We have the need to pass this Bill. We have the means to combat discrimination and penalize those who commit these acts, while sending a clear message to society that it is not right to discriminate against your fellow human being on the basis of his or her sexual orientation and gender identity. But for me, what is important about this Bill is also the message that we are sending to the society and our objective of effecting a paradigm shift in our nation. We want our country to become an inclusive society where people will be given the freedom to live happy, free and equal.

My dear colleagues, we have the power to help our brothers and sisters in the LGBT community. We have the opportunity to make history and break the 18 years of long wait. We have this unique chance to uplift our brothers and sisters. What are we waiting for? There is nothing to fear. The sky will not fall, and the sun will continue to rise even when this Bill is passed. There is nothing to lose if we pass this Bill, and yes, there is everything to gain as a society.

My dear colleagues, I know my life has been very fortunate. I have been privileged because I count on the support and the love of my family, my friends, my community, and I count on the love and respect of you, my colleagues. But remember this, not all enjoy the same fortune or privilege. Not everyone has been given this chance to study abroad as I have and to avail of the civil liberties afforded to me in the countries where I once lived. What do I feel about this? I am simply grateful to all of you.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa inyo dahil tinanggap ninyo ako kung sino ako. Hindi ninyo inalintana ang aking kasarian. You welcomed me with open arms and you have treated me as an equal, with respect and dignity, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. But, I want to request all of you, to you equality champions, to please remain steadfast. Konting kembot na lang at gagawa tayo ng kasaysayan. I want to request na kung ano ang pagtanggap ninyo sa akin, ang pagmamahal at respetong ibinigay ninyo sa akin, palawakin pa po ninyo upang yakapin ang ating mga kapwa Pilipino na nagkataon lamang na naging LGBT.

Umaasa po ako; huwag po sana ninyo akong biguin. Maraming-maraming salamat sa inyong lahat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF H.B. NO. 4982

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 4982.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5000
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 5000, contained in Committee Report No. 102, as reported out by the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5000, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION AND SUPERVISION OF PAYMENT SYSTEMS.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the Chairman of the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries, the Hon. Ben P. Evardone.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Rep. Ben P. Evardone is hereby recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. EVARDONE

REP. EVARDONE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat po at magandang hapon.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues. It is my honor to sponsor for this Chamber's consideration House Bill No. 5000, principally authored by former President and now Deputy Speaker Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION AND SUPERVISION OF PAYMENT SYSTEMS.

Mr. Speaker, payment systems are a vital part of the economic and financial infrastructure of the country. They provide the critical networks in financial systems, enabling a variety of financial transactions to be cleared and settled. The volume and magnitude of financial transactions passing through such payment networks justify the need for payment systems to be safe and efficient. These are also indispensable and reliable as they play a key role in building public confidence and in helping maintain financial stability.

While the growth and development of payment systems are indicative of their valuable contribution to the movement of funds in the economy, its operations can also give rise to risk, which, if left unaddressed, can adversely impact on our financial stability and the economy as a whole. By linking with the financial institutions for the purpose of transferring monetary claims and settling payment obligations efficiently, payment systems become channels through which financial risks can be transmitted across financial institutions and markets.

For example, Mr. Speaker, any failure of a bank as a participant in a payment and settlement system may have system-wide consequences since such failure will be passed on from one bank to another and from one settlement transaction to another. It could also give rise to externalities on adverse consequences that go beyond the direct participants in a particular payment system.

Mr. Speaker, there are already a number of central banks which have mandates to oversee payment and settlement systems. Among them are the Bank Indonesia, the Bank Negara Malaysia, the Central Bank of Myanmar, the National Bank of Cambodia, the Bank of the Lao People's Democratic Republic or PDR, the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the Deutsche Bundesbank, the Bank of France, the Banco de España, the Bank of Japan, and the State Bank of Vietnam. Unlike the central banks mentioned, however, Mr. Speaker, the powers of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, as provided for in this charter and other special laws, do not extend to entities which operate payment systems, neither is the Bangko Sentral granted the power to oversee payment systems in the country. Such authorities are among those that this Bill intends to grant to the Bangko Sentral in order that payment systems in the country operate in a manner that will support financial stability, economic development, and protect the consumers.

As the global financial landscape evolves, so do innovations in payment systems. In the Philippines alone, we may not be aware but we are already experiencing the benefits of innovations in the field of payment systems even as payment channels and schemes continue to expand. These include point of sale terminals through which we use our debit and credit cards, online payment platforms through which we transact purchases of goods and services, and mobile payment platforms through which we are enabled to move funds to our intended beneficiaries and the most popular Bayad Centers, among others.

As payment systems expand in the country, the nonbanking sector plays a significant role in the development of new payment instruments, platforms and schemes. While these innovations bring about benefits to financial consumers, there are also accompanying risks which if left unaddressed may bring more harm than what is expected. For example, in the sphere of activities of a nonbanking sector, there have been incidents where consumers have been left with less than adequate means or at times none at all of addressing their concerns regarding retail payments in view of lack of appropriate legal and regulatory framework for payment systems. Thus, Mr. Speaker, there is a need to provide for a clear and appropriate legal and regulatory framework that would promote transparency, as well as ensure the safety, efficiency, and reliability of payment systems, taking into account all the market players and participants in payment systems.

In addition, a well-founded, clear, and appropriate legal and regulatory framework for the national payment system will also provide the needed public confidence as the interest of consumers will be protected. This will, in turn, contribute to inspiring significant growth in usage and take-up of electronic payments in the country, thereby enabling the country to take advantage of the economic and societal benefits and opportunities that increase electronic payments brought to an economy.

For the foregoing reasons, Mr. Speaker, the Bill proposes that the State promote the safe, efficient and reliable operation of a national payment system in the Philippines through the Bangko Sentral in order to control possible systemic risks and provide an environment conducive to the sustainable growth of the economy.

The Bill specifically seeks to provide authority to the Bangko Sentral to oversee the payment systems in the Philippines and to exercise supervisory and regulatory powers for the purpose of ensuring the stability and effectiveness of the monetary and financial system. In the exercise of

this authority, the Bangko Sentral shall be guided by internationally accepted standards and practices. To ensure proper implementation of this mandate, the Bill requires that the Bangko Sentral coordinate with other regulators and other concerned agencies to avoid gaps, inefficiencies, duplication, and inconsistencies in the regulation of other systems that are related to or interconnected with payment systems; and endeavor to coordinate with regulators or overseas payment systems of other countries to facilitate safe, efficient and reliable cross-border payment transactions.

Further, Mr. Speaker, as a means of encouraging compliance with the law, Section 21 of the Bill provides that whenever a person or entity willfully violates this Act, rules, regulations, directives or orders duly promulgated by the Monetary Board, pursuant to this Act, that person or entity shall be punished by a fine or imprisonment or both at the discretion of the court. In this regard, it bears stressing that while being mindful of the need to remain responsive to the fast-paced innovation in payment systems, the rules, regulations, directives or orders to be promulgated by the Monetary Board shall, at all times, be pursuant to and in accordance with its authority under this Act. This is expected, not only to deter violations, but also to enable the Central Bank to effectively perform its responsibilities in limiting the prospect of financial contagion through the promotion of a safe and efficient national payment system.

In sum, Mr. Speaker, esteemed colleagues, the development of a safe and efficient national payment system has relevance to the monetary policy, financial ability and overall economic development of the economy. It is, thus, imperative that the Bangko Sentral, as the central monetary authority provided in the Constitution, has the ability to exercise oversight functions and, if necessary, apply a certain degree of supervision over the operations of payment systems with systematic importance in order to timely address possibilities of financial contagion within the system.

Mr. Speaker, to further demonstrate the merits of the Bill, may I request for the showing of a short video presentation.

(Video presentation)

REP. EVERDONE. With that, Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries earnestly seeks the approval of House Bill No. 5000.

Thank you. Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no interpellation, Mr. Speaker, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendment, I move that we consider individual amendments.

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

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, with due permission from the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, this Representation would like to propose some amendments to House Bill No. 5000, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Would the Sponsor reply? Are you agreeable?

REP. EVARDONE. I would like to hear the proposed amendments, Mr. Speaker.

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. TEJADA. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. On page 2, line 7, Section 3, letter (f), to replace the number “18” with number “17,” Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, may we know if the Sponsor will accept this amendment?

REP. EVARDONE. We accept, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker.

REP. TEJADA. Thank you Mr. Sponsor. On page 2, Mr. Speaker, line 25, Section 3, letter (n), after the word “such” ...

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker. I move for the suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 6:18 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:19 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. So, Mr. Speaker, again, may we know if the amendment proposed by the Gentleman is acceptable to the Sponsor?

REP. EVARDONE. We accept, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the following amendments—that on page 2, line 7, Section 3, subsection (f), to replace number “18” with the number “17.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. TEJADA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Sponsor, I would like to amend the following: On page 2, line 25, Section 3, letter (n), after the word “such,” to add a COMMA (,) and the words “OR WHEN THERE IS NECESSITY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST,” Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, may we know if this is acceptable to the Sponsor.

REP. EVARDONE. We accept, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. I therefore move that we approve the following amendments:

On page 2, line 25, Section 3, subsection (n), after the word “such,” we add a COMMA (,) and the words “OR WHEN THERE IS NECESSITY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC INTEREST.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. TEJADA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Section 5, paragraphs (a) and (b) on page 3, lines 14 to 18, is hereby amended to read as follows:

a. Determine a payment system to be a designated payment system if it finds that the payment system poses or has the potential to pose a systemic risk or when there is necessity to protect the public interest. ANY SUCH DETERMINATION BY THE BANGKO SENTRAL SHALL BE CONCLUSIVE. THE DESIGNATION OF A PAYMENT SYSTEM BY THE BANGKO SENTRAL SHALL BE EFFECTIVE UNTIL REVOKED. THE BANGKO SENTRAL MAY REVOKE SUCH DESIGNATION IF IT FINDS THAT THE DESIGNATED PAYMENT SYSTEM NO LONGER POSES ANY SYSTEMIC RISK OR IT IS NO LONGER IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE SYSTEM BE DESIGNATED, Mr. Chairman.

b. Require THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE DESIGNATED PAYMENT SYSTEM TO COMPLY, WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD, WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS, GIVING DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE ORDERLY TRANSITION OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE NEWLY DESIGNATED PAYMENT SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT IT OPERATES IN A SAFE, EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE MANNER, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, may we know if this is acceptable to the Sponsor.

REP. EVARDONE. The Committee accepts the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. I therefore move that we approve the following amendment:

On Section 5, paragraphs (a) and (b) on page 3, lines 14 to 18, to amend the provision as follows:

a. Determine a payment system to be a designated payment system if it finds that the payment system poses or has the potential to pose a systemic risk or when there is necessity to protect the public interest. ANY SUCH DETERMINATION BY THE BANGKO SENTRAL SHALL BE CONCLUSIVE. THE DESIGNATION OF A PAYMENT SYSTEM BY THE BANGKO SENTRAL SHALL BE EFFECTIVE UNTIL REVOKED. THE BANGKO SENTRAL MAY REVOKE SUCH DESIGNATION IF IT FINDS THAT THE DESIGNATED PAYMENT SYSTEM NO LONGER POSES ANY SYSTEMIC RISK OR IT IS NO LONGER IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE SYSTEM BE DESIGNATED.

b. Require THE PARTICIPANTS OF THE DESIGNATED PAYMENT SYSTEM TO COMPLY, WITHIN A REASONABLE PERIOD, WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT AND ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS, GIVING DUE CONSIDERATION TO THE ORDERLY

TRANSITION OF THE OPERATIONS OF THE NEWLY DESIGNATED PAYMENT SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT IT OPERATES IN A SAFE, EFFICIENT AND RELIABLE MANNER.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. TEJADA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

On page 4, line 5, Section 5, paragraph (d), number (4), after the word “laws,” to add the words IS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know if this is acceptable to the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. EVARDONE. The Committee accepts the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. I therefore move that we approve the following amendment:

On page 4, line 5, Section 5, subsection (d) (4), after the word “laws,” to add the words IS CONSIDERED CONFIDENTIAL.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. TEJADA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

On page 5, line 17, Section 10, to replace the number “4” with number “3,” Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know, Mr. Speaker, if this is acceptable to the Sponsor.

REP. EVARDONE. The Committee accepts the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. I therefore move that we approve the following amendment:

On page 5, line 17, Section 10, to replace the number “4” with the number “3.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. TEJADA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to also move for approval of the following amendment: on page 9, line 3, Section

17, to replace the word “operations” with the word ACTIVITIES, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know if this is acceptable to the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. EVARDONE. The Committee accepts the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. I therefore move, on page 9, line 3, Section 17, to replace the word “operations” with the word ACTIVITIES.

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

REP. TEJADA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to move for approval of the following amendment, particularly on page 9, line 19, Section 18, replace the number “17” with number “16,” Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know, Mr. Speaker, if this is acceptable to the Sponsor.

REP. EVARDONE. The Committee accepts the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. I therefore move that we approve the following amendment: on page 9, line 19, Section 18, we replace the number “17” with the number “16.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. TEJADA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to move for the approval of the following amendment: on page 11, line 8, Section 20, paragraph (d) (1), to delete the word “of” between “violated” and “or,” Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, may we know if this is acceptable to the Sponsor.

REP. EVARDONE. The Committee accepts the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. I therefore move that we approve the following amendment: on page 11, line 8, Section 20, subsection (d)(1), we delete the word “of” between “violated” and “or.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. TEJADA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

And, this Representation would like to amend and insert a new section after Section 21, to read as follows: SECTION 22, Mr. Speaker: *IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – THE BSP SHALL PROMULGATE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.*, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know, Mr. Speaker, if this amendment is acceptable to the Sponsor.

REP. EVARDONE. The Committee accepts the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. I therefore move that we approve the following amendment that we insert a new section after Section 21, that would read as follows: SECTION 22. *IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS. – THE BSP SHALL PROMULGATE THE NECESSARY RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT.*

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. TEJADA. Mr. Speaker, the succeeding sections are renumbered accordingly. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, there being no other individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 5000, as amended, on Second Reading.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 5000, as amended, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye.*

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5000, AS AMENDED,
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 5000, as amended, is hereby approved on Second Reading.

REP. EVARDONE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Dep. Majority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5225
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 5225, contained in Committee Report No. 164, as reported out by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5225, entitled: AN ACT MANDATING THE PROVISION OF FREE WI-FI INTERNET ACCESS IN PUBLIC AREAS.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Is

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who has signified his intention to interpellate, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to manifest the interest of the Hon. Edward Vera Perez Maceda, the Gentleman from Manila, to be included as a coauthor of this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, with that, I move that we approve House Bill No. 5225 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 5225, please say *aye*.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye.*

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5225
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The *ayes* have it. House Bill No. 5225 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 81 for the session of March 13, 2017.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

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

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 875, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE TAKEOVER OF THE GOVERNMENT HOUSING UNITS IN PANDI AND SAN JOSE DEL MONTE CITY, BULACAN BY THE MEMBERS OF THE KALIPUNAN NG DAMAYANG MAHIHIRAP (KADAMAY)”

By Representative Benitez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 876, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE LATEST STUDY ON THE ADVERSE

EFFECTS OF WATCHING TELEVISION ON SCHOOL READINESS FOR CHILDREN”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 877, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE PROPOSED RE-NATIONALIZATION OF THE THREE HOSPITALS IN THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE”

By Representatives Velasco and Velasco-Catera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 880, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING CONGRESS, THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROPRIETY OF THE ZAMBOANGA’S PROVINCIAL ORDINANCE 2016-68 REGARDING THE PROVINCIAL MARITIME ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND PROTECTION SYSTEM (MEMPS) IN THE PROVINCE INCLUDING THE IMPOSITION OF CERTAIN FEES PURSUANT THERETO, WHICH VIOLATES CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA (UNCLOS), OTHER INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS, AND EXISTING NATIONAL LAWS”

By Representative Manalo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 881, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF FORMER DEPUTY SPEAKER SIMEON A. DATUMANONG, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECOND DISTRICT OF MAGUINDANAO DURING THE NINTH, TENTH, ELEVENTH, THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH CONGRESSES”

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

House Resolution No. 882, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, IN REGARD TO THE USE BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF

ILOCOS NORTE OF ITS SHARES FROM THE EXCISE TAXES ON LOCALLY MANUFACTURED VIRGINIA-TYPE CIGARETTES OR THE SPECIAL SUPPORT FUND UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7171 FOR A PURPOSE OTHER THAN THOSE PROVIDED FOR BY THE SAID LAW, IN ITS HIGHLY IRREGULAR PURCHASE OF MOTOR VEHICLES MADE THROUGH CASH ADVANCES WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF PUBLIC BIDDINGS FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SIXTY-SIX MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP66,450,000.00)”

By Representatives Fariñas, Bondoc and Gonzales (A.D.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 883, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING ROMERO DUNO FOR SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATING CHRISTIAN GONZALES FOR THE WBC YOUTH INTERCONTINENTAL LIGHTWEIGHT TITLE IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA ON MARCH 10, 2017”

By Representative Acharon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 171), re H.B. No. 5258, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 4 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF LANA O DEL NORTE, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS ‘ARAW NG LANA O’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1186

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Dimaporo (M.K.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 172), re H.B. No. 5259, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 18 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF IFUGAO, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE ‘IFUGAO FOUNDATION DAY’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1603

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Baguilat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 173), re H.B. No. 5260, entitled: “AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 3 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF BIÑAN, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, TO BE KNOWN AS ‘BIÑAN LIBERATION DAY’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2747

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Alonte-Naguilat

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Youth and Sports Development (Committee Report No. 174), re H.R. No. 878, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE PERLAS PILIPINAS WOMEN’S NATIONAL BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE 2016 SOUTHEAST ASIAN BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR WOMEN HELD FROM SEPTEMBER 24 TO 26, 2016 IN MALACCA CITY, MALAYSIA”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolutions Numbered 388, 395 and 397

Sponsors: Representatives Estrella, Sy-Alvarado, Sambar and Roa-Puno

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Youth and Sports Development (Committee Report No. 175), re H.R. No. 879, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING TEAM PHILIPPINES FOR WINNING THREE (3) GOLD AND FIVE (5) BRONZE MEDALS IN THE 10TH WORLD TAEKWONDO POOMSAE CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD FROM SEPTEMBER 29 TO OCTOBER 2, 2016 IN LIMA, PERU”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 477

Sponsors: Representatives Estrella, Sambar, Nograles (J.J.) and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 176), re H.B. No. 5269, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING

THE NATIONAL SCHOOL
FEEDING PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC
KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY
PUPILS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 34, 246, 448, 1428, 1438, 1558, 1764, 1970, 2616, 2990, 3070, 3276 and 3371

Sponsors: Representatives Escudero, Nograles (K.A.), Cua and Del Mar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5241
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 5241, contained in Committee Report No. 168, as reported out by the Committee on Revision of Laws.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Secretary General is directed to read House Bill No. 5241.

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, House Bill No. 5241, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY, THE PRINCIPAL PATRONESS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 5241 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). As many as are in favor of the approval of House Bill No. 5241, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5241
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 5241 is approved on Second Reading.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5269
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 5269, contained in Committee Report No. 176, as reported out by the Committees on

Basic Education and Culture, Appropriations, and Ways and Means.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5269, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL FEEDING PROGRAM FOR PUBLIC KINDERGARTEN AND ELEMENTARY PUPILS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who has signified his intention to interpellate, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Is

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

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 5269 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). As many as are in favor of the approval of House Bill No. 5269, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5269 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 5269 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

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

1. House Resolution No. 821, re 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, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;

2. House Resolution No. 823, re 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, to the Committee on Trade and Industry;

3. House Resolution No. 824, re progress in

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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, to the Committee on Labor and Employment;

4. House Resolution No. 828, re the nature of employable circumstances of the reported 11.2 million unemployed Filipinos for the last quarter of 2016, to the Committee on Labor and Employment;

5. House Resolution No. 830, re the CHED scholarship allowance for identified beneficiaries, to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

6. House Resolution No. 833, re 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), to the Committee on Transportation;

7. House Resolution No. 837, re February 24, 2017 extrajudicial killings of farmers Llorendo and Ian Borres by elements of the 61st Infantry Battalion of the Philippine Army in Brgy. Jebaca, Maayon town, Capiz, to the Committee on Human Rights;

8. House Resolution No. 838, re February 25, 2017 extrajudicial killings of Gilbert Bancat, peasant leader of Pinagkaisang Lakas ng mga Magbubukid sa Quezon (Piglas Quezon) in Hacienda Uy, and farmer Angel Carabot in Barangay San Lorenzo, San Andres Town, Quezon province, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

9. House Resolution No. 839, re the accident in Tanay, Rizal of the Panda Coach Bus leading to the death of students of the Bestlink College as well as to improve the policy and regulations in the conduct of out-of-school activities, to the Committee on Higher and Technical Education;

10. House Resolution No. 840, re Republic Act No. 9163, otherwise known as the National Service Training Program Act of 2002, in light with the pronouncement of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte to restore mandatory Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) Program to all Filipino males in all colleges and universities in the Philippines, to the Committee on National Defense and Security; and

11. House Resolution No. 882, re inquiry in regard to the use by the provincial government of Ilocos Norte of its shares from the excise taxes on locally manufactured Virginia-type cigarettes or the special support funds under Republic Act No. 7171, for a purpose other than those provided for by the said law, in its highly irregular purchase of motor vehicles made through cash advances without the benefit of public biddings for the total amount of sixty-six million

four hundred fifty thousand pesos (P66,450,000.00), to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate has passed with amendments House Bill No. 4631. This is entitled, AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO REPUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., PRESENTLY KNOWN AS GMA NETWORK, INC.

We had been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, sponsor of House Bill No. 4631, has no objections to the amendments of the Senate to the said House Bill.

In accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 4631.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know, Mr. Speaker, what the pleasure of the Chairman of the Committee on Games and Amusements is.

REP. TAMBUNTING. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Committee on Games and Amusements Chairman, Representative Tambunting, is hereby recognized.

REP. TAMBUNTING. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I just would like to make a manifestation on House Bill No. 5225, which we just approved. Gusto ko lang po sanang magpasalamat sa suporta po na ibinigay po ng aking mga kasamahan dito para po sa Free Public Wi-Fi Bill na iminungkahi ko po at ng aking mga kasamahan.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, we are, likewise, in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate has passed with amendments House Bill No. 4637, entitled: AN ACT EXTENDING FOR TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SMART COMMUNICATIONS, INC. (FORMERLY

SMART INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES, INC.), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7294.

We had been advised that the Committee on Legislative Franchises, which is the Sponsor of House Bill No. 4637, has no objections to the amendments of the said House Bill.

So, in accordance with our Rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 4637.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 881

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 881.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 881, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING

THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF FORMER DEPUTY SPEAKER SIMEON A. DATUMANONG, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECOND DISTRICT OF MAGUINDANAO DURING THE NINTH, TENTH, ELEVENTH, THIRTEENTH, FOURTEENTH AND FIFTEENTH CONGRESSES.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 881.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 881

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

House Resolution No. 881 is hereby adopted.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, March 15, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The session is adjourned until four o'clock tomorrow, Wednesday, March 15, 2017.

It was 6:41 p.m.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)