



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

Vol. 4

Wednesday, May 3, 2017

No. 85

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra Sinsuat A. Sema called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Let us remain standing for a minute of silent prayer.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we defer the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

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

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5437, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE USE, PURCHASE AND STORAGE OF ELEMENTAL MERCURY IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5440, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DOMALUIS ROAD (STO. DOMINGO - STA. MARIA - LOURDES - SAN ISIDRO) IN MINALIN, PAMPANGAIN TO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bondoc

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5441, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE LILOY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - PATAWAG EXTENSION, LILOY DISTRICT IN BARANGAY PATAWAG, MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FROM THE LILOY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

TO BE KNOWN AS PATAWAG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Amatong
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5442, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Go (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5443, entitled:

“AN ACT REPLACING QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON RICE, WITH TARIFFS AND CREATING THE RICE COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND, AMENDING OF THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 8178, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT 10848, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT REPLACING QUANTITATIVE IMPORT RESTRICTIONS ON AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, EXCEPT RICE, WITH TARIFFS, CREATING THE AGRICULTURAL COMPETITIVENESS ENHANCEMENT FUND, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Garin (S.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 5444, entitled:

“AN ACT REIMPOSING FRANCHISE TAX ON TELEPHONE, TELEGRAPH AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 108 (A) AND 119 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, AS AMENDED OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997’ ”

By Representative Garin (S.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 5445, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE LIST OF NON-ESSENTIAL GOODS SUBJECT TO EXCISE TAX, AMENDING SECTION 150 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Garin (S.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 5446, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING A NATIONAL POLICY THE PROMOTION OF FINANCIAL LITERACY AS A TOOL FOR POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT”

By Representative Amante
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 5447, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING HIGHER PENALTY TO THE CRIME OF PERJURY, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE RELEVANT PROVISIONS OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE”

By Representative Robes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5448, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING KAYTITINGA FALLS AND MOUNT BALAGBAG IN THE CITY OF SAN JOSE DEL MONTE, PROVINCE OF BULACAN AS A PROTECTED AREA, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Robes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5449, entitled:

“AN ACT FOR AN ELDERLY AND VISUALLY IMPAIRED FRIENDLY PHILIPPINE CURRENCY DESIGN, AMENDING SECTION 53 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7653, ALSO KNOWN AS THE ‘NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT’ ”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 5450, entitled:

“AN ACT DESIGNATING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER AS BUY PINOY, BUILD PINOY MONTH TO ENCOURAGE THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS TO PRIORITIZE THE PURCHASE AND UTILIZATION OF FILIPINO PRODUCTS, LABOR AND SERVICES”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5451, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS A ‘NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE’ IN MEMORY OF THE STRUGGLES AND SACRIFICES OF THE HEROES AND MARTYRS OF THE MARTIAL LAW ERA”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5452, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE OBSERVANCE OF 23 NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL CONSCIOUSNESS DAY TO END IMPUNITY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5453, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE OBSERVANCE OF 29 NOVEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS WOMEN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS DAY”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 5454, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE OBSERVANCE OF NOVEMBER 17 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS' DAY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 5455, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 7 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO COMMEMORATE THE FOUNDING OF THE KATIPUNAN”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5456, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE OBSERVANCE OF JULY 25 OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL CAMPUS PRESS FREEDOM DAY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Zarate

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5457, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAY 22 OF EVERY YEAR AS FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION DAY IN COMMEMORATION OF NATIONAL ARTIST FOR FILM LINO BROCKA”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5458, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE PHILIPPINE RAILWAY AUTHORITY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5459, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LOCAL MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5460, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INDEPENDENT BROADCAST SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 5461, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE GROUNDS FOR DECLARING A PERSON A NUISANCE CANDIDATE, THEREBY AMENDING SECTION 69 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 881 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE OMNIBUS ELECTION CODE”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 5462, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING ONE-STOP ACTION CENTER FOR PURPOSES OF LAND REGISTRATION IN EVERY LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT THROUGHOUT

THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5463, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING A HIGHER PENALTY FOR PERSONS IN AUTHORITY AS ACCESSORIES, WHO DIRECTLY CAUSE OR ORDER THE DESTRUCTION OR CONCEALMENT OF VITAL EVIDENCE FOR HEINOUS CRIMES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 19 OF THE REVISED PENAL CODE”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5464, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING PLANTILLA POSITIONS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION FOR VOLUNTEER TEACHERS WITH AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS OF CONTINUOUS SERVICE IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 5465, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED NINETY-SEVEN, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE MERCHANT MARINE OFFICERS LAW’ ”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5466, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF SEPTEMBER AS A NATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5467, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A POSITION OF RURAL DENTIST IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5468, entitled:

“AN ACT CONSOLIDATING THE LAWS GRANTING REWARDS TO INFORMERS OF VIOLATIONS OF INTERNAL REVENUE AND CUSTOMS LAWS, REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 282 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, SECTION 3513 OF THE TARIFF AND CUSTOMS CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 5469, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE FORFEITURE POWERS OF THE STATE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1379, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT DECLARING FORFEITURE IN FAVOR OF THE STATE ANY PROPERTY FOUND TO HAVE BEEN UNLAWFULLY ACQUIRED BY ANY PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE AND PROVIDING FOR THE PROCEEDINGS THEREFOR’ ”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 5470, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS PENSION FUND AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 5471, entitled:

“AN ACT ENSURING THE WELFARE AND PROTECTION OF MINORS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5472, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE STANDARD FOR THE PRACTICE OF REHABILITATION MEDICINE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5473, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE SUPREME COURT THE POWER TO REASSIGN TRIAL COURT JUDGES TO OTHER BRANCHES OF THE SAME LEVEL, THEREBY AMENDING SECTIONS 17, 28, 30 AND 31 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’ ”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 5474, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT THEREBY ESTABLISHING A BASIC POLICY FOR NATURE RESTORATION, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5475, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF DISEASES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5476, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF ALL OBJECTS UNDERWATER CULTURAL HERITAGE IN PHILIPPINE WATERS”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5477, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE CIVIL SERVICE REFORM CODE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 5478, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE MINIMUM MONTHLY SALARY OF DOCTORS TO P65,000 AND PROVIDING FOR HAZARD PAY FOR DOCTORS”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 5479, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO VANGUARD RADIO NETWORK COMPANY, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7529, ENTITLED ‘A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8069, EXTENDING ITS OPERATIONS IN REGIONS 6, 7, 10, AND 11, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,’ FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 5480, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION OF A NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 5481, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DANGCAGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX - MIARAY IN BARANGAY POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF DANGCAGAN, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON INTO A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MIARAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Zubiri
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5482, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A LABOR EMPOWERMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM, AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Herrera-Dy
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5483, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (TVET) IN THE PHILIPPINES BY INCORPORATING APPRENTICESHIP AND DUAL TRAINING, RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTINUOUS TRAINING OF THE UNEMPLOYED AND EXPANDING THE PROVISION OF ENTERPRISE-BASED EDUCATION AND TRAINING”

By Representative Herrera-Dy

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5484, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING LOCALLY MANAGED CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE PHILIPPINES, ADOPTING BUD BONGAO LOCAL CONSERVATION AREA AS PILOT SITE AND OTHER PURPOSES THEREOF; INCLUDING THE PROVISION OF FUNDS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION”

By Representative Sahali

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5485, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR CREATION OF BASIC EMERGENCY OBSTETRIC AND NEWBORN CARE UNIT IN EVERY RURAL HEALTH UNIT IN THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF MUSLIM MINDANAO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sahali

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5486, entitled:

“AN ACT UNIFYING ALL EXISTING AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROGRAMS FOR THE FARMERS, FISHERFOLK AND MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (MSMEs) ENGAGED IN AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES, CREATING THE FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK QUICK CREDIT PROGRAM, ESTABLISHING THE AGRICULTURAL CREDIT AUTHORITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (ACAP), AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, IN ORDER TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN THE AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES SECTORS”

By Representatives Unabia, Limkaichong, Gonzaga, Abellanos, Acosta, Panotes, Marquez, Montoro and Bravo (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 5487, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM REGARDING LAND REGISTRATION TO FACILITATE SPEED AND EFFICIENCY IN LAND REGISTRATION”

By Representative Alvarez (P.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

House Bill No. 5488, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 138 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 ALSO KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991, BY PROHIBITING PROVINCES FROM REFUSING OR DELAYING THE ISSUANCE OF QUARRY PERMITS FOR NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS”

By Representative Sarmiento (C.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5489, entitled:

“PARKING BUILDING TAX EXEMPTION ACT OF 2017”

By Representative Sarmiento (C.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 5490, entitled:

“AN ACT RE-NATIONALIZING THE TICAO AND CLAVERIA DISTRICT HOSPITALS LOCATED IN TICAO AND BURIAS ISLAND, MASBATE, PLACING THE SAME UNDER THE CONTROL, MANAGEMENT AND SUPERVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bravo (M.V.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5491, entitled:

“AN ACT SUPPORTING THE NEEDS OF PERSONS AFFLICTED WITH DIABETES BY REQUIRING ALL RESTAURANTS, COFFEE SHOPS, SUPERMARKETS, BAKERIES, CONFECTIONARIES, FOOD AND BEVERAGE MANUFACTURERS AND OTHER SIMILAR FOOD

ESTABLISHMENTS TO PROVIDE AT LEAST TWO (2) KINDS OF AFFORDABLE FOOD ITEMS, BEVERAGES, CAKES, PASTRIES, CANDIES, ICE CREAM AND OTHER FOOD PRODUCTS ABSOLUTELY FREE FROM SUGAR AND ANY OF ITS DERIVATIVES”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5492, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE STRUCTURES AND OTHER MECHANISMS FOR THE ALLOWANCE OF VOTING IN ALL NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS WITHIN THE PREMISES OF SHOPPING MALLS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 5493, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING A SPECIAL LEAVE OF ABSENCE OF TEN (10) DAYS A YEAR WITH FULL PAY TO THE LEGITIMATE SPOUSE OF OVERSEAS WORKERS IN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 5494, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A JOB TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MATURE OR OLDER WORKERS”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5495, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING LAND, AIR, AND SEA TRANSPORT PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE PRIORITY SEATING FOR THE ELDERLY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257 AND 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010’ ”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 5496, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE FROM THE COVERAGE OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6758, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE SALARY STANDARDIZATION LAW, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 5497, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BENHAM RISE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5498, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE EASTERN SEABOARD STRATEGIC DEFENSE PLAN”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 5499, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINO ACT OF 1995, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10022, TO STRENGTHEN THE STANDARD OF PROTECTION OF THE WELFARE OF MIGRANT WORKERS BY CRIMINALIZING THE PRACTICE OF DECKING AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bertiz
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 5500, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF BALANGA, PROVINCE OF BATAAN TO BE KNOWN AS THE BALANGA CITY NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Garcia (J.E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5501, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ACCEPTANCE, PROCESSING, AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR LAND USE CONVERSION OF AGRICULTURAL LANDS, IRRIGATED LANDS, AND IRRIGABLE LANDS TO NON-AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES”

By Representative Alvarez (P.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

House Bill No. 5502, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARMONA IN THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE INTO A COMPONENT CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CITY OF CARMONA”

By Representatives Loyola and Zamora (R.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 5503, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ONE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT HOSPITAL IN EVERY PROVINCE AND/OR REGION TO ESTABLISH A DIALYSIS UNIT AND PROVIDING FREE DIALYSIS TREATMENT TO POOR PATIENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Go (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5504, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO THE BOHOL CHRONICLE RADIO CORPORATION TO CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN AND OPERATE RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NUMBERED SEVENTY-SIX HUNDRED AND THIRTY-FOUR TO ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE YEARS FROM THE DATE OF APPROVAL OF THIS ACT”

By Representative Yap (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 5505, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING BENEFITS AND DISCOUNTS TO STUDENTS FOR ALL EDUCATIONAL RELATED PURCHASES AND EXPENSES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lopez (M.L.)

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

House Bill No. 5506, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7718 ENTITLED, ‘AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE FINANCING, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS BY THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE BOT LAW AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lopez (M.L.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5507, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AS UNLAWFUL THE MEMBERSHIP IN ANY PHILIPPINE COURT PROSCRIBED OR UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL-DESIGNATED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Espino

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5508, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL SCHOOL UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF TESDA IN THE CITY OF CALBAYOG, PROVINCE OF SAMAR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CALBAYOG CITY TECHNICAL VOCATIONAL SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sarmiento (E.M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5509, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7077 MANDATING THE INSTITUTIONALIZATION, DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION OF BASIC RESERVE OFFICERS TRAINING CORPS (ROTC) IN GRADES 11 AND 12 IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Espino

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5510, entitled:

“AN ACT RESETTING THE 2017 BARANGAY ELECTIONS TO THE LAST MONDAY OF MAY 2018, AND EVERY FIVE YEARS THEREAFTER, AND SETTING THE TERM OF OFFICE OF ELECTED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN OFFICIALS TO FIVE YEARS”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 5511, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE SIAY-KABASALAN WETLAND IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SIAY AND KABASALAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY AS AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Hofer
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 5512, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE NAGA - KABASALAN PROTECTED LANDSCAPE LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY AS A PROTECTED AREA, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Hofer
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5513, entitled:

“AN ACT ADJUSTING THE AMOUNTS OR THE VALUE OF PROPERTY ON WHICH A PENALTY IS BASED, AND THE FINES IMPOSED UNDER THE REVISED PENAL CODE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3815, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE REVISED PENAL CODE’, AS AMENDED”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas, Umali (R.), Bondoc and Noel
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 923, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING P/S INSP ERLINDA LAVANDIA (RET) FOR WINNING THE GOLD MEDAL IN THE JAVELIN THROW COMPETITION DURING THE 2017 MASTERS ATHLETICS INDOOR

CHAMPIONSHIPS HELD IN DAEGU, SOUTH KOREA”

By Representative Go (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 924, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES FOR SUCCESSFULLY FOILING THE TERRORIST PLOT OF ABU SAYYAF GROUP IN BOHOL”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Resolution No. 925, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF THE IMMIGRATION OFFICER (IO) PERSONNEL OF THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION”

By Representative Bravo (A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 926, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EXPRESS ITS PROFOUND SENSE OF LOSS FOR THE PASSING OF TAI PAN AND DIPLOMAT ALFONSO YUCHENGCO ON APRIL 15, 2017 AT THE AGE OF 94”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 927, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EXPRESS ITS PROFOUND SENSE OF LOSS FOR THE PASSING OF MARIANO QUE, THE FOUNDER OF THE ICONIC MERCURY DRUG”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 928, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE OVERALL SITUATION OF THE POWER PLANTS LOCATED IN THE LUZON GRID, CONSIDERING THE SPATE AND OVERLAPPING EXTENT OF POWER PLANT SHUTDOWNS, INCLUDING THE

MASSIVE MAINTENANCE SHUTDOWNS OF AT LEAST TWENTY (20) POWER PLANTS DURING SUMMERTIME AND OTHER CONSEQUENT SHUTDOWNS THAT WOULD DEFINITELY COST IMMENSE ELECTRICITY RATE HIKES TO THE DETRIMENT OF OUR CONSUMERS, WITH THE END IN VIEW THAT PRO-PEOPLE MEASURES AND REFORMS BE INSTITUTED TO PROTECT THE CONSUMERS FROM THESE SEEMINGLY COLLUSIVE AND MANIPULATIVE PRACTICES”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 929, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN ON-SITE INVESTIGATION ON THE INDISCRIMINATE AND BRUTAL AIR STRIKES CONDUCTED BY THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES THAT RESULTED IN THE RAZING OF THE FORESTED PART IN BARANGAY LAT-EY, MALIBCONG TOWN IN ABRA ENDANGERING AND INFLICTING SUFFERING AMONGST THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES COMMUNITIES IN THE AREA, AND AFFECTING THEIR ANCESTRAL DOMAIN AND THEIR LIVELIHOOD”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 930, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IRREGULARITIES OF SETTING WATER RATES BY THE METROPOLITAN WATERWORKS AND SEWERAGE SYSTEM (MWSS)-REGULATORY OFFICE AND CONCESSIONAIRES MANILA WATER AND MAYNILAD, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO PASS-ON CHARGES OF CORPORATE INCOME TAX, OPERATING EXPENSES, ADVANCED COLLECTION FOR FUTURE PROJECTS AND REDUNDANT COLLECTION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RECOVERY ADJUSTMENTS”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 931, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY ON THE VIABILITY AND IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SINGLE MULTIMODAL TRANSPORTATION PAYMENT SYSTEM IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Revilla
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 932, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE INVOLVEMENT OF LEOMARICK TRANS IN A ROAD ACCIDENT IN CARRANGLAN, NUEVA ECIJA ON APRIL 18, 2017, KILLING AT LEAST 32 PEOPLE, FOR THE PURPOSES OF PREVENTING FATAL ROAD ACCIDENTS AND PROVIDING STRICTER PENALTIES FOR SUCH INCIDENTS”

By Representative Vargas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 933, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION LOOKING INTO THE NEED FOR COUNTRIES TO INCREASE INVESTMENT IN WATER AND SANITATION TO MEET THE TARGETS UNDER THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) AS UNDERScoreD BY THE WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) IN ITS NEW REPORT PUBLISHED ON BEHALF OF UNITED NATIONS (UN) - WATER AS IT WARNED THAT ALMOST TWO BILLION PEOPLE CURRENTLY CONSUME CONTAMINATED WATER”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

House Resolution No. 934, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO EVALUATE THE RECENT REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH) THAT DESPITE ADVANCED MEDICINE, TUBERCULOSIS (TB) REMAINS TO BE A MAJOR CAUSE OF DEATH AMONG FILIPINOS AND RECOMMEND INTERVENTIONAL MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SAME”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 935, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE KILLING OF DR. SHAHID ‘JAJA’ SINOLINDING AND DR. DREYFUSS PERLAS IN COTABATO CITY AND LANA O DEL NORTE, RESPECTIVELY, AND THE CONTINUING HARASSMENT AND ATTACKS AGAINST HEALTH WORKERS”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 936, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION INSTITUTING A DOMESTIC REGULATORY SYSTEM WHEREBY THE YOUTH ARE METHODICALLY DENIED ANY AND ALL ACCESS TO PORNOGRAPHY IN ALL ITS FORMS IN ORDER TO INSULATE THEM FROM PORNOGRAPHY'S DISASTROUS EFFECTS”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 937, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST TERMS THE RECENT HARASSMENT INCIDENT IN UNION BANKS IN THE SPRATLY ISLANDS INSTIGATED BY THE CHINESE NAVY AGAINST FILIPINO FISHERMEN, AND URGING THE PRESIDENT THRU THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO FILE A DIPLOMATIC PROTEST AGAINST CHINA AS WELL AS DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO ESTABLISH A WORKING STRATEGY TO GUIDE THE ACTIONS OF CONCERNED STAKEHOLDERS IN THE WEST PHILIPPINE SEA, AND TO PROPOSE ACTIONS AND POLICIES TO EFFECTIVELY IMPROVE THE CAPABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES INVOLVED IN ADDRESSING THE ISSUE”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 938, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY AND

OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SUBMITTED ROLL OUT PLANS OF THE TELECOMMUNICATION COMPANIES RELATIVE TO ADDRESSING THE BACKLOG OF CELL SITES WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING REGULATIONS TO SUPPORT EFFORTS THAT WOULD ENSURE THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE STATE OF PHILIPPINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS”

By Representatives Pineda, Belmonte (R.), Canama, Salo, Lopez (B.), Bertiz, Montoro, Belaro, Salon, Lacson and Lopez (M.L.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 939, entitled:

“URGENT RESOLUTION TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION AND OTHER PURPOSES, THE TIES BETWEEN THE OPERATION OF WINSTON Q8 AND TERRORIST FUNDING AND ACTIVITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Bertiz
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bills No. 2559, 5342, and 5350;

Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. for House Bill No. 2881;

Rep. Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada for House Bill No. 4136;

Rep. Lord Allan Jay Q. Velasco for House Bill No. 4224;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bill No. 163;

Rep. Michelle M. Antonio for House Bill No. 1969;

Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla for House Bill No. 4575;

Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar for House Bill No. 4689;

Rep. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles for House Bill No. 1859;

Rep. Pablo C. Ortega for House Bills No. 4570 and 4571;

Rep. Gerald Anthony “Samsam” V. Gullas Jr. for House Resolution No. 785;

Rep. Antonio L. Tinio for House Bills No. 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 373, 1044, 1045, 1046, 1048, 1790, 1791, and 1792;

Rep. Christopher “Toff” Vera Perez De Venecia for House Bill No. 4774;

Rep. Jesulito A. Manalo for House Bills No. 5240 and 735;

Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr. for House Bill No. 4879; and

Reps. Gary C. Alejano and Victor A. Yap for House Bill No. 5240.

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated January 30, 2017 of Noel C. Galvez, President and CEO, Vanguard Radio Network Co., Inc., submitting its Report to Congress, pursuant to Republic Act No. 7529, as amended by Republic Act No. 8069.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

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 OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

Letter dated 13 February 2017 of Emmanuel F. Dooc, President and Chief Executive Officer, Social Security System, providing the House of Representatives with a copy of the 2015 Actuarial Valuation of the Social Security Fund of the Philippines.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

Letter dated February 13, 2017 of Judy M. Taguiwalo, Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development, furnishing the House of Representatives with a List of Pantawid Pamilya Program Beneficiaries as of December 2016 and the Pantawid Pamilya Program's 4th Quarter Accomplishment Report for CY 2016, in compliance with the Special Provision on the Conditional Cash Transfer (CCT) Program of Republic Act No. 10924.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

Letter dated February 21, 2017 of Austere A. Panadero, Undersecretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government, submitting to the House of Representatives the Statement of Allotments, Obligations and Balances (Current and Continuing Appropriations) of the Office of the Secretary, for the period January 1-31, 2017, in compliance with Section 91 of Republic Act No. 10924.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated March 1, 2017 of Zenaida T. Tan, Assistant Regional Director, Regional Office, XI, Department of Public Works and Highways, submitting the Monthly Progress Status Reports of projects implemented by their office for the month of February 2017

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated March 1, 2017 of Allan S. Borromeo CESO IV, OIC-Regional Director, Regional Office XI, Department of Public Works and Highways, submitting the Monthly Progress Status Reports of projects implemented by their office for the month of February 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated 15 March 2017 of Amando M. Tetangco, Jr., Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting their Report on Economic and Financial Developments in the Philippines, Fourth Quarter 2016, pursuant to Section 39(a), Chapter I, Article V of Republic Act No. 7653.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated 17 March 2017 of Amando M. Tetangco, Jr., Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting their Report on Philippine External Debt as of 31 December 2016 which were noted by the Monetary Board on 16 March 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated March 17, 2017 of Teresita G. Inciong, Vice-Chairperson and Executive Director, Early Childhood Care and Development Council, submitting their 2016 Annual Report of the Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

Letters dated March 20 and 21, 2017 of Vincent Z. Bolivar, Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. BSP Circular Letter No. CL-2017-014 dated 01 March 2017;
2. BSP Circular Letter No. CL-2017-015 dated 03 March 2017;
3. BSP Circular Letter No. CL-2017-016 dated 09 March 2017;

4. BSP Circular Letter No. CL-2017-017 dated 08 March 2017;
5. BSP Memorandum No. M-2017-009 dated 10 March 2017;
6. BSP Circular No. 949 dated 15 March 2017;
7. BSP Circular No. 950 dated 15 March 2017; and
8. BSP Memorandum No. M-2017-010 dated 15 March 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated March 22, 2017 of Henry Sy, Jr., President and Chief Executive Officer, National Grid Corporation of the Philippines, submitting their Performance Highlights for 2015.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Letter dated March 23, 2017 of Austere A. Panadero, Undersecretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government, submitting the Statement of Allotments, Obligations and Balances (Current and Cont. Appropriations) of the Office of the Secretary, as of February 28, 2017, in compliance with Section 91 of the General Provisions of R.A. No. 10924 (FY 2017 GAA).

T O T H E C O M M I T T E E O N
A P P R O P R I A T I O N S

Letters dated March 23, 2017 of Leymar K. Cañete, Acting Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, transmitting a copy of the following BSP certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. BSP Circular No. 951 dated 20 March 2017; and
2. BSP Circular Letter No. CL-2017-018 dated 16 March 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letters dated March 27 and April 3, 2017 of Roger E. Dino, Acting Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, transmitting a copy each of the following BSP certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. BSP Circular No. 952 dated 22 March 2017;
2. BSP Circular No. 953 dated 27 March 2017;
3. BSP Circular Letter No. CL-2017-019 dated 21 March 2017; and
4. BSP Circular Letter No. CL-2017-020 dated 24 March 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated March 27, 2017 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with the following Annual Audit Reports (AARs):

1. Lambunao Water District, Lambunao, Iloilo-CYs 2013-2015;
2. Buenavista Water District, Buenavista, Guimaras-CYs 2014-2015; and
3. Metro Roxas Water District, Roxas City-CYs 2014-2015.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 29 March 2017 of Amando M. Tetangco, Jr., Governor, Office of the Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting the 2016 BSP Annual Report, pursuant to Sec. 40, Chapter I, Article V of the New Central Bank Act (R.A. No. 7653).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated April 4, 2017 of Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret.), Administrator, National Irrigation Administration, submitting the CY 2017 First Quarter Progress Report for Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agriculture Development (MinSAAD) Project.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Letters dated April 6 and 24, 2017 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Circular No. 954 dated 30 March 2017;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-021 dated 30 March 2017;
3. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-022 dated 30 March 2017;
4. Circular No. 956 dated 17 April 2017;
5. Memorandum No. 2017-011 dated 31 March 2017;
6. Circular No. 957 dated 17 April 2017; and
7. Memorandum No. M-2017-012 dated 11 April 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated April 17, 2017 of Delfin N. Lorenzana, Secretary, Department of National Defense, submitting their CY 2016 Third Quarter Report on the AFP Modernization Program.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

Letter dated April 19, 2017 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives the following Annual Audit Reports (AARs):

1. Anilao Water District, Anilao, Iloilo-CYs 2013-2015; and
2. Calinog Water District, Calinog, Iloilo-CYs 2012-2015

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated April 20, 2017 of Nestor A. Espenilla, Jr., Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting the Report to Congress on Public Sector Foreign Loans approved by the BSP in the First Quarter of 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated April 20, 2017 of Vincent Z. Bolivar, Senior Deputy General Counsel, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-023 dated 7 April 2017;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-024 dated 7 April 2017;
3. Circular No. 955 dated 11 April 2017; and
4. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-025 dated 12 April 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated 21 April 2017 of Salvador C. Medialdea., Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 10925 which was signed on April 21, 2017 by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, entitled: "AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO REPUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., PRESENTLY KNOWN AS GMAN 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 ARCHIVES

2015 Annual Report of the Bureau of Customs.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

National Economic and Development Authority Socioeconomic Report for 2015.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

2013 Judiciary Annual Report.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

Judiciary Yearbook 2014-2015.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

Judiciary Narrative Report.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Committee on Transportation (Committee Report No. 198), re H.B. No. 725, entitled:

"AN ACT PROHIBITING THE COLLECTION OF FEES FROM PASSENGERS FOR THE USE OF SANITARY FACILITIES LOCATED IN THE LAND TRANSPORTATION TERMINALS, STATIONS, STOPS AND REST AREAS"

recommending its approval with amendment, in consolidation with House Bill No. 3825

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento (C.) and Revilla

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 878

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 878, contained in Committee Report No. 174, as reported out by the Committee on Youth and Sports Development.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). 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. 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.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 878.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 878

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

House Resolution No. 878 is adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 879

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 879, contained in Committee Report No. 175, as reported out by the Committee on Youth and Sports Development.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). 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. 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.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 879

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 879.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

House Resolution No. 879 is adopted.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

It was 4:22 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:24 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Calendar of Business for Thursday and Friday—local bills, Mme. Speaker.

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

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration of the following local bills on Second Reading:

1. House Bill No. 5220, as contained in Committee Report No. 159, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE SITIOS OF ILEB, NEW COLAYO VILLAGE, KINAMA AND NAMBARAN DAYA FROM BARANGAY NAMBARAN, CITY OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA AND CONSTITUTING THEM INTO A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY NAMBARAN EAST;

2. House Bill No. 5221, as contained in Committee Report No. 160, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY IPIL IN THE CITY OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA;

3. House Bill No. 5222, as contained in Committee Report No. 161, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE SITIOS OF GUINA-ANG, MADOPDOP, MALLANGO, LANLANA AND SAN PABLO

FROM BARANGAY LACNOG, CITY OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA, AND CONSTITUTING THEM INTO A SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY LACNOG WEST; and

4. House Bill No. 5223, as contained in Committee Report No. 162, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY BULANAO NORTE IN THE CITY OF TABUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, for these bills I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, for these measures, we have here present the Honorable Mangaoang; he is the author of these bills. However, Mme. Speaker, for these measures, I move that we just consider their respective Explanatory Notes as the sponsorship speeches thereon.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Because we do not have interpellations, Mme. Speaker, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Since there are no amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move for the omnibus approval on Second Reading of the following House bills: 5220, 5221, 5222 and 5223.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). All those in favor of the approval of the aforesaid measures on Second Reading, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The *ayes* have it; the aforesaid measures are hereby approved on Second Reading.*

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MANGAOANG. Thank you. Thank you.

REP. DEFENSOR. Before we proceed, Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the distinguished Lady from the Lone District of San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan, the Hon. Florida "Rida" P. Robes. They are from the Lakbay Aral Program, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). May I ask the guests of Representative Robes to please stand up. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. By the way, Mme. Speaker, these guests from the city government of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, are led by the City Administrator, Professor Dennis M. Booth, and the rest, Mme. Speaker, are the Barangay Captains of the city, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Welcome, City Administrator and Barangay Captains of said city. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

Again, Mme. Speaker, the motion is that we hold a Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. DEFENSOR. First to speak, Mme. Speaker, is the distinguished Lady from the Lone District of San Jose Del Monte City. I move that we recognize the Hon. Florida “Rida” P. Robes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The Honorable Robes is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ROBES

REP. ROBES. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, and good afternoon to all!

Pollutants must pay! Mme. Speaker, dear colleagues, today, I rise on the side of the defense, the defense of the environment, in the same manner as how my husband and three-term Representative, now City Mayor of San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan, Arturo B. Robes, took the same path during his first term in the Fourteenth Congress.

Even as I speak, a part of the City of San Jose Del Monte is burning! The burning site, where an environment disaster is impending, was the very same one deliberated by then Representative Robes in his January 17, 2011 privilege speech as a product of a three-pronged conspiracy, this is the VG Puyat Inc. Engineered Sanitary Landfill and Waste Management Facility. In the same speech, he identified the three co-conspirators as: the city government of San Jose Del Monte under then Mayor Reynaldo S. San Pedro which granted approval of the landfill project; the proponent VG Puyat Group which wielded financial power and influence to push for the project’s approval; and the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB)–Regional Office, Region III of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources which, in record time of seven months, issued two environmental compliance certificates or ECCs for the landfill project, the first one being on December 23, 2008, when it granted the landfill a clearance to admit and process up to 200 metric tons, and the second was issued on July 31, 2009, when it approved its reclassification to a maximum-capacity category four landfill facility designed to admit and process over 200 metric-tons per day, obviously meant to accommodate a greater volume of municipal solid wastes or MSWS from other local government units.

At sa unang eksena nga nabuo ang “kitaan,” ah este, ang “kuntsabahan.” Ang akala naman ng tatlong magkakakuntsaba ay made in heaven na ang kanilang proyekto, pero hindi pala. Dahil sa pangalawang eksena,

ito ay pumalpak na para bang isang pagpapahiwatig na ang di-mabuting hangarin ay sadyang hindi nagtatagumpay.

In the second scene, we can see a VG Puyat Engineered Sanitary Landfill folding up, as it ceased operations in 2015, after turning to the city coffers some paltry revenues or barely six years after it was issued the second ECC. The cause for the cessation of its operation: insolvency.

Now, gone into thin air are what then city government of San Jose Del Monte brandishes through its Resolution No. 2010-154-12 as claims of and promised gains from the use of the supposedly viable sanitary landfill, such as new employment prospects, boost to local tourism, laudable dividends and revenues to line local coffers, all heavy with social and political content, but are nothing but empty promises. And, where are those men and women now, all addressed as “Honorables” who constituted then Sangguniang Panlungsod of San Jose Del Monte City, when Resolution No. 2010-154-12 which was passed on the “black day” of December 1, 2010? Well, some of them were still elected into office, others slid to retirement, while Mayor Rey San Pedro, who did not sign the resolution in order to allow its lapse into approval ten days later, would still have wanted to become City Mayor for the third time, but was beaten soundly during the last 2016 election by my husband. But, wherever they are now, and however they are positioned, they are so similarly situated. These people are all there fiddling on the roof like modern-day Emperor Neros while the city is burning. The five-hectare former VG Puyat Engineered Sanitary Landfill in Barangay Minuyan Proper is burning, releasing toxic smoke and methane gas into the air, and even causing some intermittent oxygen explosions, all affecting the health, life and safety of over 8,000 households of over 40,000 inhabitants in the six surrounding barangays of United Minuyan. And what about the VG Puyat Group, the lead player in this conspiracy? Where is it now and all its consultants in this specter of environmental disaster that it helped create? After declaring insolvency, it opted to offset its obligation by exchanging the landfill facility to its contractor, the Alejandro Waste Management, Inc. (AWMI).

Ang sabi po nila ngayon, sila na po ay nasa bankrupt level. Now this poor contractor, under whose skirt, the once mighty VG Puyat Group hides itself from obligation and prosecution, is the unlucky one who bears the brunt or the worse part of the problem. In its undertaking before the EMB, it promises to mitigate the impact of burning by spraying water on the fiery surface and dump soil thereon. However, the AWMI appears incapacitated as well to handle the task. It is over one month since the fire broke on March 12, 2017, but thus far, it succeeded to soil-cover only less than one-third of the burning area. It appears that this company is

also near insolvency, as it is capable of deploying only one bulldozer to do the earthworks on the good five hectares of the burning land. Besides, in its March 22, 2017 letter to Mayor Robes, it was already calling for any form of help to address the security and safety of people living near the area.

Now, on the third conspirator, the EMB of the DENR. How inept, how myopic could this government agency be that after issuing in record time of seven months, two environmental compliance certificates or the ECCs for the landfill project, it failed to see this as a forthcoming man-made disaster?

They are all telling us that an ECC should not be construed as a permit, but as an environmental planning tool. Come on, you guys in the Environment Management Bureau, do not go around us. No environment-based project can ever start without your ECC, and now you are telling us that it is not a permit? Please, please, do not hide nor justify your ineptitude behind rhetoric! Do not wash your hands in public. You run a line agency so mandated to protect our land, air, and water resources. You must be in the forefront of defense for the environment, and now you are taking a safe refuge on the nature of the ECC that you issue and dismiss at the same time as a mere planning tool. You do not even have in your possession the Safe Closure and Rehabilitation Plan of the Alejandro Waste Management, Incorporated, until this landfill fire caught up with you. If this is not ineptitude, I do not know how to call this.

Why the haste on your part to approve the capacity upgrading of this landfill facility, despite your certain knowledge that the disposable volume of waste materials generated from San Jose Del Monte City only runs to a maximum of 50 tons per day? Maybe you got the “cue” and you did not miss the “blink”; you made a good catch and, presto, you gave this “greenlight” to the increased capacity of the VG Puyat Engineered Sanitary Landfill to Category 4.

Ito ang tanong sa inyo ni Cong. Robes noon: “How much is the cost of your friendliness? Magkano kaya ang dahilan ng inyong pakikipagkaibigan sa VG Puyat Group?”

Masakit mang isipin pero ito ang katotohanan. Nasakripisyo ang kalagayan ng aming mga mahal na kaibigan, at higit sa lahat, ang mga constituents na mahihirap.

Now, what did you do to mitigate the impact of the disaster you encouraged to create in Barangay Minuyan Proper? It is almost token, except, perhaps, for the onsite air quality testing you conducted last March 13, 2017; the technical conference you called on March 27, 2017; and your attendance to the City Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinating Council meeting in San Jose Del Monte City on April 19, 2015.

What else do you want to know when you tested the

air quality in that burning piece of land? That oxygen is flammable? That methane gas is emitted by decaying organic materials? We suppose you know these already. And do you think that the fire in the area can be stopped in the boardrooms?

The city government of San Jose Del Monte does not have your expertise! Now, you are telling us that your ECC is a mere planning tool. Paano na kami? Paano na ang aming mga kababayan na nagdurusa sa hapdi ng usok at mga umaalingasaw na amoy ng basura? Nagsasakitan ang ulo, nagsasakitan ang mga tiyan, kung anu-ano ang mga tumutubo sa balat ng mga kabataan at mga anak ng aming lungsod.

We now call on you to go beyond your rhetorics and help our people who are already getting sick, unless you want to play fiddler on the roof as well. Just like some people I know, the city government of San Jose Del Monte wants to be a part of the solution. In fact, after identifying the potential hazards, vulnerabilities and risk exposures brought about by the burning incident, it already convened its City Disaster Risk Reduction Coordinating Council which recommended the undertaking, a counterpart local disaster management action plan and the utilization of its local calamity fund.

Yes, Mme. Speaker, dear colleagues, even as I speak, fire is eating up a part of the city. Then Representative Robes saw this as forthcoming and that was a good forecast. In the end, the people of the city of San Jose Del Monte will be the ones to suffer from the operation of this landfill. He took this same floor through his privilege speech on January 17, 2011, which eventually resulted in the conduct of two investigations in aid of legislation by then Committee on Ecology, pero wala din pong nangyari, mga kasama. Sana po sa pagkakataong ito, mabigyan diin ang lahat ng ginawa ng mga may sala. The former Representative Robes proved to be correct in saying that this landfill, where waste materials covered by soil, would take a longer time to decompose; thence, is necessarily slow in the generation of methane gas. Given this set-up, he saw that the facility can possibly generate ready-to-harvest methane gas only after 20 years of operation. But do not look now. It only took six short years for it to cease operations and for this environmental disaster to happen. Yes, there is confined methane gas below the landfilled surface, but the stock is not intended for harvest but for the purpose of sustaining that burning inferno in Barangay Minuyan Proper.

Malinaw na malinaw na ang totoong talo rito at ngayon ay nagdurusa—ang taumbayan.

Now, I do also take the same path, but this time, with an eye on setting up clearer legislative measures that would establish more defined lines of responsibility and accountability, in the event a similar environmental disaster happens anew in the country. I really believe that in Region III, dapat palitan ang nakaupo dito.

With this sad experience of the city of San Jose Del Monte runs a message. Now is the time for us to act and secure a healthful environment for our children, for preserving our ecology and for ensuring the cleanliness of the air that we breathe. Mga kasama, ang nakakalungkot dito, ang nakaupong regional director ay tagalungsod pa ng San Jose Del Monte. Siya pa rin mismo ang nagbigay ng permit para ito ay mag-operate kahit isang katerba ang taong nagra-rally mula sa simbahan at sa iba't ibang mga sektor.

I so move, Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, that we revisit the provisions of Presidential Decree No. 1586, if only to clarify the legal nature or weight of an Environmental Compliance Certificate as its terms are often regarded as a safe refuge for escaping culpability by our environmental protection agency such as the Environmental Management Bureau.

I believe we also need to revisit Republic Act No. 8749 or the Philippine Clean Air Act of 1999. While this law grants the right of citizens to breathe clean air, but it does not really have a clear stipulation on how the polluters must pay. It says in the Explanatory Note that "pollutants really must pay" such as in whose culpability or accountability may be placed in the event a privately-run and government-approved landfill such as this in San Jose Del Monte City turns to be a means for an environmental disaster.

Finally, Mme. Speaker, dear colleagues, I so move for the renewed interest of the House of Representatives on this landfill issue at San Jose Del Monte City, such as by calling for a reinvestigation on the possible operational and administrative lapses or possible incurred omissions that led to an environment disaster such as this and the need to initiate actions against those who may be held liable under our environmental laws.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, dear colleagues. Magandang hapon po. Mabuhay pa rin po ang aming lungsod, lungsod ng San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Robes, together with the video presentation, to the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The speech and the video presented by Representative Robes shall be referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. DEFENSOR. Next to speak, Mme. Speaker, is the Gentleman from Coop-NATCCO. I move that we recognize the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The Honorable Bravo from Coop-NATCCO Party-List is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BRAVO (A.)

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you very much, Dep. Majority Leader. Good afternoon, distinguished colleagues.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please allow me to welcome everyone back from a well-deserved break and to greet everybody a very good afternoon, hoping that we can make it even better by resuming our duties and intensifying our efforts to serve those who are in need.

I rise today on a matter of privilege and national obligation as someone who has witnessed and experienced how our less fortunate countrymen courageously endure challenge after challenge in their attempts to unshackle themselves from the chain of poverty, on the way to some kind of respite from struggles and sacrifices, to eventually live a life not only with promise, but also with reality and accomplishment.

I rise as a believer in the power of the greatest organizations ever formed, the cooperatives, to give honest men and women a chance and an opportunity to build on the humble rewards of their hard work; a believer in the capacity of cooperatives to provide economic opportunities where few exist; and a believer in being able to overcome challenges with the combined strength of individuals who will otherwise be weak if they are all alone.

I rise as a Member of this august Chamber representing over 14 million Filipino cooperators who partake in the responsibilities and benefits of growing cooperatives, which our Constitution recognizes as an instrument of social justice and development. I would like to repeat, Mme. Speaker, an instrument of social justice and development.

Republic Act No. 9520, otherwise known as Philippine Cooperative Code of 2008, and Republic Act No. 6939 or the Act creating the Cooperative Development Authority, are two landmark pieces of legislation that helped propel the remarkable growth of the cooperative sector.

Mme. Speaker, for 100 years now, cooperatives have played a significant role in economically and socially empowering millions of our people. For this, the cooperative movement is eternally grateful to the legislators who worked with the cooperative sector in the past, to enact measures that seek to foster the creation and growth of cooperatives as a practical vehicle for promoting self-reliance and harnessing people power towards the attainment of economic development and social justice.

The cooperative movement, Mme. Speaker, may

have been confronted with various challenges through the years, but I proudly declare that our cooperatives are the government's partner for genuine change and socio-economic transformation through and through. The cooperative movement could be likened to a diamond in the rough, Mme. Speaker, whose beauty is left unnoticed by the mainstream, but whose impact is far-reaching.

Our cooperatives are present in almost all provinces in the country, eighty-five percent of which operate in over 60 poor provinces in Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. What is the role of our cooperatives in economic and social empowerment, Mme. Speaker? Cooperatives genuinely embrace, educate and help marginalized sectors such as farmers, fisherfolk, women, indigenous people, persons with disabilities and others, to become part of the economic and social mainstream. These are the sectors that are vulnerable and are often left behind. Cooperatives give voice to the powerless. Today, we have over 25,000 cooperatives gathering together 14 million Filipino people, partaking to the collective endeavor of helping each other address their economic, social and cultural needs.

Mme. Speaker, honorable colleagues, the Philippine cooperative movement has supported development goals of every administration. In fact, our cooperatives are often tapped by the government as partners in the implementation of various programs and projects like the Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program or 4Ps, where cooperatives serve as conduits in the payouts to beneficiaries.

Our cooperatives take the risk of reaching remote places controlled by rebels. We invest our resources and manpower services to reach isolated islands and mountainous areas just so we could serve not only our brothers and sisters, but also the government.

Mme. Speaker, the cooperative sector's contribution to economy could be easily overlooked when one's eyes are so focused on the foregone revenues due to tax exemption and preferential treatment of cooperatives. But cooperatives' contribution to GDP is even higher than the mining industry that similarly enjoys tax incentives. In terms of employment generation, cooperatives have also provided 463,789 direct employment and 1.5 million indirect jobs to vulnerable sectors like the micro entrepreneurs. Cooperatives are also tax generators. In fact, they have remitted to the government P6.3 billion of withheld taxes in 2015. Cooperatives are not for profit.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Members of this Chamber, let me explain one important concept that expressly separates the cooperatives from other traditional types of businesses. It is called the "net surplus." Unlike a corporation where at the end of each fiscal year it declares a net income or profit from its operation, a cooperative's net surplus at the end of

each fiscal year is not treated as "profit" but considered as "savings." Members pool their resources to provide for services they need in the form of businesses the cooperative is authorized to undertake. The surplus or savings are generated out of the cooperative's operations and member-owners' patronage of the cooperatives' services. The surplus generated would have been considered profit if the operation is capitalist in nature; instead, they are considered savings because the whole "surplus" is returned to the member-owners in the form of interest on capital and patronage refund. Hence, in its most practical and practicable sense, cooperatives do not have "profits" to be taxed.

Cooperatives do not even have full discretion to use these surpluses. For example, as provided under Article 86 of Republic Act No. 9520, all cooperatives are mandated to allocate and distribute their net surpluses, where at least 10 percent is for the Reserve Fund to be used for the stability of cooperatives and to meet net losses in its operations; not more than 10 percent is for the cooperative Education and Training Fund; not less than 3 percent is for the Community Development Fund; and not more than 7 percent is for the Optional Fund. Only the remaining net surplus, if any, can be made available for the members in the form of interest and patronage refunds, not to exceed the normal rate of return on investments and patronage refund.

Mme. Speaker, taxation on cooperatives' income would be tantamount to double taxation as members of cooperatives already pay an indirect tax provided by law under Republic Act No. 9520, mandating the deduction of 30 percent of the cooperatives' net surplus before distributing them as interest on share capital and patronage refund. Hence, only 70 percent of the net surplus of the cooperatives' businesses are enjoyed by the members treated as income.

You may ask where does the 30 percent of the cooperative goes, Mme. Speaker? The data of the CDA show that based on the cooperatives' operations for the year 2015, they have contributed a total of P2,119,320,481.36 of the Cooperative Education and Training Fund to educate their own officers and members to better manage their own cooperatives. This is less than the amount for scholarships that the government would have otherwise spent to educate the cooperatives' officers and members.

Furthermore, cooperatives have contributed a total of P1,546,713,063.69 of Community Development Fund as their share not just in community development, but in nation-building as well. This amount is brought back to the communities where the cooperatives are situated in the form of feeding programs, medical missions, tree planting activities, scholarship programs, river or ocean cleaning drives, among others. Cooperatives serve a social purpose. I hope it is clear among us, Mme. Speaker, honorable Members of this august Chamber.

As social enterprises, cooperatives provide social

services across marginalized sectors, especially the poor and underprivileged that comprise its membership. Such services are delivered utilizing their own capital, for the following: the operation of small businesses of cooperative members, the training for values and leadership, and the loans with low interest. So whenever they allow loans, it would be with minimal documentation for the immediate financial needs of the members, they have cheaper goods for every day needs, insurance and medical care at affordable costs, and decent housing, among others.

These are basic services that the government should be providing, but the cooperatives have wholeheartedly embraced their mission of uplifting the economic and social welfare of every cooperator. Cooperatives never waiver in their mission to provide the much-needed financial and social services otherwise absent or lacking, especially in the remotest areas in the countryside.

Today, the cooperative sector again reaches out to you honorable Members of the House of Representatives. In this time that there is imminent threat to revoke the cooperative tax exemption, we appeal to your wisdom, distinguished colleagues, Mme. Speaker. Let us consider the damaging impact of some proposed measures that will have direct impact on the welfare of 14 million Filipinos.

I believe that these 14 million cooperators are representative of every household. Thus, if the average household is 4.6 or 4.4 in 2015 according to Philippine Statistics Authority, we could argue that around 56 million Filipinos or more than half of the population will be adversely affected by the repeal of the cooperative tax exemption. Cooperatives have legitimate rights to tax exemption.

At this point, may I humbly remind our distinguished colleagues that Section 15, Article XII of the 1987 Philippine Constitution recognizes the importance of cooperatives as an instrument of social justice and economic development. Citing provisions of the Philippine Constitution, the Supreme Court categorically recognizes cooperatives in its ruling in *Dumaguete Cathedral Credit Cooperative vs. Commissioner of Internal Revenue*. The High Court ruled, and may I read, Mme. Speaker:

No less than our Constitution guarantees the protection of cooperatives. Section 15 Article XII of the Constitution considers cooperative as instrument for social justice and economic development.

At the same time, Section 10 of Article II of the Constitution declares that it is a policy of the State to promote social justice in all phases of national development. In relation thereto, Section 2 of Article XIII of the Constitution

states that the promotion of social justice shall include the commitment to create economic opportunities based on freedom of initiative and self-reliance.

The Supreme Court further said that in closing, the cooperatives, including their members, deserve a preferential tax treatment because of the vital role they play in the attainment of economic development and social justice, Mme. Speaker. Thus, although taxes are the lifeblood of the government, the State's power to tax must give way to foster the creation and growth of cooperatives. To borrow the words of Justice Isagani A. Cruz, we state, "The power of taxation, while indispensable, is not absolute and may be subordinated to the demands of social justice."

Republic Act No. 9520 explicitly emphasizes the need for the State to extend preferential treatment to cooperatives with regard to taxation. Article 60 and 61 stipulate the tax treatment of cooperatives. Applying the same principle, Mme. Speaker, relied upon by the Supreme Court, the removal of tax exemptions granted to cooperatives, under Articles 60 and 61 of Republic Act No. 9520, is contrary to the letter and spirit of the Constitution.

Let me clarify that the tax exemption granted to cooperatives is not even absolute as only cooperatives with accumulated reserves and undivided net savings of not more than P10 million are tax exempt. Cooperative transactions with non-members are also not tax exempt.

Distinguished colleagues, Mme. Speaker, the tax exemption privilege this august Body has bestowed on our cooperatives is the only countervailing force to democratize wealth and power in our highly iniquitous society. The cooperatives sector supports the government's pro-poor programs, Mme. Speaker. We support the Duterte administration's pro-poor programs, in the same way that we supported the anti-poverty programs of past administrations. We support the noble goal of uplifting an additional six million Filipinos from the bondage of poverty by year 2022. Initiatives to reform the tax system in our country are welcome as we believe that there is indeed a need to modernize our taxation system to make it efficient and fair. Tax reform, however, should stick to its goal of improving the welfare of Filipinos in the lower strata. If it is intended as pro-poor, then it should not be against the interest of the poor. I believe that we could do so without compromising the tax exemption of cooperatives whose members are primarily the poor and marginalized.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, last Saturday, thousands of cooperative members across the country staged a simultaneous cooperative show of force in every region to register our position against the proposed repeal of coop tax exemption. And, I may

be allowed, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, to show you some of the footages of these gatherings.

(Audiovisual presentation)

This gathering was in Region II, to be specific, in Echague, Isabela.

(Audiovisual presentation)

This gathering was in Region V.

(Audiovisual presentation)

This gathering was in Region I.

(Audiovisual presentation)

This gathering was in Cebu.

(Audiovisual presentation)

This gathering was in Region III, Bulacan.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, with all due respect to the Gentleman, to Honorable Bravo, not that we want to rain on his party, we are in full support and we admire his advocacy. But we would just like to remind and caution the Gentleman from referring to the tax exemptions pertaining to cooperatives because they are now pending before the Committee. So, we would just like to remind him about further referring to what is pending before the Ways and Means Committee, even during the interpellations, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The Gentleman from Coop-NATCCO is reminded not to refer to issues already pending at the Committee.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Noted, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

At this juncture, Mme. Speaker, this humble Representation pleads for your support to build the cooperative movement. Let us not kill or weaken the cooperative movement, but rather, let us strengthen it.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished colleague.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The Dep. Majority Leader.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we know what is the pleasure of the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. With deference to the Majority Leader, this Representation would like to move for the calling of the roll because, noticeably, we do not have a quorum, anymore.

REP. DEFENSOR. Yes, Mme. Speaker, we join the

Gentleman. But before that, I would like to move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Bravo, together with the video presentation, to the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The speech and the AV presentation of Representative Bravo are referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. DEFENSOR. And also, Mme. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The Privilege Hour is terminated.

ROLL CALL

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). 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. 85, dated May 3, 2017:

PRESENT

Abaya	Barzaga
Abayon	Bataoil
Abellanosa	Batocabe
Acharon	Bautista-Bandigan
Acosta	Belaro
Advincula	Belmonte (J.C.)
Aggabao	Belmonte (R.)
Aglipay-Villar	Bertiz
Albano	Biazon
Alejano	Billones
Almonte	Biron
Alvarez (F.)	Bolilia
Alvarez (M.)	Bondoc
Alvarez (P.)	Bordado
Amatong	Bravo (A.)
Andaya	Brosas
Angara-Castillo	Calderon
Aragones	Calixto-Rubiano
Arbison	Campos
Arcillas	Canama
Arenas	Casilao
Atienza	Castelo
Bag-ao	Castro (F.L.)
Bagatsing	Castro (F.H.)
Baguilat	Catamco
Banal	Cerifica

Cerilles	Kho	Radaza	Sy-Alvarado
Chavez	Labadlabad	Ramirez-Sato	Tambunting
Chipeco	Lacson	Ramos	Tejada
Cojuangco	Lagman	Relampagos	Teves
Collantes	Lanete	Revilla	Ting
Cortes	Laogan	Roa-Puno	Tugna
Cortuna	Lee	Robes	Ty
Crisologo	Limkaichong	Rodriguez (I.)	Umali
Cuaresma	Lobregat	Rodriguez (M.)	Ungab
Dalipe	Lopez (B.)	Romualdo	Unico
Daza	Lopez (M.L.)	Roque (H.)	Uy (J.)
De Jesus	Macapagal-Arroyo	Sacdalan	Uy (R.)
De Vera	Madrona	Sagarbarria	Vargas
Defensor	Malapitan	Sahali	Velarde
Del Mar	Manalo	Salceda	Velasco-Catera
Del Rosario	Mangaoang	Salo	Veloso
Deloso-Montalla	Marcoleta	Salon	Vergara
Dimaporo (A.)	Marcos	Sambar	Villafuerte
Durano	Mariño	Sandoval	Villanueva
Dy	Marquez	Sarmiento (C.)	Villarica
Elago	Martinez	Sarmiento (E.M.)	Villarin
Enverga	Matugas	Savellano	Violago
Erice	Mellana	Sema	Yap (M.)
Escudero	Mercado	Siao	Yap (V.)
Espino	Mirasol	Silverio	Yu
Estrella	Montoro	Suansing (E.)	Zarate
Fariñas	Nieto	Suansing (H.)	Zubiri
Fernando	Noel	Suarez	
Ferriol-Pascual	Nogralas (J.J.)		
Flores	Nogralas (K.A.)		
Fortun	Nolasco		
Fortuno	Oaminal		
Garbin	Olivarez		
Garcia (G.)	Ortega (P.)		
Garcia (J.E.)	Ortega (V.N.)		
Garcia-Albano	Pacquiao		
Gasataya	Paduano		
Geron	Palma		
Go (M.)	Pancho		
Gonzaga	Panganiban		
Gonzales (A.D.)	Panotes		
Gonzalez	Papandayan		
Gullas	Pimentel		
Herrera-Dy	Pineda		
Hofer	Primicias-Agabas		
Javier	Quimbo		

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 199 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). With 199 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until Monday, May 8, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The session is adjourned until 4:00 p.m., Monday, May 8, 2017.

It was 5:28 p.m.