



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th CONGRESS, FIRST REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

Vol. 4

Wednesday, May 31, 2017

No. 97

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Manatili po tayong nakatayo para tayo ay magkaroon ng isang tahimik na panalangin para sa ating kapayapaan, lalo na sa ating mga kapatid sa Mindanao.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

ROLL CALL

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). 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. 97, dated May 31, 2017:

PRESENT

Abayon
Abellanos

Abu
Abueg

Acharon
Acop
Acosta
Acosta-Alba
Advincula
Aggabao
Aglipay-Villar
Albano
Alejano
Almario
Almonte
Alonte
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (M.)
Alvarez (P.)
Amatong
Angara-Castillo
Antonino
Antonio
Aragones
Arbison
Arcillas
Arenas
Atienza
Bagatsing
Banal
Barbers
Bataoil
Batocabe
Bautista-Bandigan
Belaro
Belmonte (F.)
Belmonte (J.C.)
Benitez
Bernos
Bertiz
Biazon
Billones
Biron
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bordado
Bravo (A.)
Bravo (M.V.)
Brosas
Bulut-Begtang
Cagas
Calderon
Calixto-Rubiano
Caminero
Campos
Canama
Cari
Castelo
Castro (F.L.)
Castro (F.H.)
Catamco
Cayetano
Cerafica
Cerilles
Chavez
Chipeco
Co
Cojuangco
Collantes
Cortes
Cortuna
Cosalan
Crisologo
Cua
Cuaresma
Cueva
Dalipe
Daza
De Jesus
De Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Del Rosario
Deloso-Montalla
Dimaporo (A.)
Dimaporo (M.K.)
Duavit
Durano
Dy
Elago
Erice

Eriguel	Marquez	Savellano	Unico
Ermita-Buhain	Martinez	Sema	Uy (J.)
Escudero	Mendoza	Siao	Uy (R.)
Espina	Mercado	Silverio	Uybarreta
Espino	Mirasol	Singson	Vargas
Estrella	Montoro	Suansing (E.)	Vargas-Alfonso
Evardone	Nava	Suansing (H.)	Velasco
Fariñas	Nieto	Suarez	Velasco-Catera
Fernando	Noel	Sy-Alvarado	Veloso
Ferrer (J.)	Nogralas (J.J.)	Tambunting	Vergara
Flores	Nogralas (K.A.)	Tan (A.)	Villafuerte
Fortun	Nolasco	Tan (M.)	Villanueva
Fortuno	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Tan (S.)	Villaraza-Suarez
Garbin	Oaminal	Tejada	Villarica
Garcia (G.)	Ocampo	Teves	Villarin
Garcia (J.E.)	Olivarez	Ting	Violago
Garcia-Albano	Ong (E.)	Tinio	Yap (M.)
Garin (R.)	Ortega (P.)	Tolentino	Yap (V.)
Gasataya	Ortega (V.N.)	Tugna	Yu
Gatchalian	Paduano	Tupas	Zamora (M.C.)
Geron	Palma	Turabin-Hataman	Zamora (R.)
Go (A.C.)	Pancho	Umali	Zarate
Go (M.)	Panganiban	Unabia	Zubiri
Gomez	Panotes	Ungab	
Gonzaga	Papandayan		
Gonzales (A.P.)	Pichay		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Order in
Gonzales (A.D.)	Pimentel		the House.
Gullas	Pineda		The Secretary General will please proceed.
Hernandez	Plaza		
Herrera-Dy	Primicias-Agabas		<i>At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Abu relinquished the</i>
Hofer	Quimbo		<i>Chair to Deputy Speaker Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro.</i>
Jalosjos	Radaza		
Javier	Ramirez-Sato		THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is
Kho	Ramos		present.
Khonghun	Relampagos		Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 251 Members
Labadlabad	Revilla		responded to the call.
Lacson	Roa-Puno		
Lagman	Robes		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With
Lanete	Rocamora		251 Members present, the Chair declares the presence
Laogan	Rodriguez (I.)		of a quorum.
Lazatin	Rodriguez (M.)		The Floor Leader is recognized.
Leachon	Roman		
Lee	Romualdo		REP. GARIN (O.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the
Limkaichong	Roque (H.)		deferment of the approval of the Journal of the previous
Lobregat	Roque (R.)		session.
Lopez (B.)	Sacdalan		
Lopez (C.)	Sagarbarria		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is
Lopez (M.L.)	Sahali		there any objection? (<i>Silence</i>) The Chair hears none;
Loyola	Salceda		the motion is approved.
Maceda	Salimbangon		
Madrona	Salo		REP. GARIN (O.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we
Malapitan	Salon		proceed to the Reference of Business.
Manalo	Sambar		
Mangaoang	Sandoval		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is
Mangudatu (S.)	Sarmiento (C.)		there any objection? (<i>Silence</i>) The Chair hears none;
Mariño	Sarmiento (E.M.)		the motion is approved.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5744, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE INCLUSION OF THE CONTINUING DRIVER’S EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lacson
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5746, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF REDISTRIBUTING AND RECYCLING FOOD WASTE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY”

By Representative Calixto-Rubiano
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 5749, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PRESERVE AND PROTECT ALL WATERS FOR RECREATION IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND IMPLEMENTING ITS MONITORING AND NOTIFICATION PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bagatsing
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 5751, entitled:

“AN ACT UPHOLDING THE ECONOMIC WELFARE OF VOLUNTEER RESPONDERS’ CHILDREN AND/OR DEPENDENTS IN THE EVENT OF THEIR DEATH IN THE COURSE OF SAVING OTHER PEOPLE’S LIVES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 5752, entitled:

“AN ACT SAFEGUARDING THE MARITIME TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE PHILIPPINES THROUGH REINFORCEMENT OF ITS COAST GUARD

BY EMPOWERING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS IN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THEIR RESPECTIVE LOCAL COAST GUARD COUNCIL, SPEARHEADED BY A SYSTEMATIZED MANAGEMENT PLAN, DEDICATED FUND AND EFFECTIVE PERSONNEL”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5753, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AN AQUATIC RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL BREEDING STATION FOR LAKE, RIVER AND OTHER INLAND FISHES IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR, MUNICIPALITIES OF MAGSINGAL AND CABUGAO, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5759, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE BINON-AN – ALINSOLONG – EMBARCADERO – JOLOG – BOTONGON ROAD CONNECTING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF BATAD AND ESTANCIA, PROVINCE OF ILOILO INTO A NATIONAL ROAD, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tupas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5760, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAYS MAITIM II CENTRAL, MAITIM II WEST, SILANG CROSSING WEST AND MAHARLIKA EAST IN THE CITY OF TAGAYTAY, PROVINCE OF CAVITE INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tolentino
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5761, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING FARMERS TO SECURE COMPULSORY CROP INSURANCE FOR PALAY AND OTHER CROPS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1467, AS AMENDED,

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘CHARTER OF THE PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION’ ”

By Representative Antonio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 5762, entitled:
“AN ACT REQUIRING HOSPITALS TO WAIVE PARKING FEES FOR THEIR PATIENTS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”
By Representative Antonio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5763, entitled:
“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL CANCER CONTROL COMMITTEE, INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE CANCER PREVENTION AND CONTROL PROGRAM, AND PROVIDING FOR PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”
By Representative Gatchalian
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5764, entitled:
“AN ACT CONVERTING STO. ROSARIO STREET FROM GERRY ANGELES STREET TO MINDANAO AVENUE EXT. IN THE SECONDDISTRICT, CITY OF VALENZUELA INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”
By Representative Gatchalian
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5765, entitled:
“AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES TO PROVIDE NATIONWIDE MOBILE NUMBER PORTABILITY TO SUBSCRIBERS”
By Representative Gatchalian
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 5766, entitled:
“AN ACT GRANTING FRANKING PRIVILEGE TO THE NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS COMMISSION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”
By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5767, entitled:
“AN ACT TO DECLARE AS NATIONAL HEROES THOSE WHO LED THE REVOLUTION

AGAINST SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES IN MINDANAO”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 5768, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING MATERNAL AND INFANT HEALTH HOME VISITING PROGRAM”
By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 5769, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CENTERS REGARDING WOMEN’S HEALTH AND DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONDUCTING A RESEARCH PROGRAM ON HORMONE DISRUPTION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”
By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 5770, entitled:
“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CONSTRUCTION OF A ‘BANTAY ANTAYAN’ BUILDING IN FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINE GENERAL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM COMPLEX, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5771, entitled:
“AN ACT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY OF A SOLDIER KILLED WHILE PERFORMING DUTIES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”
By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 5772, entitled:
“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PAYMENT OF ZAKAT BY MUSLIMS IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BAIT-UL-MAL, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”
By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 5773, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE

BUSINESS REGISTRY DATABANK, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 5774, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE USE OF
RECYCLABLE OR BIODEGRADABLE
MATERIALS FOR THE PACKAGING OF
CONSUMER PRODUCTS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 5775, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 5776, entitled:

“AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE FINANCIAL
REGULATION OF WATER UTILITIES,
CREATING THE WATER REGULATORY
COMMISSION AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5778, entitled:

“AN ACT NAMING THE 54 KILOMETER ROAD
LOCATED IN MANGATAREM, PROVINCE OF
PANGASINAN TO STA. CRUZ, PROVINCE OF
ZAMBALES AS THE ‘DAANG KALIKASAN
NATIONAL ROAD’”

By Representative Bataoil
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5779, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING
TELECOMMUTING IN THE WORKPLACE
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tugna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 5781, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING GENDER-BASED STREET
AND PUBLIC SPACES HARASSMENT,

PROVIDING PROTECTIVE MEASURE AND
PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villarín
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND
GENDER EQUALITY

House Bill No. 5782, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 51(A), RA
6975, AS AMENDED BY RA 8551”

By Representative Teves
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5783, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MOUNT SAN ISIDRO
LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY
OF LABRADOR, PROVINCE OF
PANGASINAN AS AN ECO-TOURISM
DESTINATION AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Bataoil
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 5785, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR TAX RELIEF IN
TIMES OF CALAMITY”

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

House Bill No. 5786, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE COOPERATIVE
DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION,
REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6939, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT CREATING
THE COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY TO PROMOTE THE VIABILITY
AND GROWTH OF COOPERATIVES
AS INSTRUMENTS OF EQUITY,
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT’, APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Laogan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES
DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 5787, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER
OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE
ACADEMY (PNPA) AND NATIONAL
POLICE TRAINING INSTITUTE (NPTI)
FROM THE PHILIPPINE PUBLIC SAFETY
COLLEGE (PPSC) TO THE PHILIPPINE
NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) AMENDING FOR

THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 6975 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8851”

By Representative Bataoil
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 5788, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF VICENTE SOTTO MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER, LOCATED IN CEBU CITY, FROM ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED (1,200) TO ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (1,500) BED CAPACITY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE”

By Representative Del Mar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5791, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SAN LORENZO RUIZ WOMEN’S HOSPITAL IN MALABON CITY, METRO MANILA INTO A GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE MALABON CITY GENERAL HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM TEN (10) TO ONE HUNDRED (100) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sandoval
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5796, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE ILOCOS SUR TRAINING AND REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER (ITRMC) IN SAN FERNANDO CITY, PROVINCE OF LA UNION, FROM THREE HUNDRED (300) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500), AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Singson and Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5800, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN DIONISIO, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tupas
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 5801, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY READINESS OF BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1091, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL BUILDING CODE”

By Representative Yap (V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5802, entitled:

“AN ACT SYNCHRONIZING THE OPENING OF ALL CLASSES IN ALL SCHOOLS IN THE PHILIPPINES”

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

House Bill No. 5804, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 8794 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT IMPOSING A MOTOR VEHICLE USER’S CHARGE ON OWNERS OF ALL TYPES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 5805, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING AND STRENGTHENING PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1040, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INQUIRE IN AID OF LEGISLATION, MATTER CONCERNING THE DISGRACEFUL AND INHUMANE CONDUCT DISPLAYED BY POLICE CHIEF INSPECTOR (PCI) VARIE VILLANOBOS, CHIEF OF POLICE, SIATON, NEGROS ORIENTAL IN THE TREATMENT OF A LOCAL MOTORIST”

By Representative Teves
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1041, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE MURDER OF ATTY. MIA MASCARIÑAS-GREEN AND OTHER UNSOLVED KILLINGS OF ENVIRONMENTAL ADVOCATES AND ACTIVISTS IN THE COUNTRY, AND FOR THIS PURPOSE CONDUCT A REVIEW OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) PROCEDURES IN THESE INSTANCES”

By Representative Villarín
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1042, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF SAN CARLOS DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTANCY AND ITS GRADUATES FOR OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE IN THE LAST BOARD EXAMINATIONS FOR CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS”

By Representative García (G.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 1043, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING BMPI-UNTV CEO AND VETERAN BROADCASTER KUYA DANIEL RAZON FOR BEING AWARDED THE KBP LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD DURING THE 25TH KAPISANAN NG MGABRODKASTER NG PILIPINAS (KBP) GOLDEN DOVE AWARDS”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Resolution No. 1044, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DECLARING THE JOURNAL OF THE SESSION DATED MAY 31, 2017, AS HAVING BEEN READ AND APPROVED”

By Representatives Fariñas and Suárez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1045, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING SPEAKER PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ FOR HIS COMPETENT AND EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS”

By Representatives Fariñas and Suárez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1046, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION - LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (DOTr-LTO) TO REVIEW AND REVISE THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10913, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE ANTI-DISTRACTED DRIVING ACT’ TO STRICTLY CONFORM WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LAW AND NOT TO VEER AWAY FROM ITS INTENT AND TO CONDUCT A MANDATORY NATIONWIDE PUBLIC INFORMATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN FOR A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS”

By Representative Calixto-Rubiano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1047, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (COCODA) TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FOREIGN BORROWINGS NEGOTIATED OR CONTRACTED BY THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT WITHIN THE LAST TWENTY (20) YEARS THROUGH THE CONDUCT OF A DEBT AUDIT”

By Representative Suansing (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Concurrent Resolution No. 10, entitled:

“CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES NOT LATER THAN TWELVE O’ CLOCK MIDNIGHT, TODAY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2017”

By Representatives Fariñas and Suárez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Joint Resolution No. 13, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION TO CONVENE BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS IN JOINT SESSION FOR THE REVOCATION OF PROCLAMATION NO. 216, SERIES OF 2017 (DECLARING A STATE OF MARTIAL LAW AND SUSPENDING THE PRIVILEGE OF THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN THE WHOLE MINDANAO) IN ACCORDANCE

WITH ART. VII, SEC. 18 OF THE 1987
CONSTITUTION”

By Representatives Zarate, De Jesus, Tinio, Brosas,
Castro (F.L.) and Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. for House Bills No.
2542, 5525, 5591, 5592, 5617, and 5618;

Rep. Arnulfo P. Fuentebella for House Bill No.
5038;

Reps. Christopher S. Co, Amado T. Espino Jr.,
Nancy A. Catamco, and Gwendolyn F. Garcia for House
Bill No. 5524;

Rep. Celso L. Lobregat for House Bills No. 4109,
4126, and 5485;

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House
Bills No. 14, 3320, 4154, and 5647;

Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo for House Bills
No. 5098, 5187, 5316, 5317, 5318, 5387, 5388, and
5390;

Reps. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III and Deogracias
Victor “DV” B. Savellano for House Bill No. 3118;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 187,
2101, 3181, 4106, 4462, 5309, 5350, 5498, 5581, 5670,
5707, and 5990, and House Resolution No. 794;

Reps. Ron P. Salo, Edwin C. Ong, and Joaquin M.
Chipeco Jr. for House Bills No. 2622 and 2624;

Rep. Edward Vera Perez Maceda for House Bills
No. 5528, 5537, 5592, 5599 and 5615;

Rep. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. for House Bills No. 6,
177, 2622, 2624, and 5038;

Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos for House Bill
No. 5670;

Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. for House Bills No.
4101 and 4113;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bill No.
5068;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado
for House Bill No. 5500;

Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez for House Bill
No. 4106;

Reps. Jocelyn Sy Limkaichong, Lucy T. Gomez,
Jerry P. Treñas, Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, and
Josephine Ramirez-Sato for House Bills No. 4106 and
4462;

Rep. Ma. Lucille L. Nava, M.D. for House Bills
No. 31, 991, 4106, 4462, and 5576;

Rep. Maria Valentina G. Plaza for House Bills No.
1418, 1419, 2043, 4462, 4463, 3100, and 4700;

Rep. Gary C. Alejano for House Bill No. 48;

Rep. Gerald Anthony “Samsam” V. Gullas Jr. for
House Bills No. 5615, 5661, and 5670;

Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte for House Bill
No. 5633;

Rep. Leo Rafael M. Cueva for House Bill No.
177;

Rep. Scott Davies S. Lanete, M.D. for House Bill
No. 2622;

Rep. Strike B. Revilla for House Bill No. 1170;

Rep. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III for House
Bill No. 4661;

Rep. Rene L. Relampagos for House Resolution
No. 706;

Rep. Jesulito A. Manalo for House Bills No. 349,
1891, 3679, 4186, and 4698;

Rep. Raul V. Del Mar for House Bills No. 45 and
760;

Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo for House Bill
No. 5636;

Rep. Dennis C. Laogan for House Bill No. 566;

Rep. Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr. for House
Bills No. 187 and 5661;

Rep. Michelle M. Antonio for House Bill No.
2036;

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bills
No. 474 and 5698;

Rep. Abdullah D. Dimaporo for House Bill No.
349; and

Reps. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III and Peter
“Sr. Pedro” M. Unabia for House Bill No. 4174.

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated May 30, 2017, informing the House
of Representatives that the Senate on even date
approved the Conference Committee Report of the
Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing
provisions of Senate Bill No. 14, entitled:

“AN ACT ADJUSTING THE AMOUNT
INVOLVED, VALUE OF PROPERTY OR
DAMAGE ON WHICH A PENALTY IS
BASED AND THE FINES UNDER ACT NO.
3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN
AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE”

and 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”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated May 30, 2017, informing the House
of Representatives that the Senate on even date
approved the Conference Committee Report of the
Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing
provisions of 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 EDUCATIONS INSTITUTIONS (HEIs) AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS (TVIs) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

and House Bill No. 5633, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO QUALITY TERTIARY EDUCATION BY PROVIDING FOR FREE TUITION AND OTHER SCHOOL FEES IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES AND STATE-RUN TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, STRENGTHENING THE UNIFIED STUDENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE SYSTEM FOR TERTIARY EDUCATION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated May 30, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date approved Senate Bill No. 812, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE GRANT OF A TEACHING SUPPLIES ALLOWANCE FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Message dated May 30, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date approved Senate Bill No. 1449, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF DRIVER’S LICENSES, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE SECTION 23 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS AMENDED BY BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 398 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1011, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated May 30, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date approved Senate Bill No. 1454, entitled:

“AN ACT REMOVING THE RESTRICTIONS IN THE REGISTRATION OF LAND TITLES

UNDER SECTIONS 118, 119 AND 121, AND OTHER RESTRICTIONS AGAINST ENCUMBRANCE OR ALIENATION ON FREE PATENTS ISSUED UNDER SECTION 44 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141 OR THE PUBLIC LAND ACT, AS AMENDED”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

Message dated May 30, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date approved Senate Bill No. 1281, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE FARMERS AND FISHERFOLK ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Message dated May 30, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date approved Senate Bill No. 1431, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A PHILIPPINE LABOR FORCE COMPETENCIES COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAM, ESTABLISHING FREE ACCESS TO TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING PROGRAMS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Message dated May 30, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed without amendment the following House Bills:

House Bill No. 4848, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE CITY OF BISLIG, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4850, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LOPEZ, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4851, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ATIMONAN,

PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4852, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUMACA, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4853, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROBO, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4854, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TAGKAWAYAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4855, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4856, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF HINATUAN, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4857, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PEREZ, PROVINCE OF QUEZON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4858, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALAUAG, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4859, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PLARIDEL, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4860, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GUINAYANGAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4861, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALABAT, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

and

House Bill No. 4862, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE CITY OF LIGAO, PROVINCE OF ALBAY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Science and Technology, the Committee on Ways and Means and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 277), re H.B. No. 5792, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE BALIK SCIENTIST PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1204, 2900, 4366 and 4628

Sponsors: Representatives Aumentado, Nograles (K.A.), Cua and Yu

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 278), re H.B. No. 5793, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING KAPANGYAN FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1014

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Abueg

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 279), re H.B. No. 5794, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING GANGUB CAVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1015

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.)
and Abueg
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws
(Committee Report No. 280), re H.B. No. 5795,
entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 13 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3019, AS AMENDED,
ENTITLED THE ‘ANTI-GRAFT AND
CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bill No. 3605

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and
Alvarez (P.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Natural Resources
(Committee Report No. 281), re H.B. No. 5797,
entitled:

“AN ACT RECLASSIFYING A PARCEL OF
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN LOCATED IN THE
MUNICIPALITIES OF DINALUPIHAN
AND HERMOSA, PROVINCE OF BATAAN
AS AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN TO
DISPOSITION FOR COMMERCIAL,
RESIDENTIAL AND OTHER PURPOSES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bill No. 612

Sponsor: Representatives Roman and Ty
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Natural Resources
(Committee Report No. 282), re H.B. No. 5798,
entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AS AGRICULTURAL
LAND CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN COVERED BY
PROCLAMATION NO. 585, SITUATED
IN BARANGAY SAN JOSE IN THE CITY
OF ANTIPOLO, PROVINCE OF RIZAL,
AND DECLARING THE SAME OPEN TO
DISPOSITION”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bill No. 1343

Sponsors: Representatives Ty and Acop
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Natural Resources
(Committee Report No. 283), re H.B. No. 5799,
entitled:

“AN ACT REVERTING FISH PONDS
WHICH HAVE BEEN UNUTILIZED
OR ABANDONED FOR A PERIOD OF
THREE YEARS TO FOREST LANDS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION

43 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 705
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED
FORESTRY REFORM CODE OF THE
PHILIPPINES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bill No. 854

Sponsors: Representatives Ty and Villarica
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and
Culture and the Committee on Appropriations
(Committee Report No. 284), re H.B. No. 2506,
entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PASO DE BLAS,
CITY OF VALENZUELA TO BE KNOWN
AS PASO DE BLAS NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.)
and Martinez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and
Culture and the Committee on Appropriations
(Committee Report No. 285), re H.B. No. 2507,
entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL IN BARANGAY UGONG, CITY
OF VALENZUELA TO BE KNOWN AS
JUSTICE ELIEZER R. DE LOS SANTOS
HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.)
and Martinez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and
Culture and the Committee on Appropriations
(Committee Report No. 286), re H.B. No. 2508,
entitled:

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

recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.)
and Martinez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and
Culture and the Committee on Appropriations

(Committee Report No. 287), re H.B. No. 3438, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY UGONG, CITY OF VALENZUELA TO BE KNOWN AS ANTONIO M. SERAPIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.) and Martinez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 288), re H.B. No. 5235, entitled:

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

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.), Fariñas and Alvarez (P.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 289), re H.B. No. 5803, entitled:

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

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4486

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 290), re H.B. No. 5806, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE STRETCH OF BEACHES THAT LINE THE ALBAY WEST COAST IN THE THIRD DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF ALBAY AS TOURIST SPOTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 623

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Gonzalez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 291), re H.B. No. 5808, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FREE BASIC MEDICINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN ALL GOVERNMENT HEALTH FACILITIES NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 104, 233, 504, 1505, 1968 and 3753

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Marcoleta, Yap (V.), Alejano, Suansing (E.), Suansing (H.) and Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

REP. GARIN (O.). 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:

House Resolution No. 1007 – Inquiry re: the proliferation of cyber prostitution in the Philippines as well as the government’s inability to stop cyber prostitution and pornography victimizing children despite the passage of the Anti-Child Pornography Act of 2009, to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology; and

House Resolution No. 1013 – Inquiry re: the current rice supply and stock in the country, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GARIN (O.). Mr. Speaker, I move for the suspension of the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:18 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:39 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following Committee Report, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding reference:

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Committee of the Whole House re H.R. No. 1050, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE AS IT FINDS NO REASON TO REVOKE PROCLAMATION NO. 216, ENTITLED, ‘DECLARING A STATE OF MARTIAL LAW AND SUSPENDING THE PRIVILEGE OF THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN THE WHOLE OF MINDANAO’”

recommending its adoption

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas, Bondoc and Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.) The session is suspended.

It was 4:41 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.) The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5636

Continuation

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we

consider House Bill No. 5636, contained in Committee Report No. 229, and direct the Secretary General to read only the title of the said measure.

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5636, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 22, 24, 25, 31, 33, 34, 79, 84, 86, 99, 106, 107, 108, 109, 116, 148, 149, 155, 171, 232, 237, 238, 264 AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 148-A, 150-A, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B AND 265-A; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 35 AND 62, ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997.”

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, for the information of our colleagues, this measure was certified as urgent by the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.) The Hon. Edcel Lagman is hereby recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. For the record, I am saying that the certification made by the President on the necessity of the immediate enactment of House Bill No. 5636, the proposed Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion, is not compliant with Section 26 (2) of Article VI of the Constitution because there can only be an exception from the three-day notice rule before Third Reading if there is an emergency or calamity to justify the immediate passage of a measure. Let me quote part of Section 26 (2) of Article VI, “x x x except when the President certifies to the necessity of its immediate enactment to meet a public calamity or emergency.” Nowhere in the certification of the President is there any mention that there is a calamity or emergency to justify the passage of this measure on Third Reading without complying with the three-day notice rule.

I submit, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.) The Dep. Majority Leader will respond.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we thank the esteemed legislator, the Hon. Edcel Lagman, for

bringing up the subject of the urgency of this measure. The House is in receipt of a letter dated May 29, 2017 from the President of the Republic of the Philippines, His Excellency Rodrigo Roa Duterte, certifying to the urgency of this Bill and that this is in compliance with Article VI, Section 26(2) of the 1987 Constitution. The President of the Republic has the larger viewpoint on whether this Bill is urgent or not. Our requirement in the House of Representatives is satisfied by his letter stating the urgency of this measure. With that, Mr. Speaker, the necessary condition for its urgency regarding the passage of this measure had been met with the receipt of the letter of the President certifying to its urgency.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader has mentioned a letter. To whom is it addressed?

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, it is addressed to the House Speaker, Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez, House of Representatives, Batasan Hills, Quezon City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Will the Dep. Majority Leader read the pertinent portion of the letter that would express urgency of the proposed measure.

REP. BONDOC. The letter reads:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 26 (2) of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of House Bill No. 5636 (the proposed Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Act), xxx

So entitled as set forth in the letter, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). After having heard the pertinent portion of the letter addressed to Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez from the President of the Republic of the Philippines, the Chair sustains the urgency of the proposed measure.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Congressman Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. For the guidance of the Members of the House, while it is true that the President has the authority to certify the urgency of the passage of a measure, that certification should be able to comply with the requirement of the Constitution that the urgency is to meet a public calamity or emergency. Nothing in the certification, as read by the Dep.

Majority Leader, is there any mention of the existence of a public calamity or emergency. With that, Mr. Speaker, I rest my case.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that we have terminated the period of sponsorship and debate. For the continuing sponsorship of this measure, I move that we recognize the Chairman of the Committee on Ways and Means, the Hon. Dakila Carlo E. Cua.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Chair sustains the position of the Dep. Majority Leader, thus, the motion of the Dep. Majority Leader that we recognize the Sponsor is in order. Is there any objection to the motion that we continue with the sponsorship of the proposed measure? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Hon. Dakila Carlo E. Cua is hereby recognized to proceed with his sponsorship.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we have closed the period of sponsorship and debate. I move now that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, earlier, we have distributed to all Members copies of the substitute Bill to House Bill No. 5636. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Section 104 of our Rules, I move to amend by substitution the entire Bill as contained in Committee Report No. 229 with the contents of the substitute Bill earlier distributed to all Members. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider individual amendments.

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

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

REP. GO (M.). Mr. Speaker. Excuse me, Mr. Speaker, I would like to propose some amendments to the Bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader will respond.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I ask for a few minutes suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 5:16 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:17 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we thank the Gentleman from Baguio for his understanding.

There being no individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments on this measure. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 5636, as amended by substitution. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5636, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 5636, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 5636 ON THIRD READING

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, House Bill No. 5636 having been certified urgent pursuant to Article VI, Section 26(2) of the Constitution, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 5636 on Third Reading and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the substitute measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members, pursuant to Article VI, Section 26(2) of the Constitution.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5636, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 22, 24, 25, 31, 32, 33, 34, 79, 84, 86, 99, 106, 107, 108, 109, 116, 148, 149, 155, 171, 232, 237, 254, 264 AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 148-A, 150-A, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B AND 265-A; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 35 AND 62, ALL UNDER THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is as follows, per Journal No. 97, dated May 31, 2017:

Affirmative

Abayon	Atienza
Abellanosa	Bagatsing
Abu	Banal
Abueg	Barbers
Acharon	Barzaga
Acop	Bataoil
Acosta	Batocabe
Acosta-Alba	Bautista-Bandigan
Advincula	Belaro
Agarao	Belmonte (F.)
Aggabao	Belmonte (J.C.)
Aglipay-Villar	Belmonte (R.)
Albano	Benitez
Almario	Bernos
Almonte	Bertiz
Alonte	Biazon
Alvarez (F.)	Billones
Alvarez (M.)	Biron
Alvarez (P.)	Bolilia
Amante	Bondoc
Amatong	Bordado
Angara-Castillo	Bravo (A.)
Antonino	Bravo (M.V.)
Antonio	Bulut-Begtang
Aragones	Cagas
Arbison	Calderon
Arcillas	Calixto-Rubiano
Arenas	Caminero

REP. ELAGO. I vote “No” on House Bill No. 5636, and I reserve my right to explain my vote later.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I abstain, and I will explain my abstention in writing.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Do you want to explain now or after the result of the voting, Congressman Lagman?

REP. LAGMAN. I said I will submit in writing.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Gentleman’s request is noted.

REP. ROCAMORA. I would like to reserve the submission of my explanation of my affirmative vote.*

REP. TINIO. Mr. Speaker, I vote “No” and I reserve my right to explain my vote later.

REP. ZARATE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve my right to explain my vote.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5636 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The result shows 246 affirmative votes, nine negative votes and one abstention.

House Bill No. 5636 is approved on Third Reading.

The Chair recognizes Congresswoman France L. Castro to explain her vote.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.) EXPLAINS HER VOTE

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

G. Ispiker, bumoto po ang Representasyong ito ng “No” sa House Bill No. 5636, Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion, o ang TRAIN dahil ito ay anti-poor. Iilina ko na pabor ako sa pagpapababa ng personal income tax para sa mga manggagawa at empleyado sa publiko at pribadong sektor. Isyu ito ng hustisya. Ako mismo ay nagmula sa rank-and-file sa sektor ng edukasyon at mapatutunayan ko na ang aming hanay, pati na rin ang counterparts namin sa pribadong paaralan, sampu ng uring manggagawa sa ibang industriya ay hindi lang overworked and underpaid—overtaxed pa. Kaya matagal nang sigaw ang mababang income tax na madadagdag sa kanilang take-home pay para makayanan nila ang tinatawag nating disenteng buhay para sa kanila at sa kanilang pamilya.

Subalit ang panukalang batas na ipinasa natin sa ngayon ay higit pa sa bigay-bawi, Mr. Speaker. Ang House Bill No. 5636 na ito ay isang tren na raragasa sa masang Pilipino, lalo na sa mga mahihirap nating kababayan. Indirect taxes o mga buwis na pinapasa rin sa mga consumer, partikular ang bagong excise taxes sa produktong petrolyo at ang mas pinalawak na VAT, ay sasagasa sa minimum wage earners, sa mga nasa informal sector, mga walang trabaho o pinagkakakitaan, at ang mga subsistence poor sa porma ng mas mataas na presyo ng mga pangunahing bilihan at serbisyo. Sa datos mismo ng DOF, nasasabing dahil sa VAT pa lang, matatapyasan ng hanggang P1,189 ang take-home pay ng subsistence poor at P13,652 para sa middle class. Ang presyo ng pagkain ay tataas ng 1.6 percent at ang overall inflation rate ay tataas ng 1.5 percentage points na maaaring madoble to 3.3 percent.

Sa pagpasa ng TRAIN, sasagasa sa mamamayan ang pamatay na VAT-excise tax combo. Ang lahat ng produktong petrolyo ay papatawan ng excise tax bukod pa sa kasalukuyang VAT. Ang LPG, diesel at kerosene, halimbawa, na ginagamit ng karaniwang pamilya at ngayon ay walang tax, papatawan muna ng tatlong piso kada litro, pagkatapos ay bubuwisan pa ng dagdag na 12 percent VAT. Magiging anim na piso ang excise tax sa mga ito pagdating ng 2020, at hindi po matatapos dito ang disgrasya para sa sambayanan dahil magkakaroon ng domino effect na pagtaas ng presyo ang lahat ng mga bilihan at serbisyong gumagamit ng petroleum products.

Mariin ko ring tinututulan ang pagtali ng agarang income tax relief sa kondisyong ilusot ang dagdag na papasaning buwis ng mamamayang Pilipino. Sa halip na lubusang ibigay ang economic relief at sagutin ang makatuwirang demand para sa tax justice, lalo pang inilulubog ang mamamayan sa kahirapan at palalaking pa ang agwat sa pagitan ng mga mahihirap at ng mayamayan.

Inuulit ko, G. Ispiker, ang boto ko laban sa panukalang ito. Let our records reflect the resounding dissent of teachers, low and middle-income earners and most especially, the Filipino poor, to this Bill.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus for her explanation of vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Rep. Emmi A. De Jesus is hereby recognized to explain her vote. The Lady has three minutes.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

REP. DE JESUS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. DE JESUS. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, actually, itong na-distribute ang TRAIN briefer po, na ngayon lamang na-receive ng Representasyong ito, lalo kong nakita ang mga batayan kung bakit “No” ang boto ko. Mr. Speaker, sa ngalan po ng Gabriela Women’s Party, kami ay bumoboto ng “No” dahil malinaw na palamuti lamang ang panukalang pagpapababa ng income tax para ipatupad ang pagpapalawig ng saklaw ng expanded value-added tax at itaas ang excise tax sa langis at sugar-sweetened beverages.

Dalawang punto lamang po ito, Mr. Speaker, pero noong mahawakan ko nga po ang briefer, ang daming mga puntong lalong nagpalinaw. Tila nakakatakam na “icing” ang income tax restructuring sa ibabaw ng patung-patong na dagdag pasanin sa mga mamamayan kung saan naroroon ang maraming mga kababaihang mahihirap din na patuloy na sinasalanta ng sunud-sunod na pagtaas ng presyo ng mga bilihan at serbisyo.

Kakaanunsiyo nga lang ng mga kumpanya ng langis ng panibagong round ng oil price hike, at kung idadagdag mo pa ang excise tax sa langis katulad ng sinabi ko noong ako ang nag-interpellate, ginagawang katuwiran ito kahit ng mga negosyanteng maliliit para itaas ang presyo ng mga bilihan. Kitang-kita ang epekto nito sa mas maraming consumer. Dagdag pa dito, nakakapanlinlang talaga ang paggamit ng salitang “reform.” Ang naturang salita sa panukalang batas na ito ay para bang maghahatid ng pang-matagalang ginhawa sa buhay ng marami pero sa aktuwal, kakainin lang ang sinasabing dagdag na take-home pay ng mga manggagawa bunga ng income tax restructuring sa bugkos-bugkos na taas ng presyo sa mahabang listahan ng mga bilihan at serbisyo. Mr. Speaker, malinaw din sa aking interpelasyon, at galing mismo sa Sponsor ng panukalang batas, na nagpapasasa ang mga korporasyon, lalo na iyong nasa loob ng special economic zones, sa tax breaks at iba pang incentives.

Kung ikontrapelo ito sa pagtutulak naman ng Kongreso ng House Bill No. 5636 para higit na buwisan ang gipit na ngang mamamayan, nanatiling malaki ang foregone revenues ng gobyerno dahil iwas buwis ang mga korporasyon na malalaki, lalo na sa ecozones, habang ang kalagayan sa loob ng ecozones, binabarat ang sahod ng mga manggagawa, malaganap ang kontraktwalisasyon, mahigpit ang pagsupil sa karapatang mag-organisa at madalas ang aksidente sa loob ng mga pagawaan.

Bakit kailangang bigyan ng tax breaks ang mga dambuhalang korporasyon na ito habang ang ordinaryong mamamayan pa ang dadagdagan ng pasanang buwis?

Naninindigan po ang Representasyong ito, sa ngalan ng Gabriela Womens Party, na walang pang-

matagalang ginhawang ihahatid ang House Bill No. 5636. Sa aktuwal, tinitiyak lang nito na mas malaki ang pondong pambayad utang ng gobyerno alinsunod na rin sa balangkas ng International Monetary Fund na broad-based tax reform.

Mr. Speaker, muli po, malinaw ang tindig ng Gabriela Women’s Party— “No” to House Bill No. 5636.

Maraming salamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago for the chance to explain her vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago is hereby recognized to explain her vote. She has three minutes.

REP. ELAGO EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The KABATAAN Party-List votes “No” on House Bill No. 5636 even as we are calling for a progressive tax reform. We believe that the current legislative proposal remains biased for the rich and burdens the poor. The lowering of income taxes is held hostage in the proposed tax reform as it is entangled with adding more excise taxes on fuel and sugar-sweetened beverages, increasing remittance charges, removing tax exemptions on cooperatives, among others. With these proposed tax reforms, wealthy families will be paying less income taxes and other taxes, while the poor majority will face higher taxes on goods and services amid their already very-low incomes and insecure livelihoods while struggling to make ends meet.

Papasanan ng taumbayan ang bigat ng mga bagong buwis samantalang napakalaki pa ang maaaring makolekta kung aayusin lamang ng BIR at ng BOC ang kanilang trabaho. Tax administration reforms in the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs are sorely needed.

The government tax collection efficiency is among the lowest in the region, meaning, that it is not collecting as much as it should on the current tax rates. Sa bagong sistema na ating panukala ngayon, ano ang assurance ng ating taong bayan na iyan talaga ay mapupunta sa serbisyo na kanilang pinakakailangan? The government’s tax effort or total tax revenue as a share of Gross Domestic Product is around 12.4 percent, which is slightly higher than that of Indonesia which is pegged at 11.8 percent but much lower than in Vietnam which has 24.3 percent. The average for East Asia and the Pacific is at 16.3 percent. This is despite the

Philippines' VAT at 12 percent, corporate income tax at 30 percent and the highest personal income tax rate at 32 percent, being mostly higher than in these countries in the Asia and the Pacific. This just goes to show that efficient tax collection should be the top priority and there is no need to raise taxes or introduce new ones. This is also an indicator of how much corruption has to be resolved in the BIR and the BOC.

Thus, we have urged Congress to reject the proposed tax hikes and instead, give utmost priority to ensuring efficient tax administration and collection in battling graft and corruption. The Duterte administration should likewise focus its efforts on more efficient and aggressive tax collection on the wealthy and big corporations. Lahat ng koleksyon ay titiyakin nating mapupunta sa kung saan ito pinakakailangan—sa pampubliko na utilities at mga serbisyong panlipunan.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Rosenda Ann "Sandy" Ocampo for her explanation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Rosenda Ann "Sandy" Ocampo is recognized to explain her vote. She has three minutes.

REP. OCAMPO EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. OCAMPO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I was also a Sponsor of the Tax Reform Bill because my proposal for a decrease in the inheritance tax is really an advocacy of mine knowing, from my own experience, the difficulty of many families not being able to pay the inheritance tax and the compounded problems that ensue from this inability to pay. Well, Mr. Speaker, I did not know that, through the course of the deliberations, my proposed measure was incorporated in the total tax reform proposal which we approved this afternoon.

I do realize that the government needs funds for the infrastructure program that it needs to propel development in our countryside and to improve the facilities for major businesses to thrive and jobs to be created. But, Mr. Speaker, I was not agreeable to all of the provisions of the Bill, and I say "No" to the increase in or the additional excise tax on fuel products because I know how difficult that will be for the lowly people as transportation costs will go up, inter-island shipping costs will go up, the price of goods will go up. The inability of small producers to bring their products to the markets will really affect the profitability of, let us say, small farmers or small manufacturers.

Much as I regret saying this, Mr. Speaker, considering the hard work that was put in by the Committee on Ways and Means under the capable leadership of our distinguished Chairman, Cong. Dakila "Dax" Carlo E. Cua, but on the basis of principle, and this is not because I do not believe in the total merits of the law that we just approved, there are specific provisions that I did not agree to. So, on that basis, Mr. Speaker, I vote "No." Also, because I know that even without my vote, this measure would gain the approval of this august Chamber.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, next to explain his vote, I move that we recognize the Hon. Ramon V.A. "Rav" Rocamora.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Honorable Rocamora is recognized to explain his vote. He has three minutes.

REP. ROCAMORA EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ROCAMORA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I voted "Yes" to House Bill No. 5636. I was one of the early authors of this measure as I believe that this is really needed to move our economy forward. A tax measure is never easy. That is why I admire the House leadership for pushing for this very difficult measure no matter how unpopular this may be. I also realize that no tax measure is really perfect. It is always subject to negotiations and compromises, given the competing interests of different stakeholders.

Mr. Speaker, I would have actually wanted to see a lowering of the VAT rate from 12 to 10 percent and the removal of all exemptions from the value-added tax. That an exemption from VAT will exempt a particular sector from taxation is actually illusory. An exemption from the value-added tax simply means the sector still pays the input VAT from all the inputs used in creating the product but it will not be able to deduct the input VAT from the output VAT. In a way, the burden is quickly passed on to the hapless consumer who suffers this further increase in the price of the good. The VAT should have been used to evolve a more efficient tax system but with still so many exemptions, the leakages will still be there, thus, the potential tax base is yet to be realized.

The fuel tax is another unpopular measure but I share the opinion that the rich car owners will bear the burden more. Regarding the increase in the prices of goods, it is also clear that there are other factors that go into this increase in the prices of goods, not just the increase in fuel prices.

I also believe that we must use market-based mechanisms to protect the environment. There was a time when fuel prices were high and that was the time the EDSA traffic became light.

Let us ensure though that the DSWD is fully up to task in implementing the unconditional cash transfer to cushion the impact of the price increases, if there will be, on our marginalized sectors.

For the sugar tax, I hope what comes out of the bicam report on this measure is simply a higher tax on high fructose corn syrup, as putting a tax differential between an imported and local product can be subject to a WTO dispute.

Mr. Speaker, despite what I mentioned, let me reiterate that I believe that this is an important measure that needs our support, and my prayer is that my inputs will be used in the final crafting of the Bill during the bicameral conference committee proceedings.

I vote "Yes," Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Antonio L. Tinio for his explanation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Antonio L. Tinio is recognized to explain his vote. He has three minutes.

REP. TINIO EXPLAIN HIS VOTE

REP. TINIO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Bumoto po ako ng "No" sa tax reform package ng administrasyong Duterte. Mr. Speaker, kasama ako sa mga naunang inilistang coauthors ng Bill na ito at ang dahilan ay ang aming panukala para sa pagbaba ng income tax ay ipinaloob sa paketeng ito. Matagal na po nating inilalaban ang usapin ng hustisya, ang kagyat na pagbaba na ng income tax, lalo na sa mga fixed-income earners, lalo na iyong mga Pilipinong may trabaho na may suweldong regular na mababa hanggang katamtaman ang kita. Kung ito lang ang nilalaman ng panukalang batas ay boboto ako ng "Yes" dahil kung napasa po ito, malinaw po na malaki ang magiging pakinabang ng ating mga kababayang sumusuweldo ng regular. Kung ikaw po ay kumikita ng P20,000 a month, halimbawa, bilang public school teacher, mararamdaman mo po ang mas malaking take-home pay na, sabihin natin, sa dagdag na P2000 a month, so substantial po ang magiging pakinabang mo dito. Kaya katulad ng sinabi ko, kung ito lang ang pinag-uusapan natin, boboto po ako ng "Yes." Sa kasamaang palad, ang desisyon po ng administrasyong ito ay ipakete ang pagwawasto ng ating income tax kasama sa pagpataw

ng mga bago at napakabigat na buwis, lalong mabigat para sa mga maralita. Ito na nga iyong excise tax sa mga produktong petrolyo, lalo na sa diesel, kerosene at LPG. Ang lalong mabigat din ay iyong pagpataw ng VAT sa mga produkto at serbisyo na sa kasalukuyan ay walang VAT.

Mr. Speaker, katulad ng sinabi natin kanina, makikinabang po iyong regular na sumusuweldo, iyong mga lower and middle-income earners. Kung tumaas man ang presyo ng mga bilihan, ng mga produkto at serbisyo, mayroon silang mas malaking take-home pay na pagkukunan ng pambayad para sa pagtaas nito. Pero papaano po ang mga kababayan natin, ang mayorya ng mga Pilipino na walang trabaho, walang regular na suweldo? Sila po ang pinakamabigat na pipigain ng buwis na ito kaya po hindi natin ito matatanggap.

Malinaw po, dalawang tanong lang po sa bawat tax measure ang kailangang sagutin natin: Una, kanino galing ang buwis? Sinabi na natin ang pinakamabigat na mapipiga nito ay ang ating mga maralitang kababayan. Ang susunod na tanong: Para kanino ang buwis na ito? Paulit-ulit na sinasabi ng administrasyon na kailangan daw ito para sa infrastructure. Ano ba ang ibig sabihin ng infrastructure na iyan, Mr. Speaker? Bakit pipigain ang mga kababayan natin, lalo na ang mga maralita? Kapag sinabing infrastructure, ang ibig sabihin niyan, infrastructure para sa mga export processing zone, sa mga minahan, sa mga asyenda, sa mga agri-business ventures, sa turismo, pero sino ang makikinabang dito? Ang pangunahing makikinabang dito ay ang mga dayuhang investors at ang kanilang mga kasosyo. Sa madaling sabi, Mr. Speaker, ang buwis na ito ay manggagaling sa mga mahihirap at pangunahing pakikinabangan ng mga mayayaman.

Hindi natin ito matatanggap at tayo ay bumoboto ng "No."

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Carlos Zarate for his explanation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate is hereby recognized to explain his vote. He has three minutes.

REP. ZARATE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

G. Ispiker, "No" ang boto ng Representasyong ito sa House Bill No. 5636 dahil hindi ito maka-mamamayan. Sa halip na pagaanin ang pasanang buwis, lalo nitong pinabibigat ang pasanin ng ordinaryong mamamayan.

Nangako si Pangulong Rodrigo Duterte na pagagaanin ang pasanang income tax ng ating mga

mamamayan. Hindi ito ang kabuuang tunguhin ng House Bill No. 5636 at malayo ang House Bill No. 5636 sa pangako ni Pangulong Duterte. Malaki ang kaibahan nito sa House Bill No. 333 na unang isinumite ng BAYAN MUNA. Hindi pabor, bagkus, dagdag na pahirap sa mahihirap at nakararaming mamamayan ang panukalang batas na ito, House Bill No. 5636. Kahit na itinaas sa P250,000 kada taon ang exemption sa income tax, tinanggal naman ang dating personal tax deduction at deduction sa medical at health insurance. Bubuwisan na rin ang fringe benefits ng mga manggagawa.

Mawawalan diumano ang gobyerno ng revenues na hanggang P152 bilyon sa 2019 dahil sa binagong income tax structure pero kikita naman ang gobyerno ng halos P320 bilyon sa complementary tax reforms kagaya ng excise tax at ng pag-alis ng VAT exemptions at ang mga ito ay pangunahing papasanin ng ordinaryong mamamayan, lalo na ang mahihirap.

G. Ispiker, babawasan ang buwis ng pinakamayamang mamamayan ng P178.3 bilyon sa pagbawas sa personal at corporate income taxes, estate and donor taxes at capital income taxes, subalit tataas ang buwis, bayarin at pangunahing bilingin para sa mas maraming mamamayan sa ipapataw na excise taxes sa produktong petrolyo, lalung-lalo na sa LPG, diesel at kerosene. Ganoon din sa excise tax sa sugar-sweetened beverages at sa pagtanggap sa VAT exemption sa murang pabahay at upa sa bahay na bababa sa P10,000.

According to the Department of Finance, without tax reform, the people will likely remain poor. With regressive taxation, we say, Mr. Speaker, which mainly characterize the tax reforms in House Bill No. 5636, the people will be poorer and burdened further. Panalo ang mga malalaking kumpanya at ang mga pinakamayaman sa House Bill No. 5636 pero talo ang mga ordinaryo at mahihirap na mamamayan, G. Ispiker, kaya hindi dapat ipinapasa ng Kongreso ang ganitong batas, ang House Bill No. 5636.

Maraming salamat po, G. Ispiker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Gabriel Bordado for his explanation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. is hereby recognized to explain his vote. He has three minutes.

REP. BORDADO EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. BORDADO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, given the significance of House Bill No. 5636, I intently listened, during the period of

sponsorship and debate, to the pronouncements made by my colleagues, particularly the ones propounded by my kahimanwa, the Hon. Edcel Lagman from Albay.

Mr. Speaker, I do welcome the cuts and the exemptions in income taxes for employees from both the private and public sectors. I also appreciate the initiative to exempt the cooperatives from value-added taxes. Mr. Speaker, I am, however, disturbed by the proposed excise taxes on petroleum products and their negative impact on the economically disadvantaged and marginalized sectors of the country, and that these excise taxes will eventually wipe out whatever gains we will get from the tax cuts and exemptions.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago, I conferred with DOF Undersecretary Chua and I underscored the fact that we need to come up with the mechanisms and systems, Mr. Speaker, to protect our hapless brothers and sisters, those who belong to the margins of society. Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, I understand that House Bill No. 5636, if passed into law, would be the first major overhaul of our tax system after more than two or three decades. So, despite my misgivings, despite my earlier pronouncements, Mr. Speaker, I voted "Yes" but let me reiterate that we have to come up with the mechanisms and systems to protect the vulnerable sectors of our community. We have to come up with systems and mechanisms, Mr. Speaker, to address the so-called "tax gaps."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo for his explanation, but before that, Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of his guests in the gallery. They are from the cooperative sector, federations, unions and councils: Philippine Cooperative Center (PCC); Tagalog Cooperative Development Center (TAGCODEC); Federation of People's Sustainable Development Cooperative; National Confederation of Cooperatives (NATCCO) Network; League of Cooperative Development Officers of the Philippines (LCDOP); National Market Vendors Confederation of Cooperatives (NAMVESCO); National Capital Region League (PFCCO); Philippine Federation of Teachers and Employees Cooperative (PFETEC); Cooperative Union of Taguig and Pateros (COUNTPA); Cooperative Union of Marikina City; Marikina City Federation of Cooperatives; Parañaque Federation of Cooperatives; San Dionisio Credit Cooperative; Novaliches Development Cooperative; Holy Cross Savings and Credit Cooperative; Valenzuela Development Cooperative; Central Market Development Cooperative; Barangka Credit Cooperative; ACDI Multi-Purpose Cooperative;

Simbayanan ni Maria Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Most Holy Rosary Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Sacred Heart Development Cooperative; PCLEDO Batangas; SIBBAP Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Malalim Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Zoe Credit Cooperative; Taysan Senior Citizens Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Taysan Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Tilambo Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Pinagbayanan Multi-Purpose Cooperative; Cooperative Union of Batangas; and the Sultan Kudarat Cooperative Development Council.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please rise to be recognized. (*Applause*) We welcome you to the House of Representatives.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Again, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Anthony Bravo to proceed with his explanation of vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, Ph.D. is hereby recognized to explain his vote. The Gentleman has 30 minutes.

REP. BRAVO (A.) EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Dep. Majority Leader.

To our distinguished colleagues, to the cooperative leaders in this gallery, to the 14 million Filipino members of cooperatives in the entire country, good afternoon.

Why I voted “Yes” on House Bill No. 5636: In the provisions of House Bill No. 5636 under Section 21, amending Section 109 of NIRC 1997, it provides transactions that are exempted from value-added tax, specifically under (1), letters (L), (M) and (N), and Section 22, amending Section 116 of the same NIRC 1997, as being retained in this House Bill, has an effect that cooperatives duly registered with the CDA shall continue to enjoy VAT exemption.

Along that line, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, on behalf of the 14 million cooperative members in this country, I would like to convey our sincerest appreciation and thanks to the leadership led by the Speaker, the Hon. Pantaleon “Bebot” Alvarez, for listening and responding affirmatively to the appeal of the sector for the retention of the VAT exemption in favor of cooperatives in the entire country. Further, Mr. Speaker, I would like also to thank the Committee on Ways and Means for the same response, the Party-List coalition, and the 167 Members of this august Chamber who have thrown their full support to the cooperative sector. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, our sincerest appreciation

to the Department of Finance headed by Secretary Dominguez for the aforementioned tax privileges enjoyed by cooperatives which will be retained as stated or provided in House Bill No. 5636.

Along this line, Mr. Speaker, we commit to continue and to pursue to deliver quality services to our people and community, and to be a strong partner of the government and this administration in the realization of genuine inclusive growth.

Mabuhay po ang mga Miyembro ng Seventeenth Congress. Mabuhay po tayong lahat. Kayo po ang bayani ng kooperatiba.

Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Gentleman from AGRI Party-List, the Hon. Orestes T. Salon: Ernaly Arellano and Oliver Frias, AGRI Party-List Region XI area coordinators.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please rise. We welcome you to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we recognize the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas for her explanation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Arlene Brosas is hereby recognized to explain her vote. The Lady has three minutes.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, it is not an explanation of vote but this Representation wants to submit my explanation for my “No” vote in writing.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The manifestation of the Honorable Brosas is noted.*

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr. for his explanation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Arnie Teves is recognized.

REP. TEVES EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. TEVES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I voted “No” because, as I have always said, para sa akin dapat mas kolektahan iyong mga hindi nagbabayad

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

ng buwis sa BIR at sa Customs kaysa sa kolektahan ng dagdag na buwis iyong taumbayan. Iyon lang.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

The session is suspended.

It was 6:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:28 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hearing none; the motion is approved.

The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 5807, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE BALANGA WETLAND AND NATURE PARK, IN BARANGAY TORTUGAS, CITY OF BALANGA AS A RESPONSIBLE, COMMUNITY-BASED ECOTOURISM ZONE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Garcia (J.E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 5809, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL POLICY ON EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Zubiri
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 5810, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH TELEHEALTH CENTERS IN EVERY HOSPITAL IN THE COUNTRY, ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM THEREFOR, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lanete
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 5812, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF SPEECH LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Tan (A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 5813, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO AIR PHILIPPINES CORPORATION, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8339, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT GRANTING AIR PHILIPPINES CORPORATION (AIR PHILIPPINES) A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES, AS AMENDED’ ”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas and Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 5814, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO ASIAN SPIRIT, INC., DOING BUSINESS UNDER THE NAME AIR ASIA PHILIPPINES, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9183, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT GRANTING ASIAN SPIRIT, INC. A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES’ ”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas and Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 5815, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7151, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT GRANTING CEBU AIR, INC. A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH,

OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN TRANSPORT SERVICES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF PASSENGERS, MAIL, GOODS AND PROPERTY BY AIR, BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL, WITH CEBU AS ITS BASE' ”

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

House Bill No. 5816, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1590, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT GRANTING A NEW FRANCHISE TO PHILIPPINE AIRLINES, INC. TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN AIR-TRANSPORT SERVICES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER COUNTRIES’, AS AMENDED”

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

House Bill No. 5817, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9517, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT GRANTING SOUTHEAST ASIAN AIRLINES (SEAir) INC. A FRANCHISE TO ESTABLISH, OPERATE, AND MAINTAIN DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL AIR TRANSPORT SERVICES, WITH CLARKFIELD, PAMPANGA AS ITS BASE’ ”

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee Report No. 292), re H.B. No. 691, entitled:

“AN ACT SIMPLIFYING THE PROCEDURE IN THE DISPOSITION OF PUBLIC AGRICULTURAL LANDS, AMENDING SECTION 24 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 141, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE PUBLIC LAND ACT’ ”

recommending its approval without amendment
Sponsors: Representatives Ty and Romualdo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Poverty Alleviation, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee

on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 293), re H.B. No. 5811, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF THE POOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 31, 232, 478, 1122 and 1895

Sponsors: Representatives Nieto, Nograles (K.A.), Cua, Del Mar, Marcoleta, Sy-Alvarado, Alejano and Fortuno

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:30 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:43 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.) The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT. ON H.B. NO. 5648 AND S.B. NO. 1449

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Conference Committee Report reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 5648 and Senate Bill No. 1449.

May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the titles of the measures.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the titles of the measures.

With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the Conference Committee Report have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the titles of the measures without prejudice to inserting the text of the report in the Congressional Record.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5648, entitled: AN ACT RATIONALIZING AND STRENGTHENING THE POLICY REGARDING DRIVER'S LICENSE, PROVIDING FOR A FIVE (5)-YEAR VALIDITY AND PENALIZING ACTS IN VIOLATION OF ITS ISSUANCE AND APPLICATION; and Senate Bill No. 1449, entitled: AN ACT EXTENDING THE VALIDITY PERIOD OF DRIVER'S LICENSES, AMENDING FOR THAT PURPOSE SECTION 23 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4136, AS AMENDED BY BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 398 AND EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 1011, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LAND TRANSPORTATION AND TRAFFIC CODE.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we ratify the said Conference Committee Report.

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

The Conference Committee Report is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with the Rules of the House, I move that we authorize all Committees to conduct meetings or public hearings, if deemed necessary, during the adjournment *sine die* of the House from June 3, 2017 to July 23, 2017.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

APPROVAL OF JOURNAL

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of Journal No. 96 of May 30, 2017.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to paragraph 7, Section 138, Rule XVIII of the House, I move that we recognize the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole to render a report on the action of the Committee of the Whole to the House.

I move for the recognition of the Majority Leader, the Hon. Rodolfo Castro Fariñas.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F. H.) The Chairman of the House Committee of the Whole, the Majority Leader, the Hon. Rodolfo Castro Fariñas, is hereby recognized.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

REP. FARIÑAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have the honor to make a report on the House Committee of the Whole meeting that was conducted this morning in relation to the Report of the President. As already established the other day, the Report of the President was referred to the Committee and the Committee convened promptly at nine o'clock this morning and with 135 Members present, we proceeded with the consideration of the Report of the President.

In the preliminary remarks of the Chairman, he laid down the basis for the purpose of the Committee of the Whole, which was the receipt of Proclamation No. 216 issued on May 23, 2017 by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, entitled: DECLARING A STATE OF MARTIAL LAW AND SUSPENDING THE PRIVILEGE OF THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN THE WHOLE OF MINDANAO. The Committee went on to hear the briefing conducted by the Executive Department led by no other than Executive Secretary Medialdea.

In attendance, Mr. Speaker, were the Secretary of Defense, Delfin N. Lorenzana; Vice Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Salvador Melchor B. Mison Jr.; Officer-in-Charge of the Department of the Interior and Local Government, Undersecretary Catalino S. Cuy; Chief of the Philippine National Police, Ronald M. Dela Rosa; Secretary of Energy, Alfonso G. Cusi; Secretary of Tourism, Wanda Corazon T. Teo; Secretary of Justice, Vitaliano N. Aguirre II; and National Security Adviser, Hermogenes C. Esperon Jr. the Commissioner from the Commission on Human Rights was also present; Secretary Judy M. Taguiwalo of the DSWD was likewise present; as well as the Secretary of Health, Paulyn Jean B. Rosell-Ubial.

The meeting lasted from nine in the morning to twelve noon, only to break for one hour for lunch, and was resumed at one o'clock in the afternoon and lasted until three fifty-seven in the afternoon.

In the course of the interpellations, 27 Members of the House were given the chance to interpellate with a minimum of five minutes per Member, and they were able to ask all the questions they wanted and hear all the answers from the Executive Department. In the course of the briefing by the Secretary of National Defense, he requested that the briefing be conducted in executive session and so, the Chair declared an executive session, which was objected to by certain Members. However, in a division of the House, the Committee of the Whole House voted that the briefing shall be conducted in executive session. During the meeting, all questions were asked by respective Members about the necessity, about the factual issues which we could not reveal here because these were all covered under our rule on executive session.

The honorable Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez addressed the Body before the executive session and underscored the urgency to discuss and decide on the appropriate action to be taken on the Report of President Rodrigo Duterte on the declaration of martial law in Mindanao. He stated that terror acts similar to the violence occurring in Mindanao threaten the national security and well-being of the people. He added that a decisive and strategic legislative action to address the situation will, in his words, “determine the trajectory of our response to the grave threats” of terror groups and rebel groups, including the Maute Group. He encouraged the Members to view martial law as enshrined in the 1987 Constitution which provides sufficient safeguards against abuses by agents of the State and not exclusively by perspectives from the past. The Speaker further stated that the situation is far more complex, requiring more than a mere military response, and urged the Body to address the historical, social, economic and political roots of the problem. He asked the Members to extend to the President, the people of Mindanao and Marawi City and the people of the Philippines, the support of the House of Representatives on this matter.

During the course of the Committee of the Whole meeting, the Honorable Lagman moved that all the resource persons, pursuant to our rules, be placed under oath, and all the resource persons testified under oath.

Executive Secretary Medialdea briefed the Body on the facts and circumstances which led to the declaration of martial law in Mindanao. He stated that even before President Duterte assumed office, there already existed a complex history of lawless violence and high crimes perpetrated by private armies, local warlords, rebels, criminals, syndicates, terrorist groups and religious extremists. He mentioned Proclamation No. 55 which ensued after the actions of the Abu Sayyaf in August 2016 and the bombing of Davao City last September 2016. He emphasized that martial law was declared in the interest of public order and public safety as members of the Maute group started to perpetrate rebellious and terrorist acts such as hostage-taking, cutting lines of transportation, displaying DAESH, an Arabic acronym referring to the Islamic State of Iraq and Levant flags in vehicles and buildings.

Executive Secretary for Legal Affairs Menardo Guevarra highlighted the important portions of the Report of the President to underscore the need to declare martial law in Mindanao. He also read in its entirety the contents of General Order No. 1, Implementing Proclamation No. 216, signed on May 30, 2017. The highlights of General Order No. 1, Mr. Speaker, are, first, the President ordering all elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to abide by and follow the Constitution. The President reiterated in his order

that civilian authority is still supreme and that all constitutional rights of the people are protected even under the martial law order of the President. In the session, the AFP presented the highlights of the threat situation update in Mindanao based on the Armed Forces of the Philippines intelligence reports and was interpellated, as already stated, by 27 Members.

After the period of interpellation, the Committee terminated its executive session and resumed its regular meeting. The honorable Minority Leader Danilo E. Suarez moved, and duly seconded, to adopt a resolution expressing the support of the House of Representatives to President Rodrigo Roa Duterte as it finds no reason to revoke Proclamation No. 216. Upon objection by Representative Lagman, duly seconded by Representative Tinio, the House was divided. The motion of the Minority Leader for the adoption of the resolution was approved by the majority of the members of the Committee of the Whole.

The Chair constituted a Committee on Style composed of Representatives Defensor, Mercado and De Vera to draft the resolution. The Committee submitted its resolution which was adopted by the Committee of the Whole after which it adjourned at three fifty-seven in the afternoon.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES NO. 1050

REP. FARIÑAS. Now, Mr. Speaker, I therefore move that we consider House Resolution No. 1050. May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). 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. 1050, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE FULL SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE AS IT FINDS NO REASON TO REVOKE PROCLAMATION NO. 216, ENTITLED “DECLARING A STATE OF MARTIAL LAW AND SUSPENDING THE PRIVILEGE OF THE WRIT OF HABEAS CORPUS IN THE WHOLE OF MINDANAO.”

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the explanation earlier made by this Representation as to the events that transpired in the Committee of the Whole House meeting be considered as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1050.

REP. TINIO. Objection.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is there any objection?

REP. TINIO. Objection, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. (Rep. Castro, F.H.). What is the point of the objection?

REP. TINIO. Mr. Speaker, I object to the motion, and may I be allowed to explain my objection.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. (Rep. Castro, F.H.). You have three minutes.

REP. TINIO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, ang requirement po ng Konstitusiyon para magdeklara ang Presidente ng martial law at pagsuspende ng pribilehiyo ng writ of habeas corpus ay dalawa po: Una, kinakailangan may nagaganap na rebelyon. Pangalawa, ito ay may banta sa public safety. Sa palagay po ng Kinatawang ito ay hindi po napatunayan ng Presidente sa kanyang proklamasyon at maging sa kanyang ulat o report sa Kongreso na may sapat na kondisyon para magdeklara ng martial law sa buong Mindanao. Mr. Speaker, alam ko na executive session ang ulat kanina kaya ang babanggitin ko lang po ay iyong teksto mismo ng proklamasyon at saka ng report.

Sa report ng Presidente, ang pinakateyorya na kanyang binabanggit sa Kongreso na mayroong rebelyon sa buong Mindanao sa pangunguna ng mga grupong affiliated sa ISIS—na nagsimula ito sa Marawi City at plano nilang ipailalim bilang hiwalay na probinsiya sa isang tinatawag nilang Islamic Province o wilayat ang buong Mindanao.

To quote, sabi dito in the President's Report:

These activities constitute not simply a display of force, but a clear attempt to establish the groups' seat of power in Marawi City for their planned establishment of a DAESH wilayat or province covering the entire Mindanao.

Mr. Speaker, sa report mismo, sinabi dito na plano pa lamang ang pagtatatag ng hiwalay na probinsiya sa buong Mindanao, na ihiwalay bilang probinsiya na hindi nasa ilalim ng Republika ng Pilipinas ang Mindanao. Mr. Speaker, ang hinihingi po ng Konstitusyon ay may aktuwal na rebelyon. Madali pong magplano, madali pong magkaroon ng mga hangarin ang kung sinu-sinong grupo pero ang hinihingi po ay may aktuwal na rebelyon na naglalayon na ihiwalay ang buong teritoryo ng Mindanao mula sa Republika ng Pilipinas. Hindi po ito napatunayan sa ulat, sa proklamasyon at maging sa executive session kanina, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, malinaw rin na sa mga statement ng AFP mismo, kahit mga media statements—sa labas pa nga ng Kongresong ito bago pa man magdeklara ng martial law, sinabi na nila na the situation is under full control at, in fact, they are already in the stage of mopping-up operations so ipinapakita po na hindi...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Chair is reminding the Gentleman that he has exceeded the three minutes time.

REP. TINIO. Tatapusin ko na po. Na hindi po kailangan ng martial law powers, tugunan ang sitwasyon ng martial law, kaya importante po na gampanan ng Kongresong ito ang kanyang tungkulin na sa isang Joint Session ng Kongreso ay bantayan ang pang-aabuso sa matinding kapangyarihan ng Pangulo na magdeklara ng martial law at bawasan ang mga karapatan na ginagarantiya sa bawat Pilipino ng ating Konstitusiyon.

Kaya po muli, nililina ko, hindi po napatunayan na may sapat na batayan para magdeklara ng martial law at magsuspende ng pribilehiyo ng writ of habeas corpus sa buong Mindanao kaya kailangan pong bumoto ng "No" ang Kapulungang ito.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The parliamentary status is that the House is about to vote on the approval of House Resolution No. 1050, and after the discourse of Congressman Tinio on the matter of his objection, we are now ready to vote.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). As many as are in favor of House Resolution No. 1050, say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). As many as are against, say *nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay.*

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1050

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Resolution No. 1050 is adopted.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. May I move for a one-minute suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 7:00 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:01 p.m., the session was resumed with Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez presiding.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

CONSIDERATION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 10

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Concurrent Resolution No. 10.

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Concurrent Resolution No. 10, entitled: CONCURRENT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES NOT LATER THAN TWELVE O'CLOCK MIDNIGHT, TODAY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 31, 2017.

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives be authorized, as they are hereby authorized, to declare the First Regular Session of the Seventeenth Congress of the Philippines adjourned *sine die*, by adjourning the sessions of their respective Houses not later than twelve o'clock midnight, today, Wednesday, May 31, 2017.

RESOLVED FURTHER, That a committee composed of all Deputy Speakers of the House of

Representatives be appointed to join a committee of the Senate to inform President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, that the First Regular Session of the Seventeenth Congress is about to close, and that the two (2) Houses are ready to adjourn unless the President has a message or communication to transmit to them.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 10.

ADOPTION OF H. CT. RES. NO. 10

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Concurrent Resolution No. 10. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 is adopted.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, in view of the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution No. 10 which likewise authorizes the appointment of a Joint Committee of both Houses to inform the President of the Philippines of the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the Seventeenth Congress, I move that we elect all the Deputy Speakers of the House to the said Joint Committee.

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

All the Deputy Speakers of the House are hereby elected to the Committee to notify the President of the Philippines of the adjournment of the First Regular Session of the Seventeenth Congress.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1044

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1044.

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1044, entitled: RESOLUTION DECLARING THE JOURNAL OF THE SESSION DATED MAY 31, 2017, AS HAVING BEEN READ AND APPROVED.

RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, That the Speaker be authorized, as he is hereby authorized, to review and approve the Journal of the session dated May 31, 2017, and that

the approval by him of such Journal shall be valid and effective for all purposes as if it was approved directly by the House of Representatives.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 1044.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1044

THE SPEAKER. There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 1044. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved. House Resolution No. 1044 is adopted.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move for the suspension of the session to enable the Secretariat to transmit the messages to the Senate and the Resolutions we have adopted.

THE SPEAKER. The session is suspended.

It was 7:05 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:06 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed. The honorable Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of the message from the Senate. I move for the consideration of the same.

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

The consideration of the message from the Senate is now in order. The Secretary General is instructed to read the message from the Senate.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of a message from the Senate, dated May 31, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date concurred with House Concurrent Resolution No. 10.

THE SPEAKER. To the Archives.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, earlier, we have adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 10, PROVIDING FOR THE ADJOURNMENT OF THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS AS WELL AS THE CREATION OF A JOINT NOTIFICATION COMMITTEE.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. In order to give the members of the Joint Committee time to perform their assigned task and until the House counterpart is ready to report back its accomplishment to this House, I move for the suspension of the session.

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

It was 7:07 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:07 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed. The honorable Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, we have received a report from the Joint Committee that the President has been informed that the First Regular Session of the Seventeenth Congress will adjourn tonight.

THE SPEAKER. The remarks of the Majority Leader are duly noted.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, the House will now consider a resolution affecting the honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez. Pursuant to parliamentary practice, I now ask that the Minority Leader be recognized to proceed to the rostrum to preside over the session.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE SPEAKER. The Minority Leader, Rep. Danilo E. Suarez, is requested to proceed to the rostrum to preside over the session.

The session is suspended.

It was 7:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:09 p.m., the session was resumed with Rep. Danilo E. Suarez presiding.

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

The Majority Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I understand that the honorable Presiding Officer, the distinguished Gentleman from Quezon, the Minority Leader, would like to address the Chamber.

REMARKS OF THE MINORITY LEADER

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Suarez). Your Honors, today marks the last day of the First Regular Session of the Seventeenth Congress. After 97 days, the House has approved 220 bills, adopted 60 resolutions; 178 bills are pending in the Senate, while 24 bills are pending with the President.

Four bills had been enacted into law: the 2017 General Appropriations Act, Postponement of the SK and Barangay Elections and the franchise renewal of GMA Network and SMART Communication. As we adjourn the First Regular Session, I am honored and humbled to work alongside all the honorable Representatives here who had debated on critical matters and offered creative solutions to address the problems of our nation. Conflicts are inevitable. Although there were times when we differed in our opinions, beliefs and interest, these did not hinder us to work together and achieve noteworthy results.

I commend Majority Leader Fariñas, seriously commending him and Speaker Alvarez for their great leadership. They had been steadfast with their decisions which led to a stronger and more independent House.

Lastly, thank you, my fellow Minority members for your active participation. You have always upheld the interest of the districts and sectors you represented.

Mga kasama, ito po ang aking pang-19 taon dito sa noble institution na ito. I was elected in 1992 and served for three consecutive terms. Pinalitan po ako ng misis ko ng dalawang beses, so in effect, this is my 25th year serving this noble House but this is a different administration. I have served Presidents and Speakers and with my apology to former Speakers, I would say that the first statement of the President saying, “I do my job, you do yours,” it was an opening of a different Congress. Let me commend the fact that we have a Speaker who wants to assert what Congress is and do the job of a Congressman.

After the break, we will be back for the SONA and start debating on the 2018 budget. I ask you, distinguished Members, fight for your right. Hindi na ho puwede ngayon na isasalang lamang sa atin ang plano ng 2018 at aaprubahan natin and after a thorough debate here, sasabihin sa lahat ng observations ng Congressman na “Noted.” Huwag na ho tayong pumayag this time. This time, we will ask the Executive why and where and why it should be there. It is the right of Congressmen to assert what they feel should be applied on those respective funds, especially those that will be affecting our districts. Huwag na ho tayong pumayag na bigla na lang may ginagawa sa atin na hindi natin alam at hindi man lang nagpapasantabi na,

“May gagawin kami sa distrito mo.” For that, I believe we will have the support of the President, our Majority Leader and our Speaker.

Kaya inaasahan ko po after this break, mga kasama, tayo ay Congressman, we have the power of the purse. Let us do what is supposed to be done.

Maraming pong salamat. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO.1045

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1045.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read 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.1045, entitled: RESOLUTION COMMENDING SPEAKER PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ FOR HIS COMPETENT AND EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DURING THE FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, this Representation will deliver the sponsorship speech on House Resolution No. 1045.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Suarez). The Majority Leader is recognized to deliver his sponsorship speech.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. FARIÑAS

REP. FARIÑAS. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, good evening.

Parang kahapon lang ay nag-uumpisa tayo dito, ngayon ay patapos na tayo ng First Regular Session. I have been a Member of several Congresses and I can honestly say that this is a different Congress. Ibang-iba. I have heard a lot of accolades from you saying, “Ang galing mo, Majo. Ang galing mo.” Hindi po ako

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

magaling. Ang magaling po iyong Speaker na pumili ng Majority Leader. *(Applause and laughter)*

To start a nation of change is never a walk in the park. To head an assembly of leaders from different political persuasions requires courage and an uncompromising authority. Today, after almost a year of able stewardship of the House of Representatives, we close the First Regular Session of the Seventeenth Congress with a deep sense of fulfillment, with one person shepherding us collectively to work for a better nation. That person is no other than Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez.

With Speaker Alvarez at the helm of this august Chamber, we approved several measures both on Second and Third Readings. These measures represent the collective commitment to establish an environment of inclusive growth for every Filipino. Showing dynamism in his leadership, Speaker Alvarez recognizes the value of discourse and the variety of perspectives. He successfully unifies political blocs to create a strong Majority that supports the legislative agenda of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte. The Speaker's exemplary leadership, likewise, fosters healthy dissent from the Minority and the Independents that broadens the standpoint of the House on issues of national and international significance. Speaker Alvarez has instituted reforms in facilitating the proceedings in committee meetings as well as in plenary.

Of the 97 session days during our First Regular Session, the calling of the roll was done 95 times. In fact, for the Second Regular Session, the Speaker has approved a memorandum which was previously distributed to all Members stating that the roll call will commence right after the calling of the session to order at 4:00 p.m. I am so happy to note, Mr. Speaker, that on the first day of our session, we called the roll at 4:00 p.m.; and on the last day of the First Regular Session, the roll call was also promptly called at 4:00 p.m. We hope to do this every single session day in the next regular session under the leadership of Speaker Alvarez.

With the leadership of Speaker Alvarez, the House is indeed on its way to establish a new era of government service. As of today, the House continues to enjoy a relative popular support from the more than 100 million Filipinos who consistently believe in our promise of change.

On behalf of the Members of the House of Representatives, it is my distinct honor to express our appreciation and recognition to the strong and compassionate leadership of the honorable Speaker, characterized by honesty, transparency, competence and a genuine desire to instill lasting and meaningful change. In his commitment to deliver the highest degree of public service as the head of the House of Representatives, he deserves a profound ovation and acclaim from this august Chamber.

Thank you. *(Applause)*

REP. FARIÑAS. On behalf of the Body, I move for the House to adopt House Resolution No. 1045.

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1045

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Suarez). There is a motion to adopt House Resolution No. 1045. Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

House Resolution No. 1045 is adopted.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Suarez). The Chair requests all the Deputy Speakers to escort Speaker Alvarez to the Session Hall to address the Body.

The session is suspended.

It was 7:19 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 7:22 p.m., the session was resumed with Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez presiding.

THE SPEAKER. The session is resumed.

The Chair will now address the Body.

REMARKS OF THE SPEAKER

THE SPEAKER. Ladies and Gentlemen, distinguished colleagues here in the House of Representatives:

Good evening.

By the end of the day, we will adjourn the First Regular Session of the House of Representatives of the Seventeenth Congress. As we prepare for our adjournment, let us look back at how it all started, the odds we faced, and the resolve that we demonstrated. Hopefully, our collective experiences will give us guidance and shed light on the difficult roads ahead. Here in this Chamber, we were tasked to legislate and address what may be called the "pain points of ordinary life." As we gather here today, we can proudly say to the Filipino people that the laws we passed will address these problems they face every day.

To start off, we have ratified the amendment to the Passport Act which now extends the validity of our passports to 10 years. We are also on track with extending the validity of the driver's license, by law, to five years. We have also passed on Third Reading, and the same is on track for ratification, an Act strengthening the protection for Filipinos who are in need of emergency health care service. The weak points of the law had been remedied to protect the weakest of our society at a time when they are most vulnerable.

Mothers who are about to give birth and patients who are rushed to the emergency room will be administered the required medical care and attention. PhilHealth shall shoulder all the expenses advanced by hospitals for emergency care given to poor and indigent patients.

We have also reviewed and updated our Revised Penal Code, giving new life to its pursuit for justice. The imposed fines and violations from which penalties are based were crafted in 1930. That was 87 years ago. The amounts are grossly disproportionate to the existing realities of our time. For example, the act of treason under the old Revised Penal Code imposes a fine not exceeding P100, 000. We have raised this to a more proportionate fine not exceeding P4 million.

Moreover, we have revised the Anti-Money Laundering Act to include the casino sector under its coverage by mandating casinos to report suspicious transactions to the Anti-Money Laundering Council, imposing stringent customer identification requirements and record-keeping systems, and prohibiting the conversion of money not used for gambling. This Bill can effectively curb the use of casinos as avenues for anomalous transactions.

We have also made possible access to free Internet in public spaces. This Bill has been ratified and is awaiting the signature of the President of the Philippines. When it becomes a law, it will further empower the Filipino people in using information and communications technology as they go about their daily lives. This ensures the success of the Filipinos in a data-driven world.

Taking heed of the timeless lesson that education is key for a nation to prosper and progress, higher education provided by our state universities and colleges will now be more affordable for all. This Bill has been ratified. All that it requires is the signature of the President.

Further, just this afternoon, we have successfully passed on Third Reading the Tax Reform Package of the present administration. This legislative measure will correct the outdated system of the 1997 National Internal Revenue Code.

Lastly, there are several bills of equal or greater importance that are at the doorstep of being passed and ratified. While it is likely that these might not be enrolled before we adjourn, let us commit that when Congress resumes in July, we give these bills the final push as we bring them to legal life.

Within just one year from being convened last July 2016, and despite one of the most divisive and partisan elections to date, we can proudly tell the Filipino people that we have delivered legislation that will affect their daily lives in a positive way. Let what we have accomplished remind us that we have the power to determine the frontiers of what is possible, and that we can exercise the virtue of resilience and embody the

value of hard work as we forge forward. While these are good news, let us not yet celebrate. To do so would be premature for there are still more tasks ahead for us. Together, let us commit to facing these challenges. It is our sacred duty as public servants.

On a final note, let us take a somber moment to remember the events presently unfolding in the main island of Mindanao. Thousands have been displaced and the firefight has resulted in casualties on the part of our valiant soldiers and innocent civilians. Likewise, many of those who seek to realize a horrible vision incompatible with the values of a civilized world through the use of terror, have been neutralized. We have to do our part in sharing the heavy burden of what happened in Marawi City. To this end, may I inform you that the House of Representatives has taken the initiative to create a trust fund to aid in this mission.

This will be our concerted answer to the challenge that extremists present. They seek to sow terror, but we will show them our courageous resolve. They seek to destroy, but we shall defend and rebuild. With our unified efforts, they will never win. Let us reiterate the timeless truth that hope will always prevail over hate.

Thank you. Good evening. May God bless the Philippines. *(Applause)*

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, before I make our favorite motion, I wish to commend and express my sincerest gratitude to all the Members of this Body for the sterling performance that we all performed in calling the roll 95 times and each time, there was a quorum. A big hand to yourselves, please. *(Applause)*

May I also commend and thank my colleagues in the Rules Committee headed by Sr. Dep. Majority Leader Juan Pablo “Rimpy” P. Bondoc and the members of the Committee. *(Applause)*

I wish to commend and thank also the honorable Minority Leader, Danilo E. Suarez and his Sr. Dep. Minority Leader, Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr. and the members of the Minority. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

I wish also to commend and thank our colleagues from the group of Independents. Thank you very much. *(Applause)*

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I also wish to make special mention of thanking all the Committee Chairpersons and their members, especially the Committee on Transportation headed by Chairman Cesar V. Sarmiento *(Applause)* who is equalling the number of meetings that the Committee on Rules has made every week, meeting without fail.

To Secretary General Cesar Strait Pareja *(Applause)*; Sergeant-at-Arms Roland Detabali; the Deputy Secretaries General for Plenary Affairs, Committee Affairs, and Finance—Finance, please be ready with

our checks because this will be a long break—Legal, Engineering; our Pages and all the officers and employees of the House of Representatives, maraming salamat and congratulations to you. (*Applause*)

ADJOURNMENT *SINE DIE*

REP. FARIÑAS. On that note, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn *sine die* the First Regular Session until the opening of the Second Regular Session on

Monday, July 24, 2017 at ten o'clock in the morning. (*Applause*)

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

The First Regular Session of the Seventeenth Congress of the Republic of the Philippines is hereby adjourned *sine die*. (*Applause*)

It was 7:35 p.m.