



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
*House of Representatives*

Vol. 1

Wednesday, August 16, 2017

No. 12

## CALL TO ORDER

*At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Pia S. Cayetano called the session to order.*

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

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

## PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Everybody will please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.

*Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.*

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

## ROLL CALL

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). 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. 12, dated August 16, 2017:*

## PRESENT

Abaya  
Abayon

Abellanosa  
Abu

Abueg  
Acharon  
Acosta  
Acosta-Alba  
Adiong  
Advincula  
Aggabao  
Aglipay-Villar  
Albano  
Almario  
Almonte  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (M.)  
Alvarez (P.)  
Amante  
Amatong  
Antonio  
Aquino-Magsaysay  
Aragones  
Arcillas  
Arenas  
Atienza  
Aumentado  
Bagatsing  
Banal  
Barbers  
Bataoil  
Bautista-Bandigan  
Belaro  
Belmonte (F.)  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Belmonte (R.)  
Benitez  
Bernos  
Bertiz  
Biazon  
Billones  
Biron  
Bolilia  
Bondoc  
Bordado  
Bravo (A.)  
Bravo (M.V.)  
Brosas

Bulut-Begtang  
Calderon  
Calixto-Rubiano  
Caminero  
Canama  
Casilao  
Castelo  
Castro (F.L.)  
Castro (F.H.)  
Cayetano  
Cerafica  
Chipeco  
Co  
Cojuangco  
Collantes  
Cortes  
Cortuna  
Cosalan  
Crisologo  
Cua  
Cuaresma  
Cueva  
Dalipe  
Datol  
Daza  
De Jesus  
De Venecia  
De Vera  
Defensor  
Del Mar  
Del Rosario  
Deloso-Montalla  
Dimaporo (A.)  
Dimaporo (M.K.)  
Dy  
Elago  
Enverga  
Erice  
Eriguel  
Ermita-Buhain  
Escudero  
Espino  
Eusebio  
Evardone

Fariñas	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Tinio	Velasco-Catera
Ferrer (J.)	Oaminal	Tolentino	Veloso
Flores	Ocampo	Treñas	Vergara
Fortun	Ong (E.)	Tupas	Villafuerte
Fortuno	Ong (H.)	Ty	Villanueva
Garbin	Ortega (V.N.)	Umali	Villaraza-Suarez
Garcia (G.)	Pacquiao	Unabia	Villarica
Garcia (J.E.)	Paduano	Ungab	Villarin
Gasataya	Palma	Unico	Violago
Gatchalian	Pancho	Uy (J.)	Yap (A.)
Geron	Panganiban	Uy (R.)	Yap (M.)
Go (M.)	Panotes	Uybarreta	Yu
Gomez	Papandayan	Vargas	Zamora (M.C.)
Gonzales (A.P.)	Pichay	Vargas-Alfonso	Zamora (R.)
Gonzales (A.D.)	Pimentel	Velarde	Zarate
Gonzalez	Pineda	Velasco	Zubiri
Gullas	Plaza		
Hernandez	Primicias-Agabas		
Herrera-Dy	Ramirez-Sato		
Hofer	Relampagos		
Jalosjos	Revilla		
Javier	Roa-Puno		
Kho	Robes		
Khonghun	Rocamora		
Labadlabad	Rodriguez (I.)		
Lacson	Rodriguez (M.)		
Lagman	Romualdez		
Lanete	Romualdo		
Laogan	Roque (H.)		
Lazatin	Roque (R.)		
Limkaichong	Sacdalán		
Lobregat	Sahali		
Lopez (B.)	Salimbangon		
Lopez (M.L.)	Salo		
Loyola	Salon		
Macapagal-Arroyo	Sambar		
Maceda	Sandoval		
Madrona	Sarmiento (C.)		
Malapitan	Sarmiento (E.M.)		
Manalo	Savellano		
Mangaoang	Sema		
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Siao		
Marcoleta	Silverio		
Marcos	Singson		
Marquez	Suansing (E.)		
Martinez	Suansing (H.)		
Matugas	Suarez		
Mellana	Sy-Alvarado		
Mendoza	Tambunting		
Mercado	Tan (A.)		
Mirasol	Tan (M.)		
Montoro	Tan (S.)		
Nieto	Tejada		
Noel	Teves		
Nogralas (K.A.)	Tiangco		
Nolasco	Ting		

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 236 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). With 236 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Mme. Speaker, I move for the deferment of the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

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

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

#### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

#### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6154, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE GOVERNMENT TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR BARANGAY ROADS AND OTHER LOCAL ROADS”

By Representative Zubiri  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS  
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6156, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Acosta-Alba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6157, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE STA. IGNACIA – GUIMBA ROAD VIA GERONA – PURA ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY NAMBALAN, MUNICIPALITY OF STA. IGNACIA TO BARANGAY BUENAVISTA, MUNICIPALITY OF PURA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Yap (V.) and Cojuangco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6158, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE BOXING COMMISSION TO STRENGTHEN THE BOXING INDUSTRY AND PROMOTE THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF FILIPINO BOXERS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Pacquiao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 6159, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE SPORTS ACADEMY AND TRAINING CENTER IN BARANGAY PANGANURAN, MUNICIPALITY OF GUTALAC, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE AND ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Amatong  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6162, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE BAT-ONGAN PEAK AND CAVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANDAON, PROVINCE OF MASBATE AS AN ECO-TOURISM ZONE,

APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Kho  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 6163, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE LIMESTONE HILLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AROROY, PROVINCE OF MASBATE AS AN ECO-TOURISM ZONE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Kho  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 6164, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE BAT-ONGAN UNDERGROUND RIVER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANDAON, PROVINCE OF MASBATE AS AN ECO-TOURISM ZONE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Kho  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 6171, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MONDAY SUBSEQUENT TO THE LAST SUNDAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MARIVELES, PROVINCE OF BATAAN TO BE KNOWN AS ARAW NG MARIVELES”

By Representative Garcia (J.E.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 6172, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING SOFIA GONZAGA ROAD INTO A NATIONAL ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gasataya  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6173, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE REGULATION OF THE PET INDUSTRY, THEREBY CREATING THE PHILIPPINE PET INDUSTRY REGULATION AGENCY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FOR ITS PERSONNEL, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR ITS ORGANIZATION AND OPERATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gasataya  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE  
ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6174, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE METROPOLITAN  
BACOLOD DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,  
DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS,  
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR  
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gasataya  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 6175, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MAGNA CARTA  
OF SOLO PARENTS, PROVIDING FUNDS  
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF  
LAWS

House Bill No. 6176, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO.  
7696, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT  
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6948’,  
TO FOSTER THE SOCIOECONOMIC  
SECURITY AND GENERAL WELL-BEING  
OF THE COUNTRY’S VETERANS IN  
RECOGNITION OF THEIR PATRIOTIC  
SERVICES, TO PROMOTE THE  
ATTAINMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY,  
INDEPENDENCE, AND SOCIOECONOMIC  
ADVANCEMENT, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS  
AND WELFARE

House Bill No. 6179, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS  
OF R.A. 10923 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS  
AN ACT POSTPONING THE OCTOBER  
2016 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG  
KABATAAN ELECTIONS”

By Representative Ferrer (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND  
ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 6180, entitled:

“AN ACT TO DISQUALIFY PERSONS  
WITH PENDING CASES VIOLATING  
THE COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS  
DRUGS ACT OF 2002 IN BARANGAY  
ELECTIONS”

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

House Bill No. 6181, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING AND ESTABLISHING  
THE USE OF WASTE TO ENERGY  
TECHNOLOGIES AND FACILITIES AS AN  
ALTERNATIVE SOURCE OF RENEWABLE  
ENERGY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Velarde  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 6182, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ABSOLUTELY PROHIBIT THE  
TRADE OR EXPORT OF WILDLIFE, BOTH  
FLORA AND FAUNA OF WHATEVER  
SPECIES, WHETHER DEAD OR ALIVE,  
PROVIDING PENALTY THEREFORE AND  
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Malapitan and  
Martinez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6183, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PRIORITY TO HONOR  
GRADUATES OF STATE COLLEGES & STATE  
UNIVERSITIES IN THE APPOINTMENT OF  
CIVIL SERVICE EMPLOYEES”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Malapitan and  
Martinez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE  
AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 6184, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT  
10175, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE  
‘CYBERCRIME PREVENTION ACT OF  
2012’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (V.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND  
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 6185, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE TACDUGAN REEF  
KNOWN AS THE MANTA BOWL LOCATED  
IN SITIO TACDUGAN, BAGAHANGLAD,  
SAN JACINTO MASBATE AS A  
PROTECTED AREA, PROVIDING FOR  
ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representatives Bravo (M.V.), Escudero,  
Gonzalez, Ramos and Batocabe  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

## RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1182, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE/S TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, CURRENT STANDARDS FOR APPROVAL OF TEXTBOOKS AND/OR LEARNING MATERIALS OR RESOURCES FOR BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS, HOW SUCH ARE FORMULATED, REVIEWED, AND PUBLISHED, AND IF NECESSARY, TO COME UP WITH AN EXTERNAL OVERSIGHT BODY TO CONDUCT THE SAME”

By Representative Ortega (V.N.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1183, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED SERIOUS AND SUBSTANTIAL ERRORS IN THE SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS AND READING MATERIALS BEING USED BY THE STUDENTS FROM K-12, INQUIRING INTO ITS OVER-ALL IMPACT ON THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION OF OUR CHILDREN, WHETHER IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE SCHOOLS AND THAT MEASURES, GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS BE IMPOSED FOR STRICT COMPLIANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION”

By Representative Aggabao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1184, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF THE GOVERNMENT TO IMPLEMENT A NATIONWIDE IN-CITY HOUSING PROGRAM”

By Representative Benitez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1185, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF MR. JOAQUIN ‘JAKE’ TORDESILLAS, FILIPINO VETERAN MULTI-AWARDED SCRIPTWRITER”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1186, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE

ON TRANSPORTATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE EXORBITANT FEES OR CHARGES BEING COLLECTED BY AIRLINE COMPANIES FOR THE CORRECTION OF TYPOGRAPHICAL AND CLERICAL ERRORS AND RE-ISSUANCE OF AIRLINE TICKETS”

By Representatives Garbin, Batocabe, Co and Revilla

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1187, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE DUMPING OF 5,000 METRIC TONS OF GARBAGE FROM SOUTH KOREA IN CEBU IN FEBRUARY, 2017”

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

## ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Alex “AA” L. Advincula for House Bills No. 5164 and 5523;

Rep. Greg G. Gasataya for House Bill No. 5524;

Rep. Micaela S. Violago for House Bills No. 4693 and 5524;

Rep. Rico B. Geron for House Bills No. 2159 and 4815;

Rep. Shernee Abubakar Tan for House Bills No. 2622 and 5213;

Rep. Erico Aristotle C. Aumentado for House Bills No. 6039, 6042, and 6054;

Rep. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang for House Bill No. 5524;

Rep. Jose Antonio “Kuya Jonathan” R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 5732, 5847, 5849, 5850, 5851, 5852, 5853, 5854, 5855, 5861, 5862, 5863, 5864, 5865, 5874, 5885, 5888, 5900, 5928, 5930, 5933, 5944, 5959, 5982, 5985, 5993, 5994, 5995, 6021, 6026, 6055, 6110, 6117, 6123, 6134, 6139, and 6140;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 6026, 6054, and 6055;

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House Bills No. 5153, 5172, 5872, 6025, 6054, 6055, and 6118;

Rep. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar for House Bill No. 177;

Rep. Nancy A. Catamco for House Bill No. 6055;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 76, 263, 344, 356, 753, 775, 4987, 5818, and 5795;

Rep. Jose T. Panganiban Jr., CPA, LLB. for House Bills No. 4115, 4116, 4274, 5213, 5900, 5985, and 6029;

Rep. Florida “Rida” P. Robes for House Bills No. 344, 4815, 4903, and 5670;

Rep. Edwin C. Ong for House Bill No. 4383;

Rep. Leopoldo N. Bataoil for House Bills No. 3613 and 4273;

Rep. Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano for House Bill No. 4982;

Rep. Roger G. Mercado for House Bills No. 344, 3468, 5164, 5523, and 5524;

Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel for House Bill No. 6031;

Rep. Eric L. Olivarez for House Bills No. 344, 4115, 4116, 5213, 5900, 5985, and 6029;

Rep. Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II for House Bills No. 2625, 4344, 4672, 4703, 6138, and 6139;

Rep. Jesulito A. Manalo for House Bills No. 4058 and 5792;

Reps. Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Vincent “Bingbong” P. Crisologo, Joey Sarte Salceda, and Michael L. Romero, Ph.D. for House Bill No. 5549;

Reps. Makmod D. Mending Jr. and Luis Raymund F. Villafuerte Jr. for House Bill No. 4672;

Rep. Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao for House Bills No. 2286, 3468, 4344, 4703, 5164, and 5523;

Rep. Francis Gerald A. Abaya for House Bill No. 180;

Rep. Ben P. Evardone for House Bills No. 2625, 4113, 4344, 4703, 4982, 5675, 5777, 5784, 5808, and 5828, and House Concurrent Resolution No. 9;

Rep. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. for House Bill No. 6108;

Reps. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez, Ma. Lourdes R. Aggabao, Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas, and Ma. Theresa V. Collantes for House Bill No. 5213;

Rep. Gary C. Alejano for House Bill No. 5900;

Rep. Wilter “Sharky” Wee Palma II for House Bills No. 4115, 4116, 5213, 5900, 5985, and 6029;

Reps. Sabiniano S. Canama, Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso, Emi G. Calixto-Rubiano, and Gabriel H. Bordado Jr. for House Bill No. 344; and

Rep. Yedda Marie K. Romualdez for House Bill No. 5524.

#### WITHDRAWAL OF COAUTHORSHIP

Reps. France L. Castro, Emmi A. De Jesus, and Carlos Isagani T. Zarate withdrew their coauthorship of House Bill No. 5784.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated May 10, 2016 of Visitacion Q. Mendoza, Director IV, Regional Director, Regional Office No. IX, Commission on Audit, furnishing a copy of Annual Audit Report on the Zamboanga City State Polytechnic College for the year ended December 31, 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2016 Annual Report of the Cagayan State University.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND  
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Letter dated June 23, 2017 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, submitting a copy of the 2016 Consolidated Audit Report on the Official Development Assistance Programs and Projects.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 29, 2017 of Visitacion Q. Mendoza, Director IV, Regional Director, Regional Office No. IX, Commission on Audit, furnishing a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology for the year ended December 31, 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 30, 2017 of Visitacion Q. Mendoza, Director IV, Regional Director, Regional Office No. IX, Commission on Audit, furnishing a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Jose Rizal Memorial State University-System, Dapitan City for the year ended December 31, 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 30, 2017 of Evelyn P. Reyes, Director IV, Regional Director, Region VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Ibajay Water District, Ibajay, Aklan for the years ended December 31, 2013, 2014 and 2015.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 30, 2017 of Evelyn P. Reyes, Director IV, Regional Director, Region VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing a copy of the Annual Audit Report on the Sibalom Water District, Sibalom, Antique for the years ended December 31, 2014, 2015 and 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 18, 2017 of Roman G. Del Rosario, Presiding Justice, Court of Tax Appeals, submitting a copy of the Quarterly Financial and Physical Accomplishment Reports (Amended) as of the 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter ending March 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

Letter dated July 18, 2017 of Roman G. Del Rosario, Presiding Justice, Court of Tax Appeals, submitting a copy of the Quarterly Financial and Physical Accomplishment Reports as of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter ending June 30, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

Letter dated July 20, 2017 of Isabel B. Dasalla-Agito, Commissioner, Officer-in-Charge, Commission on Audit, furnishing a copy of the 2016 Annual Audit Reports/Management Letters on the following government agencies:

- A. Consolidated Annual Audit Reports
  - 1. Commission on Higher Education
  - 2. Department of Labor and Employment
  - 3. National Wages and Productivity Commission
  - 4. Philippine Normal University
  - 5. University of the Philippines System
- B. Individual Annual Audit Reports
  - 1. Bureau of Workers with Special Concerns – Social Amelioration Program
  - 2. Early Childhood Care and Development Council
  - 3. Institute for Labor Studies
  - 4. Marikina Polytechnic College
  - 5. National Book Development Board
  - 6. National Council for Children’s Television
  - 7. National Museum
  - 8. Philippine State College of Aeronautics
  - 9. Polytechnic University of the Philippines
  - 10. Professional Regulation Commission
- C. Management Letters
  - 1. Eulogio “Amang” Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology
  - 2. Rizal Technological University

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 358), re H.B. No. 6202, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SOUTH COTABATO STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO, INTEGRATING THEREWITH THE SURALLAH NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 367

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer, Hernandez, Nograles (K.A.) and Cua

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 359), re H.B. No. 6203, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SORSOGON

STATE COLLEGE IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE SORSOGON STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2311

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5784 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BELARO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 5784, contained in Committee Report No. 273, as reported out by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5784, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7875, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 1995.”

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

REP. BELARO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D. of the Fourth District of Quezon, the sponsor of the Bill, ...

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The sponsor of the measure, Hon. Angelina Tan ...

REP. BELARO. ... for her sponsorship of the said measure, Mme. Speaker.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Hon. Angelina Tan is recognized.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. TAN (A.)

REP. TAN (A.). Thank you. Mme. Speaker, honorable peers in the House, magandang hapon po.

It is my honor as Chairperson of the Committee on Health to sponsor House Bill No. 5784, under Committee Report No. 273, entitled, AN ACT PROVIDING UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE FOR ALL FILIPINOS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

This measure is a consolidation of House bills filed by Dep. Minority Leader H. Harry L. Roque, Jr., Hon. Ron P. Salo, Hon. Vilma Santos-Recto, and this humble Representation. The said bills have been closely considered, vigorously studied and deliberated upon, and meticulously taken into consideration with substantive inputs from different government agencies, resource persons and other stakeholders concerned. The many authors and numerous coauthors of this measure are one in the belief that this important measure is literally a life or death issue which everyone here in this august Chamber must address as countless people, especially the poor from the rural areas, face the constant prospect of untreated illness and premature death.

To aid us in understanding the universe of this proposal, let us take a look at this short video presentation, “Universal Health Coverage: Right. Smart. Overdue” by the Universal Health Coverage Coalition.

*(Audiovisual presentation)*

REP. TAN (A.). Let me echo the words of Dr. Margaret Chan, World Health Organization Director-General. She said:

I regard universal health coverage as the single most powerful concept that public health has to offer. It is inclusive. It unifies services and delivers them in a comprehensive and integrated way, based on primary health care.

Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, this is what House Bill No. 5784 is all about, “Health for All” or universal health coverage. What this Bill proposes means that every Juan and Juana Dela Cruz, without a single

exception, will receive the health services they need without going through financial hardship. It is about making available the full spectrum of essential, quality health services, from health promotion to prevention, treatment, rehabilitation, and palliative care to all the people, and ensuring the quality of these services.

Universal Health Coverage or UHC is more than health financing. That is the ambit of Republic Act No. 7875 or the “National Health Insurance Act of 1995” and its amendatory laws which the Bill seeks to strengthen. More than that, the UHC encompasses all components of health system, namely: health service delivery systems, health human resource, health facilities and technologies, communication networks and information systems, and quality assurance mechanisms and governance. It is not just about ensuring a minimum health coverage, but also about securing a progressive expansion of coverage for health services and financial protection as more resources become available. All these essential components serve as highlights of this landmark piece of legislation that is now before us today.

The authors of the Bill recognize that universal health coverage is an aspirational goal that will not be achieved overnight, but on the basis of progressive realization of the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health as necessary condition for achieving sustainable and equitable socio-economic development and population well-being. As it is, the enactment of this landmark legislation is a significant step towards the achievement of universal, comprehensive, equitable, effective, responsive, and accessible quality health system.

This is going to be a long and arduous journey, Mme. Speaker, as we need to build new health care facilities and produce more health workers and professionals among many other tasks. But this is a journey that the authors of this Bill are willing to take inasmuch as universal health coverage is an essential component of sustainable development. In the words of Mexico City Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage, it is stated:

Access to health services enables people to maintain their health, in turn making them better equipped to achieve other milestones for social development, such as education, work income and household financial security; protection against the financial risks of falling ill so that impoverishment due to health care costs does not occur; and recognizing the importance of nationally designed social protection floors for that purpose.

It needs stressing at this point that the universal health coverage goal is not in isolation as it also



enables the attainment of other sustainable development goals such as SDG 1—ending poverty in all its forms everywhere; SDG 3—ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages; SDG 4—ensuring inclusive and quality education for all and promoting lifelong learning; and SDG 10—reducing inequality within and among countries.

Bagamat lubhang mahalaga ang agarang pag-abot sa pangarap ng kalusugan para sa lahat, Mme. Speaker, hindi naman natin dapat pilitin agad-agad kung hindi pa kaya. Ang maganda po sa panukalang ito ay maaari nating unti-untiin at bigyang prayoridad lamang ang mga aspeto na sa tingin natin ay kayang gawin at pondohan sa ngayon or over a period of time. What is important is that, at the end of each day of the many days that we will spend towards the attainment of this national as well as universal goal, is our bold, firm, steady, determined and even stubborn commitment to lay down its path that is needed before us to bridge the goal of providing universal health coverage for all Filipinos.

But why do we need to enact this measure in the first place? What problems do we seek to address under the present health system that cannot be remedied by the existing legal framework? Presently, Mme. Speaker, health agencies in the country overlap in their financing and delivery functions. There is no clear delineation of roles among them, which dismally affect the delivery of health services and blur public accountability. Medical assistance to the poor, for example, is dispersed and the less fortunate of our countrymen and women can usually access a pittance of the needed medical assistance at varying points: DOH, DSWD, PCSO, PAGCOR and our LGUs inasmuch as health funds are multiple and also fragmented.

The proposed measure, if enacted into law, will provide for a clear delineation of roles of different government agencies as well as the private sector, enabling and strengthening institutions to fulfill their roles, maximizing synergies between stakeholders, and creating a fair and transparent prioritization process for the benefits and entitlements of every Filipino. Under the Bill, the Department of Health will become the steward of the whole health system, setting standards and regulating towards ensuring availability, affordability and acceptability of safe and quality health services, and ensuring accountability among stakeholders.

The Philippine Health Insurance Corporation or PhilHealth, which is now being renamed as Philippine Health Security Corporation or PHSC to emphasize the government's commitment to provide financial health security, will now take its new role as a single national purchaser of health services for individual-based health services to achieve optimal economies of scale, significantly influence the market, and drive down costs to the most affordable and efficient levels.

The local government units or LGUs will be tasked to deliver basic health services and finance population-level interventions, with the DOH supporting LGUs on population-level interventions while the Department of Social Welfare and Development's role will now be reduced to covering all indirect costs borne out of accessing medical services including transportation, accommodation and halfway house and meals.

PhilHealth undoubtedly today is beset with many challenges from cost coverage, services coverage to population coverage. The UHC Bill seeks to provide uniform benefits for all and prioritize expansion of health benefits on the basis of fair and transparent priority setting process that is guided by Health Technology Assessment or HTA.

The Bill proposes the institutionalization of health technology assessment to guide decision makers particularly in the procurement of medical devices, commodities, drugs and vaccines by establishing the Health Technology Assessment Council or HTAC, which will serve as an advisory body to the Health Secretary and the Board of Directors of the PhilHealth on the priority entitlements of universal health coverage.

The term “technology assessment” or TA was introduced in 1965 during the deliberations of the Committee on Science and Astronautics of the US House of Representatives, where a US Representative emphasized that the purpose of technology assessment was to serve policymaking. Technology assessment was later on used in relation to health, particularly to help provide options for health decision makers, hence, the birth of health technology assessment or HTA.

It denotes any process of examining and reporting properties of medical technology used for health care such as safety, efficacy, feasibility and indications for use, cost and cost-effectiveness, as well as social, economic and ethical consequences whether intended or unintended.

HTA is a field of scientific research to inform policy and clinical decision-making around the introduction and the fusion of health technologies.

The provisions on the HTAC stand to answer the existing problem of differentiated benefit package eligibilities of members which lead to confusion and the arbitrary selection of benefit packages. More importantly, it addresses the problem of insufficient and selective or limited health coverage through the development of a single, comprehensive primary care benefits system for inpatient, outpatient and emergency care services, encompassing preventive, promotive, curative, rehabilitative and palliative for medical, dental and mental health services, including the provision of medicines.

The Bill squarely addresses the perennial issues of uncompetitive compensation for public health workers, insufficient number of plantilla items in the public health care facilities, and the high cost of health professional education through the provision of competitive compensation, especially for those health professionals serving in the Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas or GIDA; explicit guidelines for distribution of PhilHealth reimbursements for professional fees to strategically complement health workers' salaries and public funding for deserving students taking up health professional education.

The Bill also authorizes DOH-retained hospitals, specialty hospitals and LGU hospitals to utilize 100 percent of their income to enhance their capacity to expand and to improve the quality of their services.

House Bill No. 5784, Mme. Speaker, dear colleagues, is a comprehensive health reform legislation, which adopts a whole-of-society, whole-of-government, and whole-of-system approach. It considers and embraces all parts, sectors, and relevant stakeholders in the planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of all health-related policies, programs and actions for the universal health care of all Filipinos.

The Bill champions the need to invest in low-cost, high-impact interventions such as primary care services. Ang problema po kasi sa “Kalusugan Pangkalahatan,” is that the program is not reaching the most vulnerable and remote populations. It lacks resources to fund insurance premiums, recruit health care workers and build additional health facilities in poor and remote areas.

In order to realize this grand dream for every Filipino, we need to realize, and I am sure that everyone here in this Chamber will agree, that investing in public health offers large gains in health, in the economy and other sectors. A study using data from 153 nations found that a 10-percent increase in government spending on health led to an average reduction of under-five mortality by 7.9 deaths per 1,000 and adult mortality by 1.6 for women and 1.3 for men per 1,000.

The Commission on Macroeconomics and Health of the World Health Organization quantified the link between improved health and greater economic growth, finding that a 10 percent improvement in life expectancy at birth increased economic growth from 0.3 to 0.4 percent. This, however, is not without cost. As the bigger chamber of Congress that is vested with the “power of the purse,” we need to commit to providing a new injection for funding if we are to cover every Filipino in universal health, and scale-up primary health care services following the steps taken by Japan, Moldova, Peru, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Turkey and Indonesia—countries which have shown significant progress in the attainment of universal health coverage along with other countries that have adopted Universal Health

Coverage such as Norway, Australia, Switzerland, Germany, Singapore, Canada, Hong Kong, Nepal, South Korea, Indonesia, Chile, China, Rwanda, India, Taiwan, Vietnam and some South African countries, to name a few.

It has been said that the momentum behind UHC as a global priority is now unstoppable as more and more countries are increasingly appreciating that it provides not just moral and social benefit, but also economic advantage.

Achieving UHC is not an impossible dream. The renowned Indian economist, Amartya Sen, in fact recognizes that universal health coverage is an affordable dream. Achieving UHC, however, is one of the greatest challenges of political will which we need to invest right here, right now for it to finally become a reality.

The UHC Bill is an important piece of social legislation which fully supports Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte's vision and policy pronouncement of providing universal health coverage to all Filipinos. The President said it very clearly during his second SONA. He said, “Investing in the health sector is never a cost to be endured but an opportunity to be explored.”

In this light, I earnestly seek the support of everyone in this august Chamber for the expeditious passage of this measure.

Maraming salamat po.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from KABAYAN Party-List, the Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr., for his sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Hon. Harry Roque is recognized.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. ROQUE

REP. ROQUE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Floor Leader.

Fellow legislators, our guests from Negros led by Mayor Palanca, Ladies and Gentlemen, good evening.

It is an honor to sponsor my first-ever House Bill which is House Bill No. 5784, providing for universal health care.

Siguro po, sisimulan ko muna sa isang kuwento na nangyari sa akin at sa aking pamilya. Hindi kami mayaman, pero hindi rin po kami mahirap. Ang nanay ko po ay retirado, nag-ipon pero nagkasakit po nang tatlong taon bago siya pumanaw. Naubos po ang lahat ng kanyang savings at mabuti nga po, mayroon siyang savings. Pero noong nalaman na niya na wala na siyang

pera sa bangko dahil napakalaki ng kanyang nagasta para sa dialysis at iba pa niyang paggagamot, it is as if she willed herself to die because she did not want us, her children, to suffer financial hardship which she knew would be a natural consequence of her lingering illness.

My story is a common story, Mme. Speaker, Ladies and Gentlemen.

Ang istorya ko nga po, middle class na istorya, may pambayad, naubos. Pero ang mga mahihirap po, dahil wala naman silang ipon, pagka nagkasakit, pumipila pa sila sa corridors ng Kongreso para sa kanilang konting health assistance na naibibigay ng Kongreso; nagpupunta sa PGH; nagpupunta sa mga panggobyernong ospital, pero kung wala po silang pambili ng gamot, mamamatay na lang po sila.

Sa wakas po, matutugunan na natin ang problema ng mga mahihirap. Sa wakas po, kung maisasabatas natin ang panukalang batas na ito, wala na pong Filipino na mamamatay dahil lamang sa kahirapan.

Mme. Speaker, for the longest time, quite inexcusably a long time for that matter, Filipinos have lived under a constant threat of catastrophic poverty the moment an illness strikes. Health care services and medicines in the Philippines are often prohibitive to ordinary Filipinos, with the latest data showing that a vast majority of patients shoulder these expenses out of their own pockets.

Mme. Speaker, the rich can very well absorb these costs, but even middle-class families are plunged into poverty when a family member suffers a stroke or a heart attack. Unfortunately, both stroke and heart attack are the biggest killers in our society today. Poor families are even pushed deeper into the mire of poverty when a relative needs treatment for serious illness. Kadalasan, talagang mamamatay ka na lang kung ikaw ay mahirap. All these financial hardships create a system where patients would rather not see a doctor and die without receiving care for the consequences to the healthy and living members are often too costly.

It is indeed inexcusable, not just because of the economic consequences of a health system that cannot cater to the needs of the sick, but more importantly, because our fellow Filipinos are dying without realizing that the right to health is a constitutional right, a human right which the State must respect, protect and fulfill. It is inexcusable because the health system in the past years have gained increased revenues from the sin taxes which were underspent, sin taxes which were derived from a law crafted by us, Mme. Speaker, this afternoon, but should have been optimized to provide better quality of life for the Filipinos. It is inexcusable because health has been deemed a commodity, a product that only the rich can afford.

In the last decade or so, we have made gains in providing affordable health services to Filipinos. Yet,

the bare facts show that much still needs to be done.

Mme. Speaker, latest figures from the Philippine Statistics Authority show that serious disparities remain, as far as access to affordable health care for ordinary Filipinos is concerned. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, in October last year, on the 2014 Philippine National Health Accounts, per capita health expenditure in our country rose by 8.5 percent from P5,400 in 2013 to P5,859 in 2014 at current prices, while per capita health expenditure increased by 4.2 percent at constant 2006 prices.

Other key findings include the following:

1. National government spending on health decreased to at least P61.8 billion in 2014 from P66.9 in 2013, but the Department of Health increased its health spending from P36.8 billion in 2013 to at least P39.1 billion in 2014.

2. Employees' compensation health expenditures decreased by as much as 42.0 percent, but it represents the smallest share of less than a percent in 2014 of overall health spending.

But social insurance surged passed government, private or other sources of health expenditures for the same year, registering the highest growth with 38 percent increase, from P60.4 billion in 2013 to P83.3 billion a year later. This is attributed to the National Health Insurance Program implemented by the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation or PhilHealth.

Still, private sources ate up the biggest chunk of health spending, with private out-of-pocket sources accounting for more than half of the country's total health expenditure in the same year. Ang estimate po, P52 kada P100 po ay ginagastos pa rin ng ating taumbayan galing sa sariling bulsa; ang PhilHealth po P12 lang out of every P100 ang naibibigay. This means that a majority of Filipinos still spend for health from their own pockets.

Moreover, only three out of eight health care financing indicators surpassed the 2010-2020 Health Care Financing Strategy Goals. Based on the 2010-2020 Health Care Financing Strategy Goals, these three are: The percentage of GDP at 4.6 percent or just a fraction higher than the 4.5-percent target; national government spending as a percentage at 10.6 percent compared to the 10-percent target; and national government spending for public health in billion pesos at 21.6 percent which is more than twice the 10-percent target. But most of the indicators have not been met. What are these indicators that have not been met? First, government spending on health as a percentage of total spending is only 5 percent which is 1-percent short of the goal of 6 percent. Out-of-pocket health spending as a percentage of total health expenditures is at 55.8 percent as opposed to the goal of 45 percent. Local government spending as percentage of total health expenditure is only at 6.7 percent out of a target of 11 percent. Local government spending for

public health is only at P17.7 billion out of a target of P29.9 billion. PhilHealth spending as a percentage of total health spending is only 14.2 percentage as against the target of 19 percentage.

Mme. Speaker, we are presented with a golden opportunity for change. We have a President who has been an active supporter of progressive health reforms such as reproductive health policies and tobacco control regulations. We have a Congress that has been enacting health laws that respond to the call of the people for a better health system. Today, we put an end to the inexcusable and I propose to enact the Universal Health Coverage or the UHC Bill into law.

What does the UHC proposed law provide? First and most importantly, it provides the health security to Filipinos not because they can pay premiums which is the current system of PhilHealth but simply because they are Filipinos. We have granted the right to health by virtue of citizenship and we have expressly mobilized the whole of government, the whole of society, and the whole of system to operationalize this right not just as an abstract concept but as a reality for all. All Filipinos are to be given compulsory health coverage where the State ensures the financing of the State. It provides entitlement to a comprehensive set of health interventions including promotive, preventive, curative, and palliative health services. The coverage also expands to include indirect costs, including expenses for transportation, accommodation or halfway house and meals for the poor which more often than not are equally as cumbersome as the cost of health services or medicines themselves.

Second, it creates a Health Technology Assessment Council with a mandate of determining binding recommendations where we should invest our health revenues and determine explicitly what the entitlements are for in-patient and out-patient services. This is an important innovation because it is a must that we ensure an evidence-based approach to health financing which responds to the changing needs of the populace, to guide development of priority policies and effective programs. The council will set priorities for population-based and individual-based services which must be financed by the government itself.

Third, this proposed law empowers the people in the communities. A good health-seeking behavior must be developed in the communities where they are fully aware of their rights and move the government to invest more in their health. This is achieved through the creation of health demand units which would push our health officials both from the local government units and the national government to prioritize health. The proposed law also ensures awareness measures to remind the people of their entitlements under the law. The Department of Health ensures the promotion of a good health-seeking behavior and community involvement on health services.

Fourth, the law adopts long-standing proposals for health sector reforms. Iyong mga graduates po ng state universities and colleges or government-funded scholarship programs, ire-require po natin sila na manilbihan doon sa mga underserved areas or sa public sector. Every Filipino shall have a primary health care provider. Our hospitals are given income-retention powers so they can fully utilize their income and enhance their capacity to expand, to improve the quality of their services. The right of patients to informed-choice is enhanced through access to price information where the public may obtain up-to-date information regarding prices of all goods and services being offered by such health care providers.

Finally, Mme. Speaker, the law recognizes that health is not just a curative system, but adopts the social determinants of health approach. We explicitly shift the curriculum to focus on health promotion and primary health care. We redesign, finance and scale up primary care residency training programs to develop a cadre of primary care practitioners. We recognize that health is not just merely the absence of disease or infirmity but a complete state of physical, mental and social well-being.

Mme. Speaker, I urge the early passage of this Bill. During the last survey, health remains to be the topmost concern of Filipinos. It then becomes our duty and responsibility to see the enactment of this Bill that gives spirit to the right to health of the people.

Indeed, I am pleased and honored to state for the record that the Committee Chair, Dr. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, and 104 other Members of this august Chamber stand solidly behind this important, if not historic, piece of proposed legislation. We now urge you, our colleagues, to approve this Bill on Second Reading.

Maraming, maraming salamat po at mabuhay po tayong lahat.

Magandang gabi po.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, for his chance to interpellate the Sponsor, may we recognize the Hon. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr. from BUHAY Party-List for his interpellations.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Honorable Atienza is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Floor Leader. Hayaan po ninyong magtanong ako ng ilang pagpapaliwanag lang para sa ating napipintong pagpasá ng isang batas na napapanahon sapagkat tama po naman ang lahat

ng rationale, lahat ng mga kadahilanan kung bakit kailangang mayroon tayong Universal Health Care Law. Iyong mga binanggit po ng ating kaibigang Rep. Harry Roque ay lahat po ay totoo. Ang binanggit po ng ating principal Sponsor na si Dra. Tan ay lahat po ay mayroong katotohanan. Hayaan po ninyong magtanong lang ako sa Tagalog dahil ngayon po ay buwan ng Pambansang Wika. Dapat sana ay ang ating talakayan ngayon ay Tagalog, pero naiintindihan natin kung iyong mga hindi galing—hindi nakakapagsalita ng Tagalog ay hindi magsalita ng Tagalog.

Mme. Speaker, I was in the middle of interpellation in the consideration ng ating pinag-uusapan po, iyong pagbigigay ng gamot sa lahat ng mga pagamutang pampubliko—barangay, ospital, klinika, at iba pa, mga isang buwan na po ang nakakaraan, at hindi po natapos iyong aming pag-uusap sa hapag sapagkat hindi po minabuti ng ating principal Sponsor na si Dra. Tan na tapusin iyong aming usaping iyon. Kaya uulitin ko lang po iyong mga tanong para mailagay po natin sa ating mga talata ang maliwanag na sagot sa mga katanungang aking ibinigkas noong panahong iyon ay gagawin ko rin po ngayon sa hapong ito.

Naitanong ko sa kanya ang coverage noong unang batas na kaugnay nitong batas na ito na hindi puwedeng aprubahan iyong isa at hindi aprubahan iyong isa. Kapag inaprubahan po natin itong isa, kailangang aprubahan natin iyong isa, eh isa lang naman po ang pakay niyan. Hindi po ba garantiya na ang bawat Pilipino ay mabigyan ng karapat-dapat na gamot, atensyong medikal at garantiya na ibinibigay po naman ng ating Saligang Batas? Ang ating Saligang Batas ay talagang matibay po ang utos sa ating lahat na walang dapat mamatay na Pilipino dahil sa kakulangan ng pera na kahit na mayroong sakit. Kinakailangang asikasuhin po ng gobyerno ito.

Ang katotohanan po ngayon, marami pong namamatay na hindi po man lang nakakarating sa ospital. At kung makarating man sa ospital ay sinasabi lamang ng ospital, wala kaming gamot dito, pumunta kayo sa iba. Paglipat naman sa kabilang ospital, ang sasabihin, wala rin kaming gamot dito, wala kaming pondo. So, itong batas na ito ay nagbibigay ng garantiya na ang bawat Pilipino na mayroong karamdaman ay hindi puwedeng tinatangihan dahil sa walang gamot, hindi po ba? Malinaw po ba iyon, Gng. Dra. Tan, ang masipag nating Kinatawan sa Quezon?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mme. Speaker, tama po kayo sa inyong obserbasyon. Ito pong batas na ito kung maisasabatas ay tutugon doon po sa pinakabasic na problema on the delivery of health care services.

REP. ATIENZA. Magkaugnay po iyong dalawa, ano po?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes po, iyong gamot ...

REP. ATIENZA. Ang pakay po ay bigyan ng garantiya ang bawat mamamayan ng tulong ng gobyerno kapagka mayroong karamdaman, iyon po?

REP. TAN (A.). Tama po, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Sa nakikita ko pong listahan ng mga Sponsors ay mahigit 100 po, 104 na mga batikan at mga malalalim ang kaalaman sa paggawa ng batas na alam kong nakakasiguro akong pinag-aralan nila ito from page 1 to page 40—40 pages na kailangan ay nasagot na sana ang lahat ng tanong. Subalit wala po akong nakita roon sa mga tanong kong nauna, para alam nating magagawa po natin ito. Ayaw kong ito po ay aprubahan natin, pagkatapos ay mailagay po sa archives of unimplemented or unimplementable laws sa ating bansa. Marami po iyan ho, naipasá ng Kongreso pero hindi maipatupad sapagkat mayroong pagkukulang.

Kaya uulitin ko po iyong mga naunang tanong ko, sa kalakihan po ng ating pagnanais na matulungan ang buong bansa, alam po ba natin ilan ang lahat ng ospital na pampubliko sa buong bansa?

REP. TAN (A.). Mme. Speaker, Honorable Atienza, ang atin pong numero ng pampublikong ospital sa pangkasalukuyan ay 774.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi ko po narinig.

REP. TAN (A.). Seven hundred seventy-four government hospitals po sa pangkasalukuyan sa buong bansa.

REP. ATIENZA. Seven hundred seventy-four—kasali po ba ang mga barangay health center dito sa ating pinag-uusapang batas? Kasama po ba ang mga barangay health centers?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes po. Sa hospitals lang po tayo, i-correct ko lang po, Mme. Speaker. Ang atin pong ospital na nabanggit ko, 774 government and private. Ang government po ay 434. Pagdating po doon sa inyong tanong kung ilan ang atin pong barangay health centers, tayo po sa pangkasalukuyan ay mayroong 20,045 which comprised 47 percent po ng ating mga barangays.

REP. ATIENZA. Samakatuwid mayroon pong mga barangay na walang pagamutan at wala ring health center?

REP. TAN (A.). Tama po ang inyong obserbasyon. Tayo po ay nangangailangan pa sa pangkasalukuyan

ng, kung ang atin pong target ay isang barangay health center sa kada isang barangay, ay definitely nangangailangan tayo ng almost 20,000.

REP. ATIENZA. Tanggapin na natin na dapat bawat barangay ay mayroong health center. Samakatuwid, mayroon din tayong problema, may mga barangay na walang health center.

REP. TAN (A.). Tama po. At iyan po naman ang direksyon ng atin pong panukala na kasama po sa aming ikinunsidera na to make it accessible sa ating mga mamamayan na isa po sa dapat tingnan ng Department of Health at ng lokal na pamahalaan ay iyong makapagtalaga ng isang health center sa lahat po ng barangays all over the Philippines.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang ating pakay ay mabigyan ng garantiya, ng gamot at medical attention ang lahat ng dumudulog sa ating mga paggamutan pampubliko.

REP. TAN (A.). Tama po. Ang Universal Health Coverage po ay hindi po ang ibig sabihin lamang ay health care financing. Ibig sabihin po ay magkaroon po ng serbisyo at the time of the need of the patient. Which means sa lahat po ng barangay health centers or health facilities, Mme. Speaker, ang lahat ng basic components ng isang pasilidad ay kailangan nandoon—mayroong gamot, mayroong health care professionals na titingin po sa bawat pasyente.

In fact, iyan po ang vision ng ating administration, na sa bawat barangay, mayroon pong health center, magkaroon ng health care workers, that all other services na mayroon po tayo sa pangkasalukuyan ay mailagay po at the barangay level.

REP. ATIENZA. Kaya ko po nabanggit na napapanahon itong batas na ito sapagkat hanggang ngayon, panahon natin, year 2017—binanggit ninyo na sa ibang bansa, nabigyan na nila ng kasagutan ang mga pangangailangan ng kanilang mga mamamayan na may kinalaman sa kalusugan at buhay. Dito sa atin ay wala pa tayo noon at wala tayong maipangako sa ating mga kababayan na kung sila ay dudulog sa barangay health center ay tinitiyak namin na mabibigyan sila ng gamot. Iyon man lang sana, hindi po ba? Huwag na nating pag-usapan iyong CT-Scan, iyong MRI, at iyong mga mas modernong mga gamit katulad po ng dialysis machine, X-ray machines na marami pong health centers, wala po niyan, pero itong gamot man lang, magarantiyahan natin.

Nagkaroon ba kayo ng pag-aaral sa kung ano ang magiging epekto nito sa relasyon ng problema ng kalusugan, serbisyo ng paggamutan pati na ang barangay health center at local government unit, iyong relasyon nila sa Department of Health? Sapagkat ang pangangalaga ng kalusugan, alam ko namang alam ninyo, ay isa sa

mga trabaho at tungkulin ng gobyerno na ibinigay na po sa lokal na gobyerno, kaya ang sinasagot po sa ating mga mamamayan, “Pumunta kayo sa ospital.” Kung kayo ay taga-Maynila, sa Ospital ng Maynila, tatakbo sila roon, mamamasahe pa pagkatapos ay sasabihin sa kanilang, “Wala kaming gamot para diyan.” So, with the passage of these twin Bills—dalawa po ito hindi po ba—ay maaari na nating sabihin sa mga mamamayan na mayroon na kayo ngayong batas na panghahawakan. Ano po ang magiging relasyon ng local government unit sa Department of Health? Ito po bang batas natin ngayon on Universal Health Care ay naglalaan ng sapat na salapi? At sino po ba ang hahawak ng salapi—Department of Health or local government units? Para po matiyak natin ang pagpapatupad nitong batas na ito ay maging ayon sa ating layunin. Ang layunin natin, makarating ang gamot sa mga mamamayan, pero kapag ang pera ay hinawakan ng Department of Health, na wala tayong malinaw na probisyon sa batas na ito, ay maaari po iyong pera ay mailipat kung saan-saan. Baka ang Maynila po ay maiwanan, ang Quezon City ay ganoon din po. “Maraming pera iyang mga iyan, huwag na nating bigyan,” “Maraming gamot diyan, hindi na natin bibigyan”—hindi naman po totoo iyan, lalo na ang mga paggamutan dito sa Metro Manila. I am talking about how government medical institutions are all lacking in basic medicines that should be helping save the lives of our poor. And again, you and I, all of us know that this guarantee is provided for by the Constitution—ito po ay natutunan ko kay Congressman Harry Roque. Makinig lang po kayo diyan, marami kayong matututunan. Hindi po naman nangyayari. Iyong pera po bang inilalaan ninyo sa inyong batas na may kinalaman sa garantiya na ang gamot ay laging magiging available ay mayroon pong pondo na inilalaan? At sino po ba ang hahawak ng pondo?

REP. TAN (A.). Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker. Katulad po ng nasabi ko kanina sa aking sponsorship speech, ang current health situation po natin ay fragmented, ibig sabihin po ay hiwa-hiwalay na pondo na may parehong pinaggagastusan. Kung kaya dito po sa panukalang ito ay ating inaatasan ang Philippine Health Security Corporation, which is the PhilHealth, na maging national purchaser or financier doon po sa individual level of intervention. Kapagka naman po ito ay population-based, ito po ay magiging under po ng Department of Health and the local government units.

Isa po sa highlights po ng ating panukala ay iyon pong clear delineation of roles. So ibig sabihin po, kung ang PhilHealth, ang kaniyang role po ay mag-finance, magpondo ng lahat po ng individual-based interventions, ang DOH po, currently, iyong pondo po niya na ginagastos, na bumibili ng mga commodities, mawawala na po iyon kasi nag-o-overlap po iyon.

Bigyan ko po kayo ng halimbawa. Ang rabies vaccination po ay covered ng PhilHealth subalit ang Department of Health po nagpo-procure ng rabies vaccine at ibinibigay po sa local government or any public health facilities. So ngayon po, tatanggalin po natin iyon. Mapupunta na po iyong pondo na ginagamit nila, instead na mag-procure sila ng commodities, ito na pong insurance ang magko-cover doon. So, wala pong lalabas na pera. We will make sure that the health facilities will provide all those services na magiging accessible po sa communities. So iyon po iyon.

Ang local government natin will focus on the population-based interventions, katulong po ang Department of Health. Currently, ginagawa po nila iyon but i-strengthen po natin and magiging more focused tayo, for example, on dealing with water, sanitation and all other programs. So, iyon po iyong tugon doon sa ating problema na nakita ninyo po, Mme. Speaker, na parang ang pondo ay, gaya nang ikinakatakot ng ating minamahal na kagalang-galang na Atienza, baka mabalewala o hindi sa maayos mapupunta.

REP. ATIENZA. Samakatuwid, kapagka ipinasá natin itong dalawang batas na magkaugnay na ito, ang local government unit ay hindi rin dapat tumigil sa kanilang tungkulin na magbigay pa rin ng essential or primary health care, at least, primary health care ...

REP. TAN (A.). Yes po.

REP. ATIENZA. ... sa bawat dumudulog sa kanila, na ito po ay pagsunod naman sa ating batas na nagsasabing local government units na ang mangangalaga ng kalusugan, ...

REP. TAN (A.). Tama po.

REP. ATIENZA. ... na madalas gamitin ng Department of Health kapagka sila ang pinupuntahan ng ating mga mahihirap. Hindi po tumitigil iyon, tuloy po iyong trabahong iyon?

REP. TAN (A.). Tama po iyon. In fact, ang universal health coverage, mas in-expand pa po niya iyong gagawin natin into primary care benefits and kasama po doon iyong component na medicines po.

REP. ATIENZA. Puwede po bang ilagay natin dito sa ating batas ang temang iyon, ...

REP. TAN (A.). It is in the Bill po.

REP. ATIENZA. ... na ang mga local government units ay dapat ituloy ang kanilang mandato ng ating Saligang Batas na magbigay din ng gamot at

pangangailangan para sa mahihirap? Puwede po ba nating ilagay dito iyon?

REP. TAN (A.). Mme. Speaker, nakalagay po doon sa provision on delineation of roles na ipagpapatuloy po ng lokal na pamahalaan kung ano po ang ginagawa nila at iyon po ay in-expand po namin.

If I may read, Mme. Speaker, ito po ang nakalagay sa ating probisyon, on Section 11:

Local government units shall be primarily responsible for delivering population and individual-based health services in the communities within their respective jurisdictions.

LGUs shall retain the devolved functions relating to health pursuant to Republic Act 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991."

And, nagdagdag po kami ng ibang functions like, they have to:

(1) pass local resolutions and ordinances that enable the creation of healthy living environments;

(2) implement community empowerment to constitute demand units for primary health care, information and education campaigns;

(3) implement public health programs in line with DOH standards;

(4) harness existing community organizations, parent organizations, youth organizations, women's club, faith-based or religious organizations, and other existing groups within their jurisdiction, which are already engaged in health promotion and prevention, or in the absence of any, encourage the establishment of such groups;

(5) establish, operate, and maintain functional barangay health stations, rural health units, or equivalent facilities, district and provincial hospitals;

(6) grant financial autonomy by authorizing health facilities to retain income, such as reimbursements from the Philippine Health Security Corporation, that can be flexibly used to improve its service: Provided, That, to promote accountability and fiduciary responsibility, all health facilities shall maintain a subsidiary ledger of such accounts as stated in Sec. 61 herein;

(7) mandate the participation of all health care providers within their jurisdiction to engage in the provision of quality health service;

(8) ensure adequate and equitable production, distribution, retention and protection of health workers needed by the LGUs based on the recommended ratios set by the DOH;

(9) purchase medicines in line with the Philippine National Formulary and Drug Price Reference Index;

(10) allocate per capita health investment per DOH and NEDA recommendations;

(11) regularly conduct profiling activities on the health status of the people in their locality;

(12) develop relevant health programs according to the needs of their locality; and

(13) provide the minimum basic health services at the municipal level.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, sa kalooban, damdamin, kaalaman, at isipan ng ating principal Sponsor, pati na ng aking kaibigang si Cong. Harry Roque at ng 104 na Miyembro ng Kongreso, sigurado tayong alam nila, naintindihan nila na dapat lang tuparin ang layunin nitong batas na ito. Subalit ang katotohanan po, sa labas, gagamitin po itong bagong batas na ito ng mga mayors na ayaw namang magtrabaho na, pero gustong maging mayor pa at nangangako na lang ng gamot pagdating ng halalan. Pagkatapos ng halalan ay isinasagot na lang nila, “Pinangakuan ko na kayo, gusto ninyo may gamot pa.” E mahirap ho iyon. Baka itong batas na ito ay magamit na kalasag.

Kaya, puwede po bang maglagay tayo ng—ito po ay puwede ninyong ikonsulta sa ating batikan na abogado—puwede po ba tayong maglagay ng very strict penalty that any local government unit na hindi sumunod sa layunin nitong batas na ito ay mananagot at maaaring panagutin na iyong trabaho niya ang itataya niya.

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mme. Speaker, mayroon po kaming probisyon on penalties. In fact, well stated po dito ang atin pong probisyon. Sinabi naman po, anyone, okay ...

REP. ATIENZA. Anyway, Mme. Speaker, to simplify the issue, I am merely asking the Sponsors if they are willing to put a very heavy penalty on the part of those who will implement this law, that is, if they do not implement the law, they will suffer for it. Otherwise, it is easier to turn their back. Tatalikuran kayo ng mga alkalde na hindi na nakikialam sa mga problemang katulad nito. Mas gusto nilang pakialaman po iyong sidewalk vendor, tricycle, iyong mga ilegal na sugalan, at marami pang iba, at kapag trabaho ay tumitingin na lang sa malayo. Lagyan natin ng penalty provision na mas matibay at mas matindi para tiyak natin na itong ating pinag-uusapang batas na ito ay makatutulong at magagamit ng sinumang mahirap. Ito ang aking proteksyon sa ating Saligang Batas.

Nagpapasalamat ako kay Doktora Tan, kay Cong. Harry Roque at sa 102, sa lahat ng sumuporta, at isa na po ako. Susuporta po ako rito sa batas ninyo.

REP. TAN (A.). Salamat po.

REP. ATIENZA. Basta at nalalaman kong hindi ito magagamit ng Department of Health para tumalikod sila, at ng mga local officials para tumalikod din sila sa tungkulin. Papayag po ba kayo ng mga amyendang may kinalaman doon?

REP. TAN (A.). Mme. Speaker, yes po.

Maraming salamat po, Honorable Atienza, sa inyong rekomendasyon tungkol po sa penalties. In fact, if the Gentleman can turn his copy of the Bill, it is on page 36, nakasaad po dito on Chapter XII, “Penal Provisions,” lahat kung sino iyong mga magiging implementor.

REP. ATIENZA. Isa pang amendment na akin po namang nais ipanukala sapagkat ang ating pinag-uusapan ay essential medicines for the poor, tama po iyon, alam po ninyo iyong condom, pills, IUD, and other birth control materials are now defined as essential medicines. Tama po ba iyon o mali? Sa ipinasá pong Reproductive Health Law, birth control materials are now essential medicines. Tama po iyon hindi po ba?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes po.

REP. ATIENZA. Puwede po bang ilagay nating amyenda ito na essential medicines and primary health care do not include birth control materials to be bought by the barangay health center, the local government hospitals, and anyone covered by this particular law. Essential medicines should be for high blood pressure, for high cholesterol, for many other ailments that the poor are suffering from—hindi po iyong condom, hindi po iyong birth control pills. Iyon po ay hindi problema ng mahihirap; iyan po ay isang kaligayahan ng isang pamilya na hindi dapat pinakikialaman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Presiding Officer would like to intervene.

REP. ATIENZA. Alam po ninyo, ang aking ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). I would like to intervene as a Sponsor of the ...

REP. ATIENZA. Ididin ko lang ito...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). ... Reproductive Health Law. I would just like to put on record that the definition of “essential medicines” was not an introduction in the Reproductive Health Law.

REP. TAN (A.). Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). That is an ongoing definition provided by the World Health Organization.



REP. ATIENZA. Which ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The only thing that the Reproductive Health Law did ...

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). ... was to clarify it by indicating the same. Just for the clarification of the Body.

REP. TAN (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Well, for the clarification of the Mme. Speaker, that particular definition is included in the RH Bill, which is now a law.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes, Sir. What I said ...

REP. ATIENZA. I know that the Mme. Speaker played a major role in the passage of this law. I also played a major role outside of these halls of Congress.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes, Sir.

What I am simply clarifying is ...

REP. ATIENZA. If I were a Congressman then, that would have been deleted.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). What I am simply clarifying is that that definition was not an invention by the Sponsors of the Reproductive Health Law. It is a definition provided by the World Health Organization, understood and accepted internationally. It was simply reiterated in the Reproductive Health Law.

Just for the clarification of the Body.

REP. ATIENZA. I would not want to debate with the Deputy Speaker, but that is part of the law now. She adopted the definition of the World Health Organization to accommodate precisely the nature of the RH Law, which this Body approved, which the Senate approved, which I know she approved and probably sponsored.

I am willing to debate with you, Mme. Speaker, but not at this particular time when we are talking about another issue.

Please do not interrupt my interpellation because I will not accept the clarification.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). I am the Presiding Officer. I have the authority to make an

intervention if I want to, but the point is noted and I was just putting that on record. We will not go into a debate now.

Thank you.

REP. ATIENZA. Well, the Deputy Speaker can take her stand, Mme. Speaker. It is already moot and academic. It is a law that she passed. But I am just clarifying that this Bill will not touch on billions of pesos to be used for birth control materials.

Iyon po, tatanggap po ba kayo ng amendment na ilalagay natin, "Essential medicines shall not include birth control pills"?

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. TAN (A.). Mme. Speaker, can I ask for one-minute suspension of the session?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes, the session is suspended for one minute.

*It was 5:19 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:24 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, our parliamentary status is that we are in consideration of House Bill No. 5784 of Committee Report No. 273. I move for the recognition of the honorable Sponsor, the Hon. Angelina "Helen" D.L. Tan, M.D., and her interpellator, the Hon. Jose "Lito" L. Atienza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Sponsor and the interpellator are recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Salamat po. Congresswoman Tan, just one more question.

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Sir.

REP. ATIENZA. Considering the magnitude of your good intentions, it should be the answer. Ang dami na pong administrasyon ang nangako ng gamot para sa mahihirap ngunit hindi po natutupad. Naniniwala po ba kayong ito ay matutupad? Ayoko pong umasa ang ating mga mahihirap na sila ay mapapalaya na sa problema ng gamot at medical attention at pagkatapos ay wala naman po silang matatanggap. Ito po ba ay matutupad sa tingin po ninyo?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang susunod na tanong ko...

REP. TAN (A.). Tayo po ay naniniwala na ito po ay magiging reyalidad. Kung kaya naman po doon sa provisions of the Bill, makikita po ninyo iyong progressivity; hindi po drastic. Ibig sabihin po sa loob ng ilang taon ito ay tiningnan namin, tinanong namin ang Department of Health, PhilHealth and all other stakeholders, kung kaya ba itong magawa within a period of three years, five years or 10 years. So, in different provisions, makikita po ninyo na mayroon po doon na na-set na time frame kung kailan mo maa-achieve iyong implementation of that provision.

REP. ATIENZA. Para po matupad itong batas na ito ay kailangan po may pondo, hindi po ba? Magkano po ba ang naiisip ninyong initial, huwag na po iyong kabuuan, huwag po iyong long term, initial funding necessary to ensure the exercise and implementation of the law? Mayroon po ba kayong estimate?

REP. TAN (A.). Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker.

Yes po. Mayroon po kaming ballpark figure. Tiningnan po namin. Magkano ba sa pangkasalukuyan ang pondo ng Department of Health, ng PAGCOR, ng PCSO, ng DSWD? Nakita po namin, at this time, we are spending pala P300,151,889,017.29.

REP. ATIENZA. Sa madaling ...

REP. TAN (A.). Pero fragmented po ito. So, iyong estimate po o projection na ginawa ng ating Department of Health, in consultation with other stakeholders, nakita po nila. For us to realize this grand dream, we need actually P470,560,318,000.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon po ang ...

REP. TAN (A.). So, ang kailangan po nating new appropriations, na hindi naman po ito kailangan agad-agad kasi may phase—by phasing po tayo, ay P170,408,429,000. Dahil iyon nga po, I just want to reiterate na the P170 billion naman po ay hindi natin agarang kailangan dahil nga po mayroon po tayong na-set na panahon kung kailan natin completely maa-achieve iyon pong universal health coverage.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, puwede po ba nating mailagay iyan dito sa titik ng ating batas, na iyong sinabi ninyong mga figures, P170 billion, initially, ang sinabi ng Department of Health, later on, they may need P400 billion? Pero hindi, huwag na po nating tingnan iyong malayo. Para po ito ay maipatupad agad-

agad, dapat mayroong pondo ito. Kung walang pondo po ito, inaasahan ng mga tao—wala po pala silang inaasahan. Ordinansa, kailangang may pondo; batas, lalo na po. Puwede po ba na ilagay natin iyong initial funding lang? Dapat mayroon tayong initial estimate. Kung kukulangin, next year maglagay tayo ng doble. Succeeding years, maglagay tayo ng mas marami kung epektibo po. Pero dapat mayroong pondo dahil kung hindi po, gaya ng sinabi ko, archives ang aabutin po nito sapagkat walang pera.

REP. TAN (A.). Mme. Speaker, under Section 74 on Appropriations, ang atin pong inilagay lang is general, “The funds needed to implement the provision of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.” But ...

REP. ATIENZA. Nakita ko rin po iyon.

REP. TAN (A.). Yes po.

REP. ATIENZA. It shall be included. Bakit hindi po natin ilagay? The passage of this Act will require an initial appropriation of a hundred billion. Susuporta po ako roon. Maski na ano ang ilagay ninyo, I will support it because it will show the sincerity of the law that it will be enforced upon passage. Otherwise, what are we doing, what are we talking about? Kung wala pong pera, walang enforcement ng batas. Lagyan lang po ninyo para naman po mayroon tayong pinag-uumpisahan, mayroon tayong pinaghuhugutan.

REP. TAN (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I submit, yes po, naniniwala po ako na mas maganda siguro kung mayroon po tayong initial na ilalagay na pondo. But, ayaw po nating ma-restrict tayo on that fund kasi kung mayroon po naman talagang mas malaking mapagkukunan ang gobyerno to implement this law, mas maganda po sana. Kung kaya, the Committee on Appropriations suggested that we put a general statement.

REP. ATIENZA. Ayaw ninyong ilagay sa batas na ...

REP. TAN (A.). No.

REP. ATIENZA. ... kailangan ninyo ang pondong iyon. Iyon po ba ang aking pagkakaintindi?

REP. TAN (A.). No, if you are going to ask me, yes, I want to—five hundred...

REP. ATIENZA. Opo, e di ilagay natin.

REP. TAN (A.) ... billion as the initial fund to make

sure. But, this is just a ballpark figure. Ibig sabihin, a projection which might not be enough. So, ayaw po nating ma-restrict tayo on the amount. But, if the Body will approve a suggested initial based on the projection, then we will all be happy because this will guarantee the implementation of the law.

REP. ATIENZA. Medyo malabo po iyong inyong pagpapaliwanag dahil pumapayag kayo na lagyan natin ng pondo, iminumungkahi naming lagyan natin ng pondo, pero natatakot kayo na baka lalo lamang lumabo. E parang sinasabi ninyong hindi kasi maipapatupad iyan. Lagyan natin ...

REP. TAN (A.). No, Sir.

REP. ATIENZA. Lagyan natin ng katiyakan, para matupad maski na P10 billion just to enforce it initially. Siguro naman ...

REP. TAN (A.). Mme. Speaker, yes, I support your recommendation that we put a specific appropriation. So, our projection is, I think, more than P470 billion. Yes, I support ...

REP. ATIENZA. Okay.

REP. TAN (A.). ... your recommendation ...

REP. ATIENZA. So, therefore ...

REP. TAN (A.). ... that we put a specific ...

REP. ATIENZA. ...sa period of amendments, ilagay po natin iyon. Pumapayag na kayo?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes, Sir. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Liliwanagin ko lang uli iyong isyu natin na hindi natin masyadong natalakay. Iyong essential medicines na inyong nasasaisip, nasa inyong layunin, ay hindi kasali ang birth control pills. Sumang-ayon kayo kanina. Inuulit ko lang po for the record.

REP. TAN (A.). Hindi po.

REP. ATIENZA. Tama po?

REP. TAN (A.). Yes po.

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

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

## SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5784

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 5784.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Alfredo "Albee" B. Benitez. They are the district officials of Victorias City led by the Hon. Francis Frederick Palanca, their City Mayor. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Our guests, please stand so that we may see you. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Also, there are guests from the Third District of Manila. They are the guests of the Hon. John Marvin "Yul Servo" C. Nieto. They are from Samahang Lingkod Bayan led by their President, Mr. Ric Galguerra. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Our guests who are standing there in the back, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Lastly, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the honorable Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu. They are former councilors of the municipality of San Pascual, Batangas, led by their Barangay Captain Macmac Caraan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Our guests over here, to my right, welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

## CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5745 *Continuation*

### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 5745, under Committee Report No. 262, submitted by the Committee on Agriculture and Food and the Committee on Appropriations, and for this purpose may I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the Bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Secretary General is directed to do the same.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5745, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND AND PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of sponsorship and debate.

I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture and Food, Representative Panganiban, be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Sponsor, Representative Panganiban, is hereby recognized.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, the Sponsor is ready.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Please proceed.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman to resume his interpellation.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Honorable Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Chair, is this with respect to House Bill No. 5745?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Five-seven-four-five—yes.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, I will now terminate my interpellation of the distinguished Sponsor, the Chairman of the sponsoring Committee, considering that our talks with respect to possible amendments are in progress, although not yet with finality. Some Members of the House may have their own concerns to suggest possible amendments or most probably, some interpellations. But as far as I am concerned, I will terminate my interpellation. I am just asking the House leadership to give us more time to draft a good bill more particularly addressing the concerns of the coconut farmers and farmworkers who are considered second to the fisherfolk as the most marginalized and disadvantaged sector in the agricultural area.

With that explanation, Mme. Speaker, I reiterate that I will terminate my interpellation of the distinguished Sponsor pending the progress of our talks.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Thank you, distinguished interpellator.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Dep. Majority Leader, do we have others who are interpellating?

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, for his interpellation.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Honorable Suarez is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Speaker, is the distinguished Chair of the Committee on Agriculture and Food willing to yield to some constructive interpellation?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader, the Sponsor is now ready to answer clarificatory questions from the distinguished Minority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Please proceed.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. I am touched by the opening statement of House Bill No. 3537:

Although the government and stakeholders are united in their cause to save the coconut industry, a divergence in action leads to cosmetic and fragmented solutions x x x.”

The Chairman has read this.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, distinguished Minority Leader, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Were you touched by the seriousness of the opening statement?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, indeed, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Your Honor, the subject is the coconut levy. The distinguished Chairman of the Committee on Agriculture and Food does not come

from the coconut-producing province, but I suppose you are very well learned and energetic, and you must have done some research. So, I just would like to air out some of my concerns.

Right now, Mr. Chairman, Mme. Speaker, 70 percent of our coconut trees are senior citizens. They are more than 60 years old and the study says that the effective yield is, the nuts that can be produced by coconut trees at their peak, when they reach the age of 15 up to 40.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. And 60, pababa na ho nang pababa ang yield niyan.

So, on a broad statement, how do you propose to help these aging coconut farmers in supplementing a successful replanting program?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader, at the outset, I would like to say that this Coco Levy Fund is a complementary fund to the fund that is given to the agencies of the government to safeguard the coconut industry. Now, this fund—we are talking of about a total of P100 billion—so this fund aims to: one, rehabilitate the coconut industry, of course, for the ultimate benefit of the coconut farmers and farm workers. So, in that case, this Bill shall endeavor to put up a Trust Fund involving the remainder of a Jumpstart Fund amounting to, as stated in the Bill, P10 billion to jumpstart the rehabilitation of the coconut industry, and that includes the replanting and rehabilitation schemes for the coconut plantation. Of course, that would redound to the benefit of the coconut farmers and farm workers, Mme. Speaker, and the remainder shall be invested in the interest-bearing government bonds and securities. The income that will be generated from the investments shall be used to fund the annual programs of the rehabilitation. That is number one; and number two, for the social protection program, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Those are very broad statements, Mr. Chairman. You are aware of the spread of the coconut industry in our country, right? Thirty-five percent is in Luzon, 15 percent is in Visayas and 50 percent is in Mindanao. Do you agree with that geographical spread, Mr. Chairman?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, I have here with me a report of the Philippine Coconut Authority on the statistics on hectarage of farms planted with coconut within the 15 regions of the Philippines. If I may read the statistics from the Philippine Coconut Authority, Mme. Speaker:

Cordillera has about 375 hectares; the Ilocos Region has about 12,692 hectares; Cagayan Valley would have 15,245 hectares; Central Luzon would have 27,873 hectares; CALABARZON or Region IV-A will have 485,208 hectares; MIMAROPA or Region IV-B will have 214,650 hectares; Bicol Region will have 454,349 hectares; Western Visayas – 75,394 hectares; Central Visayas – 79,415 hectares; Eastern Visayas – 320,201 hectares; Zamboanga Peninsula – 423,792 hectares; Northern Mindanao Region X – 302,816 hectares; Davao Region Region XI – 357,453 hectares; SOCCSKSARGEN – 190,841 hectares; CARAGA or Region XII – 193,019 hectares; ARMM will have 331,633 hectares or a total of about 3,484,956 hectares planted with coconuts, Mme. Speaker. So, based on this list, the number of hectares planted with coconut is spread all over the 15 regions of the Philippines, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, thank you for that specific numbers of acreage, Mme. Speaker. I would like to talk about two provinces, Mme. Speaker—Camarines Sur and the northern tip of Quezon province, Bondoc Peninsula, which happens to be my district. In 2015, there was a typhoon that hit part of Bicol, Bondoc Peninsula, Marinduque, Mindoro, and then went out to the South China Sea. We lost 700,000 trees and there was no clear replanting program up to now. So, let us be specific. What is this levy fund proposing to help, to augment replanting program if such calamity will happen to coconut-producing provinces?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, as much as this Bill deals with the Coco Levy Funds, as I have earlier stated, this fund shall only be a complementary fund to the fund provided under the GAA that is given to the agency in order to fulfill their obligation or mandate to develop the coconut industry. However, in the utilization of this fund, the Coconut Farmers and Industry Trust Fund Committee or the Ad Hoc Committee shall prepare the plan in order to revitalize, rehabilitate the coconut industry. Now, in the preparation of the plan, several government agencies including the Philippine Coconut Authority and the farmers representatives in the Ad Hoc Committee shall make the plan and, of course, I would suppose that that would include replanting activities in areas where replanting of coconut trees would be needed, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, do you have the Philippine Coconut Authority with you in this panel? Do you have any representative from the PCA?

REP. PANGANIBAN. I think they already went back to their office, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. So, they are not here?

REP. PANGANIBAN. They are not here, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. So, how can we have an intelligent discussion, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Chairman, if the primary agency that is supposed to answer these questions is not around?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, I would endeavor to answer the questions of the distinguished Minority Leader; however, if the distinguished Minority Leader needs the confirmation of the Philippine Coconut Authority, I am ready and willing to submit all the answers to the query that would need the PCA's confirmation.

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, this Representation, being knowledgeable about where this money came from, would like to inform the Chair and my colleagues here on what was the purpose of the levy. It has a very noble intention, Your Honor, and that is, to come up with, maybe, a variety of better-yielding coconuts, support the maximization of utilization in terms of utilizing all the uses of a coconut, not just the nuts but the tree as well. The money that was collected did not come from the farmers. The farmers, when they sell their copra, get their appropriate price as what is dictated by the market. The market is dictated by two agencies, Rotterdam and New York, being a lauric commodity market.

Your Honor, this levy was paid by the millers. I paid a portion of it, I am a miller. Now, my concern is this, we knew for a fact that that money has been there for quite a while with a specific noble purpose. For that matter, I just would like to give due credit where credit is due because I think, that is the only amount that was invested by the government that made profit. Will the Chair name me a government investment given to the private sector that made money?

REP. PANGANIBAN. I agree, Mme. Speaker, from the point of view that when the Coconut Levy Fund was collected sometime between 1971 to 1983, the fund collected amounted to P10 billion, but after several years, the fund became about P100 billion, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. The bulk of it, the bulk of the funds, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, was generated from the holdings that was surrendered by San Miguel.

REP. PANGANIBAN. I agree, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Surrendered to the government, that is.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. So, it will be heartbreaking for that person who conceptualized the use of this levy fund to upgrade the coconut industry if it will not be realized, considering that they nurtured the money and it earned from P10 billion, now we are talking of P100 billion. So, I am reviewing this proposed measure of my good friend, Congresswoman Garin, and I said, my observation will be more of constructive. I would like to be given a clear format of several questions, and one question that I would like to raise is, who will champion this noble measure of resurrecting the coconut industry?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, as it is crafted in this proposed measure, there will be a Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Trust Fund Committee. The Trust Fund Committee shall be composed of members from the different government agencies and from the representatives of coconut farmers and representatives from the coconut industry sector. Now, this Committee shall have the powers and functions and that are already enunciated in Section 11 of the proposed measure. If I may be allowed to read some of the powers and functions of the Committee, the Committee shall:

(a) Coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan;

(b) Approve any allowable disbursement out of the Trust Fund pursuant to Section 14 of this Act;

(c) Formulate the Investment Guidelines pursuant to the allowable investments stated in Section 28 of this Act;

x x x

(f) Approve the marketing and disposition program for the Coconut Levy Assets approved for privatization;

x x x

(h) Authorize the rehabilitation of Coconut Levy Assets approved for privatization pending actual disposition;

(i) Facilitate access by coconut farmers and their organizations from the most poverty afflicted areas of the country to the services, programs and benefits implemented pursuant to Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan;

x x x

In other words, Mme. Speaker, the Trust Fund Committee shall have all these powers and functions. The Philippine Coconut Authority which is the lead agency that has the mandate to oversee all coconut programs of the government shall be providing the secretariat support to the Committee, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Speaker, if I may intervene. May I know—the PCA has a Board, am I correct, Mme. Speaker? They are composed of several board members.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, distinguished Minority Leader, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. May I know who are the board members of the Philippine Coconut Authority.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, may I ask for just more time to get the list of the board members of the PCA.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader, the governing board of the Philippine Coconut Authority is the honorable Secretary Leoncio B. Evasco Jr. as the Chairman and Romulo J. Dela Rosa as the Vice Chairperson or the Administrator. The members of the Board are Alan P. Tanjuakio, Avelino L. Andal, Abundio Edicio G. Dela Torre, Conrado S. Capa and Roque G. Quimpan, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. I am not aware of the names. The only name that is familiar with me is Avelino Andal who comes from Quezon. How about the rest, distinguished Sponsor, do they come from coconut-producing provinces?

REP. PANGANIBAN. I would not have personal knowledge if the other Board members come from coconut-producing provinces.

REP. SUAREZ. So, you do not have a clear background on the members of the Board whether they came from coconut-producing provinces or not?

REP. PANGANIBAN. No, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Do you not think that it is but natural and pragmatic that the members of the Board should be coming from coconut-producing provinces?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Logically, the members of the board should come from coconut-producing provinces, Mme. Speaker. That is why in the composition of the Trust Fund Committee, we make it a point that nine

members or the majority should come from the coconut farmers themselves, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Your Honor, if we approve this Bill this month, do we have a complementing Bill presented by the Senate?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Is it being deliberated now?

REP. PANGANIBAN. They are now in the period of amendments, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. And who is the principal author?

REP. PANGANIBAN. The honorable Senator Francis “Kiko” N. Pangilinan is the principal author, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. He does not come from coconut-producing province. He comes from Quezon City, Your Honor.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Who is the Chairman of Agriculture in the Senate, Your Honor?

REP. PANGANIBAN. The honorable Sen. Cynthia A. Villar is the Chairman of the Agriculture and Food Committee in the Senate, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. We share the same sentiment. I want this to be fast-tracked, knowing what is the problem on the ground, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Kaya itinatanong ko lang ho, kung ito po ba ay maipapasá nating mabilis ho sa Senado and you are somewhat giving me the comfort level that it would be also approved in the Senate on the same context that is being presented by the Lady Representative Garin?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, I could not speak for the Senate. I could only speak for the Members of the House of Representatives. And this Bill has already been passed during the Sixteenth Congress and, unfortunately, it was not passed in the Senate. However, just to give assurance to the distinguished Minority Leader, this particular measure is one of the legislative agenda of the Seventeenth Congress and also one of the mentioned agenda in the Philippine Development Plan for 2017 up to 2022, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. What is the present population of our coconut trees, distinguished Sponsor, right now, I mean, can you update me? I have lost already the numbers? How many hundreds of millions do we have right now?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes. More or less, it is about 300 million trees, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. SUAREZ. Three hundred million and 60 to 70 percent are overage. So we are saying that 210 million are already senior citizens.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Can you imagine the logistics solution of looking for 210 million seedlings?

REP. PANGANIBAN. That is why, Mme. Speaker, in the development of the plan, the plan will be good for 10 years. That is why, of course, I agree with the distinguished Minority Leader that we could have—I mean, in reality, there will be a difficulty in securing more than 200 million seedlings. But again, with the passage of this measure, we could augment the works or the function of the Philippine Coconut Authority in order to, again, jumpstart the rehabilitation process of the coconut industry by, of course, addressing the problems of tree planting of coconut trees, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, will you consider the gargantuan task of planting 200 million seeds given to an agency with very little workforce? Will you be amenable that spreading the potential of planting be given to provinces that are producing coconut maybe up to the level of local leaders, elected officials, with participation from the Commission on Audit on the menu of how these funds can be spent?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mme. Speaker, I believe in the recommendation of the distinguished Minority Leader that, of course, if we just let the PCA do the job, we will be expecting negative results because, of course, of the lack of manpower of the PCA. So, should the Committee decide to include local government units to help in the process of rehabilitation, that would not be a problem; provided, the Committee would approve of the plan, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, I am just trying to save material time. You do not have the luxury of time, distinguished Sponsor, because you did not debate with

me or did not object to my statement, that it will take six to seven years before they can yield. There are some varieties that yield, maybe three to four years, but the lifespan of productivity is compromised. Kung gagawin po nating yardstick ay six to seven years. Unang-una, when you secure seedlings, you have to compete with farmers who, according to my distinguished friend, Congressman Lagman, belong to the less marginal sectors in our society, after fishermen, these coconut farmers. So, you must come up with an attractive measure of making sure that the farmers, when they have a good variety of coconut, will convert them as seeds and not copra. Kasi ang coconut tree ho ngayon ay maximized na maximized na ang usefulness, and that is why it is called the “Tree of Life.” In a coconut, everything is productive and used from the husk to the shell, to the meat, to the water. Even the coconut tree, the coconut tree now is being used as a substitute for lumber. Is the distinguished Sponsor aware of that?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Are you aware of the quality of coco lumber?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. The older the tree, the tougher is the texture. You agree with me on that?

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. But the younger tree, the softer is the texture. So, sa Tagalog, iyong matatandang niyog na payat ay matitigas pero iyong batang niyog na matataba ay malalambot.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. I can see smiling ladies. *(Laughter)*

I said, Mme. Speaker, my interpellation will be constructive and I am willing to volunteer my services to the Lady for the fast implementation of this very important measure.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Thank you, distinguished Minority Leader.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.



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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION  
OF H.B. NO. 5745

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 5745.  
I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 5745 is hereby suspended.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 5675  
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. HOFER. Madam Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 5675, contained in Committee Report No. 246, as reported out by the Committee on Social Services.

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5675, entitled: AN ACT ALLOWING THE RECTIFICATION OF SIMULATED BIRTH RECORDS AND PRESCRIBING ADMINISTRATIVE ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS FOR THE PURPOSE.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson of the Committee of Social Services be recognized to begin sponsorship of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Chair is recognized.

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

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION  
OF H.B. NO. 5675

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill 5675.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 5675 is hereby suspended.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 6:12 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:13 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, by leave of the House, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, the first to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Gentleman from the Party-List MAGDALO, Rep. Gary C. Alejano, for his privilege speech. I move that we recognize the Honorable Alejano.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Representative Alejano is hereby recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ALEJANO

REP. ALEJANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, and our countrymen:

I think it is my duty to report to the Filipino people and to my colleagues here in Congress in spite of the many chairs and walls that are listening. I would like to report to my honorable colleagues today regarding the foreboding and suspicious massing up of the Chinese Navy and their Coast Guard together with their maritime militias in the northern part of Pag-asa Island, which presents a threat to our interest in the West Philippine Sea.

This Representation received information from my sources in the military stating that since three days ago, China has deployed two frigates, one Coast Guard vessel and two large fishing vessels with their maritime militias around one to three nautical miles north of Pag-asa Island. Ito iyong pinakamalaking isla ng ating bansa sa Spratlys. Furthermore, the report said that two days ago, a Philippine government ship from Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources or BFAR was prevented by Chinese fishing vessels from going near our sandbars located generally west of Pag-asa Island, around two to seven miles away.

The timeline of the latest Chinese intrusion in our territory is as follows:

On August 11, 2017 at around 4:29 p.m., one Chinese vessel arrived west of Pag-asa Island. The following day, August 12, 2017, around 9:00 a.m., Chinese Coast Guard 46115 arrived. A few minutes later at 9:32 a.m., Chinese Navy with bow number 504 arrived. Later that day at 4:40 p.m., one Chinese fishing vessel, together with one Chinese Navy vessel with bow number 545, also arrived in that area.

On August 14, 2017, Chinese Coast Guard 46115 was sighted only about 2.5 nautical miles north of Pag-asa Island. The Chinese activity in that area peaked in the morning of August 15, 2017. Kahapon lang po iyan. At 6:15 a.m. of the said date, Chinese Coast Guard, with bow number 46115, was sighted four nautical

miles north northeast off Pag-asa Island. At 6:57 a.m., the Chinese Navy bow number 545 was sighted three nautical miles southwest off Pag-asa. And also at 7:15 a.m., the Chinese Navy, with bow number 504, was sighted 2.5 nautical miles southwest off Pag-asa Island. At 7:14 a.m., the Chinese Navy, with bow number 168, was sighted five nautical miles southwest off Pag-asa Island, and they changed position to different locations within the vicinity of that area at 9:20 a.m., at 9:57 a.m., and then at 10:20 a.m., and as far as this Representation is concerned, they are still there in Pag-asa, in the vicinity of Pag-asa Island. This is the first time that they went so near in our area.

In fact, at 10:00 a.m. yesterday, the same helicopter terminated its flight over sandbars—one, two, and three. If you see there, there is number one, two, and three, and they conducted a reconnaissance flight over that area. Of course, this is a display of their armed forces in that area, and it is very threatening to the people in Pag-asa Island.

This is highly suspicious considering the fact that China says one thing in public and does another on the ground. For example, the continued harassment of Filipino fishermen in the West Philippine Sea by the Chinese Navy or Coast Guard despite their pronouncement that the fishermen can freely fish in our waters. Let us not forget what happened in 1995 when they grabbed Mischief Reef from us.

The aggressive stance of China is based on their historical claim outlined by a nine-dash line which has eaten up a large area of the exclusive economic zones of the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Indonesia.

For years, the West Philippine Sea, a major maritime highway, and allegedly a resource-rich area, has been a center of dispute in the Asian region. Island-building in the West Philippine Sea and the construction on the islands in the area have been going on for decades. Vietnam and the Philippines are the first two countries who have claim in the area, with 21 and 8 islands respectively—in fact, 9 islands for the Philippines.

China came in late in the island-building game but they came in a scale that is incomparable to other claimants in the West Philippine Sea. In fact, China has reportedly constructed more new island surface than all other nations have constructed in the disputed area. As such, I would like to refresh our Members with how the rift between the Philippines and China has started, only important issues in the timeline. Like in 1988, China seized Subi Reef by erecting a radar structure and military facilities in the said reef. Subi Reef lies within the continental shelf of the Philippines.

In 1995, China took control of the disputed Mischief Reef, constructing octagonal huts on stilts that Chinese officials say will serve as shelters, only shelters, for

their fishermen. Thereafter, the Philippines lodged a protest through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. Mischief Reef is located only 125 nautical miles from Palawan, a low-tide elevation within the Philippines' EEZ.

In 1997, the Philippine naval ships prevented Chinese boats from approaching the Scarborough Shoal, eliciting a protest from China. The uninhabited reef, known as Huangyan Island in China, is 230 kilometers off the Philippines and about 1,000 kilometers or 600 miles from China. In the ensuing years, the Philippines detained Chinese fishermen numerous times for alleged illegal fishing in the area.

In 2009, China submitted its nine-dash line map to the United Nations, stating it has indisputable sovereignty over the islands in the South China Sea and the adjacent waters, practically covering 90 percent of the South China Sea. The submission came in response to applications by Vietnam and Malaysia for recognition of extended continental shelves, which would give them resource rights. The Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia protested the Chinese claim.

In 2011, the Chinese frigate Dongguan fired three shots at Philippine fishing boats in the vicinity of Quirino or Jackson Atoll. The shots were fired after the Chinese instructed the fishing boats to leave, and one of those boats experienced trouble and its anchor was removed.

In 2012, the dispute escalated after a tense standoff between the Chinese Coast Guard and the Philippine Navy, after the latter stopped a Chinese fishing boat to inspect it. China eventually took control of the Scarborough Shoal. Also in 2012, former Pres. Benigno Aquino III promulgated Administrative Order No. 29, naming maritime areas on the western side of the Philippine archipelago as the West Philippine Sea.

Now, the Philippines has filed an arbitration case against China at the United Nations backed Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) to settle the maritime dispute. The Philippines has invited China to join the proceedings. The move angered China stating that the Philippines' claim is legally infirm and carried unacceptable allegations against China.

We know that in 2016, in fact, in July 12, China reportedly built its submarine harbor at the Panganiban (Mischief) Reef, located at the West Philippine Sea near Palawan. In mid-2016, the PCA or the Permanent Court of Arbitration announced that an arbitral tribunal had ruled in favor of the Philippines in its historic case against China.

Now, let us check what the Duterte administration had done so far after that ruling.

After the Philippines has scored a significant, if not a monumental legal victory against China in the West Philippine Sea, when the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague ruled in our favor, President Duterte was

uncharacteristically silent about it. Instead of using the ruling in asserting our rights and sovereignty over the disputed area, the President instead portrayed a defeatist stance against China.

The President repeatedly and deliberately ignored the favorable ruling made by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in 2016 on the contentious dispute in the West Philippine Sea. A complete turnaround when he vowed to ride a jetski during the campaign to the nearest disputed island occupied by China and plant the Philippine flag there.

The President's actions or his inactions, with regard to the maritime dispute between the Philippines and China, were disturbing and shocking, to say the least. Because in September 2016, the President ordered the Armed Forces of the Philippines to stop patrolling the West Philippine Sea together with the United States. Also on the same month, the President announced that the *Balikatan* exercises between the Philippines and the United States would be the last. The President even contemplated to discontinue the implementation of the EDCA.

In October 2016, during his visit to China, the President announced the Philippines' separation from the US, and announced his desire to align himself with the ideologies of China.

In the next month, November 2016, the President decided to continue with the implementation of the EDCA but discontinued two regular military exercises with the Navy and the Marines, and this is called the Philippine-US Amphibious Landing Exercises or the Phiblex and the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training or CARAT. The Phiblex provides our Marines training on possible attacks on our islands, while the CARAT provides proper management of ships in our waters.

Earlier this year, in February 2017, then Secretary Yasay of the DFA claimed that China promised not to build any structure in Panatag Island or Panatag Shoal, but China contradicted such statement and said that they are going to build structures in their territories. So, nobody could stop China from building in the territories that they claim. The statement made by Secretary Yasay prompted the Commerce Minister of China to cancel the signing of economic agreements between the Philippines and China. I was told by the Department of Foreign Affairs that right now, again, China has promised not to build any structures in Scarborough Shoal.

The Duterte administration has continuously failed or refused, according to my perception on the actions of the President, and strongly protested China's continued militarization and incursion in our waters in the West Philippine Sea. The absence of a protest may have been seen by China as a go-signal from our government to continue with their aggressive actions in the West Philippine Sea.

I have endlessly urged the President to be more transparent with the government's economic deals with China. Therefore, I call on the Philippine government to be transparent with what is happening in the West Philippine Sea, because we cannot explain to our people, to all Filipinos, what is happening in the West Philippine Sea. We must assert our rights in the midst of our talks with China. I do not recommend military actions, but we can do something by initiating civilian activities in those areas.

I have no problem with regard to the continued engagement of the Philippines with China. However, we should be wary and critical of these deals to ensure that we are not forfeiting our rights over our territories in the disputed waters in exchange for grants or loans from China.

Also, China has persistently harassed Filipino fishermen in the disputed areas. A more recent incident occurred in April near the Union Banks in the Spratly Islands where Filipino fishermen were harassed by the Chinese Navy. Incidents of harassments were not reported due to the inadequacy of the communication and reporting mechanism between the concerned Philippine agencies and the Filipino fishermen affected by the harassment of the Chinese.

In closing, I call on our government to break their silence with regard to repeated incursions perpetuated by China, not by lambasting China, but by raising the issue and informing our people that we are still asserting our rights over the West Philippine Sea.

Specifically, I urge the government to take the massing up of Chinese forces and their militias north of Pag-asa Island seriously. I call on the Philippine government to call the attention of China and order their ships away from Pag-asa Island and file appropriate diplomatic protest against China.

Lastly, I urge the Philippine government to have a clear strategy in the West Philippine Sea so that all stakeholders would know exactly what specific actions they are going to take, particularly by our fishermen there. Because as of now, in spite of the query or queries of this Representation to government officials, there has been no clear strategy yet in the West Philippine Sea, leaving the stakeholders in confusion, including local government officials.

That is all, Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues.

Thank you for the opportunity. Magandang hapon po.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Alejano to the Committee on Rules for appropriate action.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the speech of the Honorable Alejano is referred to the Committee on Rules.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Privilege Hour is terminated.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up the Additional Reference of Business, and may we request that the Secretary General be directed to read the same.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the Additional Reference of Business.

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

#### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6187, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL BENEFITS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL AND VETERANS WHO HAVE NOT YET REACHED SENIOR CITIZEN AGE, ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR ARMED SERVICES STAKEHOLDER SUPPORT, ALLIANCES, AND PARTNERSHIP, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Abayon

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6188, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ADOPTION OF ON-LINE PAYMENT SCHEME AT THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 6189, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ANNEX HOSPITAL OF THE NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER IN THE LONE DISTRICT OF ILIGAN CITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER – ILIGAN CITY ANNEX AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Siao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6190, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PLACE SAFETY NETS FOR FILIPINORICE PRODUCERS BY IMPOSING TARIFFS IN LIEU OF QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON RICE IMPORTS, DIRECTING TARIFF COLLECTIONS FROM RICE IMPORTS TO PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS THAT WOULD ENHANCE RICE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCREASE FARMERS’ INCOMES”

By Representative Geron  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6191, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY FRIENDSHIP VILLAGE RESOURCES (FVR) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NORZAGARAY, BULACAN”

By Representative Silverio  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6192, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE FULL REHABILITATION AND MAINTENANCE OF KENNON ROAD UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS”

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

House Bill No. 6193, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING ONE-TIME CONDONATION OF INTEREST ARREARAGES AND PENALTIES IN FAVOR OF QUALIFIED LOCAL WATER DISTRICTS (LWDs) PERTAINING TO THEIR LOANS WITH THE LOCAL WATER UTILITIES ADMINISTRATION (LWUA)”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 6194, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FREE HOSPITALIZATION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6195, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC SERVANTS TO COMMUTE VIA PUBLIC TRANSPORT”

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

House Bill No. 6196, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE ADOPTION OF COUNTERTRADE ON THE IMPORTATION AND PROCUREMENT OF FOREIGN CAPITAL EQUIPMENT, MACHINERY, PRODUCTS, GOODS AND SERVICES BY THE GOVERNMENT”

By Representative Abu  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6197, entitled:

“AN ACT WAIVING GOVERNMENT FEES AND CHARGES ON THE ISSUANCE OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH FIRST TIME JOB APPLICANTS”

By Representative Silverio  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6198, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A GOVERNMENT OWNED RADIO STATION IN MAASIN CITY, SOUTHERN LEYTE”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 6199, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MAKATI WEST HIGH SCHOOL INTO MAKATI SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Campos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6200, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MULTIPLIER FARMS IN STRATEGIC AREAS OF THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Antonio  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6201, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE SAPANGBATO WATERSHED IN ANGELES CITY, PAMPANGA AS A PROTECTED AREA AND ECO-PARK, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Antonio  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6204, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING THE PHILIPPINE CODE OF CRIMES TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3815, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER SPECIAL PENAL LAWS”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas, Umali,  
Primicias-Agabas and Rocamora  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6205, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING DAYCARE CENTERS SERVICES FOR CHILDREN OF EMPLOYEES AGED FIVE (5) YEARS OLD AND BELOW, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF  
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 6206, entitled:

“AN ACT PROFESSIONALIZING THE PRACTICE OF CORPORATE DIRECTORSHIP IN GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS AND GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10149, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘GOCC GOVERNANCE ACT OF 2011’ ”

By Representative Acosta-Alba  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT  
ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 6207, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SOUTHERN

LEYTE SPORTS ACADEMY IN THE CAPITAL CITY OF MAASIN IN SOUTHERN LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND  
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6208, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE LEGISLATIVE POLICE (PLP) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF”

By Representative Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER  
AND SAFETY

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 737

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 737, contained in Committee Report No. 165, as reported out by the Committee on Tourism.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). 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. 737, entitled: A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM FOR SPEARHEADING THE WELL-PLANNED, COORDINATED, AND EXECUTED HOSTING OF THE 2016 MISS UNIVERSE PAGEANT.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the House Resolution be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Explanatory Note is hereby considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move to close the period of sponsorship and debate on House Resolution No. 737 as contained in Committee Report No. 165.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move to open the period of amendments on House Resolution No. 737.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is now open.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we proceed to the individual amendments.

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

We may now consider individual amendments.

REP. HOFER. I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Tourism, Hon. Lucy Torres-Gomez, to propose her individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Hon. Lucy Torres-Gomez is recognized to propose her individual amendments.

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. TORRES-GOMEZ. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

After the fourth WHEREAS clause, we would like to propose another clause to read as follows:

WHEREAS, THE LCS GROUP OF COMPANIES CHAIRED BY FORMER GOVERNOR LUIS CHAVIT SINGSON WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN DEFRAYING RELATED COSTS NECESSARY FOR THE SUCCESSFUL STAGING OF THE PAGEANT.

And the final paragraph of the Resolution to read as follows:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the House of Representatives commend the Department of Tourism AND THE LCS

GROUP OF COMPANIES for spearheading the well-planned, coordinated, and executed hosting of the 2016 Miss Universe Pageant.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). What does the Dep. Majority Leader say?

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, we have no objection to the amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Dep. Majority Leader has accepted the amendments.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendments are hereby approved.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move to close the period of amendments on House Resolution No. 737.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby closed.

#### ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 737, AS AMENDED

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move for the adoption of House Resolution No. 737, as amended.

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

House Resolution No. 737, as amended, is hereby adopted.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 11, dated August 15, 2017.

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

#### ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. BONDOC. May I move for the election of the following Members to various committees:

*The Dep. Majority Leader, Rep. Juan Pablo "Rimpy" P. Bondoc, read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 12, dated August 16, 2017.*

COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

As Chairperson:

Rep. Jesulito A. Manalo

COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

As Chairperson:

Rep. Raymond Democrito C. Mendoza  
I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, in view of the election of the Hon. Jesulito Manalo to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs as its Chairperson, I move to declare the position of Chairperson of the Special Committee on Globalization and WTO, vacant.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. May I move for the election of the following Members to various Committees:

COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

As member:

Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES DEVELOPMENT

As member:

Rep. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

As member:

Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

COMMITTEE ON METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT

As member:

Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

As member:

Rep. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay

COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

As members:

Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.  
Rep. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay

COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

As member:

Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND WELFARE

As members:

Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr.  
Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo  
Rep. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

As member:

Rep. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo

COMMITTEE ON WOMEN AND GENDER EQUALITY

As member:

Rep. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay  
I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until Tuesday, August 22, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon.



THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until Tuesday, August 22, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

*It was 6:42 p.m.*