



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

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No. 23

CALL TO ORDER

At 10:00 a.m., Deputy Speaker Romero "Miro" S. Quimbo called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

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

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

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

ROLL CALL

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). There is a motion to call the roll on this very stormy day.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General is so directed to call the roll of Members.

The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is as follows, per Journal No. 23, dated September 12, 2017:

PRESENT

Abayon
Abu

Abueg
Acop

Acosta
Aggabao
Albano
Alejano
Almario
Alonte
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (P.)
Amatong
Antonio
Aquino-Magsaysay
Aragones
Atienza
Aumentado
Bag-ao
Bataoil
Belaro
Bertiz
Biazon
Billones
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bordado
Bravo (A.)
Bravo (M.V.)
Calderon
Calixto-Rubiano
Campos
Canama
Cari
Castelo
Castro (F.L.)
Castro (F.H.)
Chipeco
Cojuangco
Cortuna
Crisologo
Cuaresma
Datul
De Jesus
De Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Del Rosario

Deloso-Montalla
Dimaporo (A.)
Dimaporo (M.K.)
Duavit
Durano
Dy
Enverga
Ermita-Buhain
Escudero
Espina
Espino
Evardone
Fariñas
Fernando
Ferrer (J.)
Fortuno
Garbin
Garcia (J.E.)
Garin (R.)
Gasataya
Gatchalian
Geron
Go (A.C.)
Go (M.)
Gonzaga
Gonzales (A.P.)
Gonzales (A.D.)
Gullas
Herrera-Dy
Hofer
Jalosjos
Javier
Kho
Khonghun
Lagman
Lanete
Lazatin
Leachon
Lee
Lobregat
Lopez (B.)
Lopez (M.L.)
Loyola
Macapagal-Arroyo
Madrona

Mangaoang	Salo
Marquez	Salon
Martinez	Sambar
Matugas	Sandoval
Mending	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Mercado	Savellano
Mirasol	Sema
Noel	Siao
Nogralles (J.J.)	Singson
Nogralles (K.A.)	Suansing (E.)
Nuñez-Malanyaon	Suansing (H.)
Ocampo	Suarez
Olivarez	Tan (A.)
Ong (E.)	Tan (S.)
Ong (H.)	Tejada
Ortega (P.)	Tiangco
Ortega (V.N.)	Tolentino
Paduano	Treñas
Palma	Ty
Pancho	Ungab
Panganiban	Uy (R.)
Panotes	Uybarreta
Papandayan	Vargas
Pichay	Velasco
Pimentel	Velasco-Catera
Pineda	Veloso
Primicias-Agabas	Vergara
Quimbo	Villafuerte
Relampagos	Villanueva
Roa-Puno	Villarica
Rocamora	Villarin
Roque (H.)	Violago
Sacdalan	Yap (M.)
Sagarbarria	Zamora (M.C.)
Sahali	Zamora (R.)
Salceda	Zarate
Salimbangon	Zubiri

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 168 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). With 168 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Congratulations, colleagues, in spite of the inclement weather, we are all here today. The budget cannot wait. The Floor Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). 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 Resolution on First Reading, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6366, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING TIBAGAN HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY EAST REMBO, MAKATI CITY FROM FORT BONIFACIO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS TIBAGAN HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Campos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6367, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE UBO FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOBO, 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. 6368, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE PALANI BEACH IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALUD, 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. 6369, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE AROROY BEACH 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. 6370, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE COLARA BEACH 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. 6371, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE DANA O MARSH IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALUD, 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. 6372, entitled:

“AN ACT HARMONIZING THE FUNCTIONS OF GOVERNMENT AGENCIES CONCERNED IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9514, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, IN ECONOMIC AND TOURISM ZONES IN THE PHILIPPINES”

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

House Bill No. 6373, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE OBSERVANCE OF JULY 25 OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL CAMPUS PRESS FREEDOM DAY”

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6374, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE DAVAO ORIENTAL REHABILITATION CENTER, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Almario
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

RESOLUTION

House Resolution No. 1297, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING IN THE STRONGEST POSSIBLE TERMS THE MURDER OF TEENAGERS KIAN LOYD DELOS SANTOS, CARL ANGELO ARNAIZ, AND REYNALDO DE GUZMAN ALLEGEDLY PERPETRATED BY MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) AND DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THESE INCIDENTS IN ORDER TO DETERMINE THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF THOSE INVOLVED AS WELL AS TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF OUR CITIZENS AND PREVENT THE SAME FROM HAPPENING AGAIN”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House Bills No. 143, 505, 2860, 4286, 5061, 5370, 5382, 5505, 6123, 6146, 6148, 6150, 6173, 6174, and 6204;

Rep. “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 6183, 6303, 6304, 6305, 6326, 6343, and 6351;

Rep. Estrellita B. Suansing for House Bill No. 6250;

Rep. Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas for House Bill No. 356;

Rep. Maria Valentina G. Plaza for House Bills No. 4115, 4116, 5213, 5900, 5985, and 6029;

Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo for House Bills No. 2625, 4115, 4116, 4344, 4703, 5213, 5985, and 6029;

Rep. Carlos Roman L. Uybarreta for House Bill No. 528;

Rep. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D. for House Bill No. 952;

Rep. Rosenda Ann Ocampo for House Bills No. 5061, 5370, 5382, 5505, and 6148; and

Rep. Ricardo “RJ” T. Belmonte Jr. for House Bill No. 6093.

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

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt of a message from the Senate informing the House that the Senate passed with amendments House Bill No. 4924, entitled: AN ACT DIVIDING BARANGAY

MAGUGPO IN THE CITY OF TAGUM, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE INTO FIVE (5) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY MAGUGPO POBLACION, BARANGAY MAGUGPO EAST, BARANGAY MAGUGPO WEST, BARANGAY MAGUGPO NORTH AND BARANGAY MAGUGPO SOUTH.

We have been advised that the Committee on Local Government, sponsor of the said House Bill, as well as the author thereof, has no objections to the amendments introduced thereto by the Senate.

Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BELARO. In accordance with our rules, I move that we concur with the Senate amendments to House Bill No. 4924.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6215

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to tackle our Unfinished Business and resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6215, contained in Committee Report No. 363, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). There is a motion to resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6215.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6215, entitled: AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

GENERAL PRINCIPLES AND PROVISIONS

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate.

At this juncture, Mr. Speaker, before we proceed to tackling the debate on the General Principles and Provisions, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests, specifically the DBCC principals and ETB members. May I mention them, Mr. Speaker: Secretary of the Department of Budget and Management, Benjamin E. Diokno; NEDA Secretary Ernesto M. Pernia; DOF Secretary Carlos G. Dominguez III; from the Office of the President, DESGA, Michael P. Ong; DBM Undersecretary Laura B. Pascua; NEDA Deputy General Rosemarie G. Edillon; NEDA Director Reynaldo R. Cancio; DOF Undersecretary Karl Kendrick T. Chua; DOF Undersecretary Gil S. Beltran; DOF Assistant Secretary Soledad Emilia J. Cruz; DOF Assistant Secretary Ma. Teresa S. Habitan; DOF Assistant Secretary Maria Edita Z. Tan; DOF Director Joanna P. Castillo; DOF Director Elsa P. Agustin; BTr Treasurer Rosalia V. De Leon; BTr Deputy Treasurer Sharon P. Almanza; BIR Commissioner Caesar R. Dulay; BIR Assistant Commissioner Leonor Villalon-Rogers; BOC Commissioner Isidro Lapeña; BOC Director Cecile Marie Soriano; NTRC Executive Director Trinidad A. Rodriguez; BSP Governor Nestor A. Espenilla Jr.; and BSP Deputy Governor Diwa C. Guinigundo.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). That sounded like a roll call. The presence of the guests mentioned is hereby acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

We also beg the indulgence of the guests but upon the instructions of the Speaker and the Majority Leader, we have to continue with the hearings on the budget.

Welcome. Please proceed.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize to sponsor the General Principles and Provisions, the honorable Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the Hon. Karlo Alexei B. Nograles.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). The Hon. Karlo Alexei Nograles, the next Senator of the Republic is recognized.

Please proceed, Mr. Chairman.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good morning.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). I beg your indulgence.

The next Senator of the Republic of the Philippines, Senator Karlo Nograles. Parang walang pumalakpak ah. *(Applause)*

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat sa mga kasamahan ko dito sa Kongreso, lalung-lalo na iyong mga sumama sa aming pagpupuyat hanggang kaninang madaling araw ng 1:15 a.m. It is nice to see you again.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are ready to deliberate and debate on the General Provisions and the General Principles of the 2018 Budget Proposal.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Sr. Deputy Minority Leader, the Hon. Jose L. Atienza Jr., for his interpellation of the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). The Hon. Lito Atienza of the Party-List BUHAY, the defender of life, the unbeaten city mayor of the premier city of the Philippines, the city of Manila—he is taking a long time before he takes the microphone so this introduction will even be longer. The unbeaten kingpin of the city of Manila is recognized. Baka madagdagan pa ito.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for your commercial and recognition.

Mr. Dep. Majority Leader, yes, it is an honor to be discussing the matter of the budget with our Appropriations Chairman and, as a general question, we just would like to stress that the numbers on the budget do not reflect the intention stated by the President and the message of the DBM itself. Ang kanila pong nais ay magkaroon tayo ng matatag, masagana at mapanatag na buhay. The budget that reforms and transforms; but reviewing the budget in all its sections and all its departments and allocations, we do not see how these objectives would be realized.

At this point in time, we are almost through with the major departments, but we still question why it is not properly designed to accomplish its stated objectives: matatag, masagana, panatag na buhay, a budget that reforms and transforms. How can we call this budget a transforming or a reforming one when we do not see major shifts in strategies and intentions, and possible objectives?

Ang kahirapan po ng ating mga mamamayan ay mananatili kung ating susundin lang ang budget as submitted today. We do not see the way to happier life

for the people of the Philippines, for all of us Filipinos, because it is lacking in all its basic requirements. Housing has not been given enough support to provide shelter to our people which is a constitutional guarantee that should really be even beyond debating. Dapat ang budget ng housing marahil ang pinakamalaki—isa sa pinakamalaking pondo na dapat ay hinihingi ng Executive. Now, there is a proposal to even create a Department of Housing simply because housing production is very slow. Ang ating hinihintay sanang makita natin dito ay hindi ang budget ng nakaraan. Iyong nakaraan, alam na natin. Iyon ay gobyernong walang puso, walang damdamin at walang pagtanggap ng tungkuling magbigay ng tulong na karapat-dapat sa ating mga mamamayan.

We are hoping for a different budget this time, because the budget that we discussed last year was created also by the past government. But this one is now a creation of the present leadership. The message that we got from the President actually contained all the aspirations of the Filipino people. How we will accomplish it, we do not see it in the roadmap drawn in the present figures of the present budget.

Kung kami po ay nagtatanong nang marami sa ating mga iba't ibang interpellation sa nakaraang ilang mga araw sa isang lingo, dahil hindi nga po natin makita at hinahanap namin, papaanong magkakaroon ng panatag, ligtas at maginhawang buhay ang Pilipino sa budget na ito? Where there should be a stress and more funding, we do not see that. Ang pondo po ay ibinigay halos lahat sa Public Works and Highways na hindi naman maubos-ubos ang pera nila dito sa kasalukuyang taon. Ang itinatanong natin, mauubos po ba nila ang pondong inilalaan natin ngayon?

Ang Department of Education, ang laki-laki ng pondo for the repair and construction of more schoolhouses. Hanggang ngayon, hindi pa nila nagagastos ang pera, bibigyan pa natin ng additional. Samantala ang pabahay, hindi nabibigyan ng sapat na pansin.

On that basis, Mr. Speaker, I would like to get the reaction of the honorable Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, with regard to housing, ang NHA po ay mayroon pang continuing appropriations. As of June 30, 2017, nagto-total pa ito ng P41 billion dahil mayroon pa silang Unreleased Appropriations sa 2016 GAA na P15 billion at mayroon pa rin silang Unreleased Appropriations in the 2017 GAA na P13 billion, including the Unobligated Allotments worth P13 billion. Ang suma total nito ay P41 billion kaya nga po napagdesisyon ng DBM na since mayroon pang mga pondong hindi pa nagagamit ang NHA, kailangang ipakita muna ng NHA na kaya nilang ubusin ang perang nakalaan na sa kanila noon pa

man, noong 2016 at 2017, bago sila dagdagan ng pondo mula sa kaban ng bayan para sa 2018 Budget. Ito po ang naging mensahe ng DBM para maipakita sa ating mga ahensya at departamento na seryoso po ang ating fund managers, ang Department of Budget and Management, sa paratang nila na importanteng maipakita muna ng mga departamento at ahensya na nagagamit nila ang na-allocate na pondo para sa kanila; kung hindi, magsa-suffer po sila ng consequences sa susunod na badyets nila. Ito po ang nangyari sa NHA.

Hindi natin sinasabi na hindi priority ang housing. In fact, napakalaking priority ito para sa Duterte administration. Kung nakikita natin, napag-usapan na ito noong badyet ng DPWH. Mayroon din po tayong ibinibigay na resettlement program at housing program para sa mga maaaring maapektuhan ng ating Build, Build, Build infrastructure projects, lalung-lalo na ang mga madi-displace na informal settlers. Pagtutuunan sila ng pansin at bibigyan ng pabahay ng ating gobyerno. So, sa NHA badyet, gusto lang nating ipakita na mayroon silang unused, unutilized funds na kailangan muna nilang gamitin bago pa man bigyan sila ng karagdagang badyet, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, the reasoning given by the distinguished Sponsor of the budget does not again answer the question of why we are not giving enough support to the housing sector. If what he is saying is that the agency for housing or the agencies involved in housing have already been given budgets and they are not spending it, should the solution have been, first, to fire these people who do not know how to use the budget in favor of effective public service? Kung hindi po sila marunong gumastos, sila pa rin po ba ang dapat manatili sa kanilang opisina? Marahil, alisin muna natin lahat ng mga iyan at lagyan ng mga may mas higit na damdamin at kakayahang mga lider sa housing sector at bigyan ng sapat na pondo.

What we need in the housing sector actually is money. Without funds, no production can ensue. Ang solusyon, gumawa tayo ng Department of Housing. Will it solve the problem of housing with the creation of a department? The answer is no. For as long as there is no money, there is no deliberate leadership to provide housing, we will continue to run around in circles.

Sa lahat ng problema, ang ating sagot ay we will create a department. The creation of a department means another bureaucracy and added systems that will even hamper the delivery of this basic need. The creation of a department will entail more expenses to the government to sustain the new department, and it will have to be given ample learning time which will delay the housing program of this government. Kaya, hindi po naniniwala ang inyong lingkod, ipagpaumahanin ninyo, na ang badyet na ito ay tumutugon sa pangangailangan ng Pilipino.

We talk about food production, ample food production, about liberating our fisherfolk from severe poverty that they are undergoing and experiencing for the past decades. One of the biggest ironies of our nation's fate is that we are very rich in aquaculture, we are very rich in sea life. According to the studies of the World Health Organization and the World Food Organization, the Philippine islands, the archipelago of the Philippines can feed the rest of the world on seafood requirements if we do our job properly and handle our food production, and make sure that our fisherfolk are given the opportunities to fish properly on Philippine waters. But what are we doing? What are we actually helping them with? I know that we have a very industrious Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. He is doing his best. I am happy to know that he is on the right track, giving special attention to our fisherfolk. But this budget, again, does not reflect the needs of our country and our fisherfolk.

Mananatiling pinakamahirap na sektor ang ating mga mangingisda hangga't hindi nabibigyan ng kalayaan, puwang at katubigan na ibinigay sa atin ng ating Panginoong Diyos. The Philippines has enough water bodies, not even given to other countries. Marami tayong ilog, marami tayong bahagi ng karagatan, marami tayong lawa. Nandiyan ang Taal Lake, nandiyan ang Laguna de Bay, nandiyan ang lahat ng inland waters na nagbibigay ng isda na hindi matitikman ng ibang tao.

Where is the Maliputo now? Gone, sapagkat ang ating pinanggagalingan ng Maliputo ay halos pinabayaan na ng gobyerno. Where is the Tawilis? Where is the Bangus of Laguna de Bay? May lasa na po. A warning to all of us, the fish that comes from that body of water may even contain mercury now because pinababayaan natin. Where is the program to clear the water bodies? Wala po akong nakita dito sa budget na ito para maniwala kami na aalisin na ang mga baklad na ngayon ay nagbibigay lamang ng biyaya sa iilang negosyante at nag-aalis ng karapatan sa mangingisda sa kanilang pinangingisdaang lawa.

Our water bodies today are all monopolized by the rich and the powerful. What about the fisherfolk? Lalabas sila ng West Philippine Sea. Ang China naman ang pipigil sa kanila doon. Pupunta sila sa ibang bahagi ng karagatan. Mayroon po silang mga problema naman sa mga pirata at mga problemang hindi rin sila mabibigyan ng kalayaang makapangisda.

We are talking about providing our people enough opportunities and productivity. The key words should be, "Build, Build, Build; Productivity, Productivity, Productivity." We cannot agree that just building will make us all prosperous and give us all a better life.

Mr. Speaker, I would like the distinguished Gentleman to clarify our minds on this matter. Bakit walang pondo para sa pagbibigay ng kalayaan sa hanapbuhay sa mga Pilipino, lalo na sa sektor ng

pangingisda? Lahat po itong makapal na budget na ito, pinagbali-baligtad ko na, wala akong nakikitang pondo para naman sabihin natin, ipangako natin sa mga Pilipinong mangingisda, next year, makapangingisda na kayo sapagkat aalisin namin lahat ng mga fishpen sa Manila Bay, Laguna de Bay and even Taal Lake, a protective landscape, a protected landscape. Ang ibig sabihin, mayroong batas na nagtatanggol at nagbabawal na ang ating landscape sa Taal Lake ay mababoy kailanman. Hindi po iyan papayagan ng batas.

Sumilip kayo sa Taal Lake ngayon, puno na rin ng baklad dito po sa may southern portion. Pag hindi po binago ng gobyerno, ng gobyernong ito ng pagbabago—reforms and transforms—reforming like when we are going through the books of the old school and the old thinking of the past government. Tingnan po ninyo ang Pampanga River, Bulacan River, puno na rin ng baklad. Wala na ang masarap na talangka sa Pampanga. Bakit? Polluted na ang Pampanga River at Bulacan River. Kaya ang kailangan po natin is a budget that genuinely mirrors the declared objectives. Umaasa tayo kay Pangulong Duterte. Maganda po naman ang titik ng kanyang mensahe, subalit ang pondong ito ay hindi magdadala sa tagumpay ng kanyang panaginip para sa Pilipino.

Productivity is what we are trying to look for in this budget. This government is continuing the 4Ps, hindi po ba? Magkano ba ang pondo ng Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program? Anyway, I will not ask for the exact figure. We all know it is almost P70 billion.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). It is P89 billion, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, billions are given away to whoever and we do not even know them. Has anyone audited the Department of Social Welfare and Development to make sure that the P70 billion that they get every year goes to the proper beneficiaries?

Ako po ay nagtatanong lang, basta may nadaanan akong pamilya na natutulog sa bangketa, binababaan ko para kausapin at para tanungin sila, “Kayo ba ay nakikinabang sa ipinamamahagi ng gobyerno ngayon under the PPP Program?” Hindi nga nila alam ang PPPP eh. “Anong PPPP po iyon? Mayor, wala pong nakakarating na tulong dito kaya nga dito na lang kami natutulog sa bangketa eh.” So saan napupunta ang P70 billion?

When we talk about a budget that reforms and transforms, a budget that we will really change the fate of the Filipino, we cannot totally agree with it. It may contain some new ideas on governance, but it does not really answer the situation of the Filipinos. We are not even touched on the words “panatag, mapayapa, ligtas.” Ligtas po ba tayo ngayon?

Ang mga kabataan natin ay napapatay nang hindi malaman kung sino ang pumatay. Ang mga ahensya na dapat na nagliligtas sa atin at nagbibigay garantiya na para sa kaligtasan ng ating mga pamilya ay hindi po naman natin maaasahan.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to be enlightened also on this part by the distinguished Sponsor.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, with regard sa Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, ang total budget allocation natin for 2018 is P89.4 billion. Kasama na po sa P89 billion ang P82 billion na cash grants, trainings and Personnel Services, administrative expenses, so lahat-lahat, P89.4 billion ang allocation natin; sa cash grants P82 billion po ang naka-allocate diyan.

Dito naman po sa Department of Agriculture, kung mapapansin natin, tumaas ng 18 percent ang budget ng Kagawaran para sa taong 2018. Ang priority programs ng Department of Agriculture ay ang rice program kung saan mayroong nakalaan na P8 billion. Mayroon namang P3 billion para sa corn program at P3.5 billion para sa high-value crops program.

Sa fisheries program na nabanggit po ng ating kagalang-galang na Kinatawan ng BUHAY Party-list, mayroong P4.5 billion na nakalaan para dito, at kasama sa mga proyekto ng Department of Agriculture under the fisheries program is the distribution of 2,000 fiber glass reinforced plastic motorized bancas and 43 community fish landing centers. Apart from the fisheries program, mayroon tayong stock under din po sa Department of Agriculture.

Apart from the Department of Agriculture, in support of our farmers, especially our small farmers, mayroon po tayong increase sa proposed budget ng National Irrigation Administration. Mula P16.9 billion noong nakaraang 2017 GAA, ang proposed budget for the NIA ay nasa P20.8 billion, at kasama na dito ang pagpapagawa natin ng mga bagong irrigation projects pati na rin ang maintenance and rehabilitation ng lumang irrigation projects.

Kapansin-pansin po dito ang expansion ng ating insurance para sa subsistence farmers and fisherfolk natin, under sa Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation, na mula sa 2.5 billion noong 2017 GAA, na-increase natin ang insurance premium for our subsistence farmers and fisherfolk under the PCIC na naging P3.5 billion in insurance coverage. So, ito po iyong mga iilan sa mga pagbabago at improvements natin sa 2018 Budget.

Ukol naman doon sa mga abusadong may mga fish pen doon sa Laguna Lake, nag-report na po sa atin ang ating Kalihim ng Department of Environment and Natural Resources na mayroon na pong 2,000 illegal fish pens na dinismantel ang DENR doon po sa Laguna Lake. Mayroon din po silang proposal na idaan po sa

NEDA Board ang proposal para sa investment, para sa Laguna Lake para i-clear up ang Laguna Lake. So, isa din po iyan sa nakasalang for approval ng NEDA Board. Inaayos na lang po iyong requirements para po dumaan sa NEDA Board.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, we would like to put on record, dahil po sa sinabi ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor ng Budget na iyong sinasabi ng Laguna Lake Development Authority o kung sinabi man ng Department of Environment about their efforts to remove the fish pens, we disagree with that, we disagree with those figures, we disagree with the report, because wala pong nababawas doon gaano. Our lake is 99,000 hectares. They keep on saying that only 12 percent is occupied by fish pens. Iyon po ay kasinungalingan. The lake is now occupied by, at least, 50 percent of fish pens. That is even a gross violation of existing laws that do not allow such proportions of fish pens occupying that body of water.

Iyang Laguna Lake ay para sa kapakinabangan ng lahat ng mangingisda na pinakamahirap na sektor ngayon ng ating bansa. Iyang Laguna Lake ay para sa kapakinabangan ng lahat ng Pilipino. Sapagkat managinip lang tayo, mayroon tayong Laguna de Bay na walang fish pen, walang fish cages, na mayroon tayong paraan upang sa malinis na tubig tayo ay makapangisda, mag-jet ski kayo diyan, mag-windsurfing kayo, lumangoy kayo, pakinabangan ng lahat. Hindi po nangyayari iyan at mangyayari sapagkat ang Laguna de Bay is heavily silted and it is almost just knee-deep in some portions. Why? Because of the fish pens and the pollution generated by the existence of these illegal structures.

Ang sabi po ng batas, ang sabi ng kanilang sariling alituntunin, dapat ang fish pen should occupy not more than 10 percent of the total area of that body. Pinipilit nila na 12 percent lang daw ang occupied. I am willing to accompany anyone, anyone from the Laguna Lake Development Authority, anyone from the DENR, and I will prove beyond doubt that it is now being occupied almost 50 percent of its total water area.

Iyon po ang problema eh, tinatanggap natin ang report na para bagang katotohanan iyon. Iyon po ang sinasabi kong “kasinungalingan” at huwag nilang ipilit. Alisin na lang nila. Maniniwala tayo at hindi nila maaalis iyan nang manu-mano lang sapagkat ang mga kawayan na iyan ay matatayog po ang taas, nakabaon po iyan sa lupa ng lawa. Kung mag-aalis sila ay manu-mano, parang bumubunot ng ngipin. Eh, aabutin sila ng 100 taon, hindi nila malilinis iyan.

I am looking at the Budget, there is nothing that provides some modern, mechanized, technical way of removing this illegal structure. And once we see the Budget, then we will realize, it can be done.

Kagabi nagkaroon kami ng maliit na pulong ng namumuno ngayon sa Laguna Lake Development Authority. He is the former Mayor of Pateros. Ang sabi ko: “You and I, probably, think the same way. Kailangang mayroon tayong resulta, sapagkat kung ano iyong ating ipinangako, dapat natutupad.” Ganyan po ang thinking ng gobernador, mayor, Executive, Pangulo. Kaya ako ay umaasa doon sa kanyang sinabi, “iba na itong panahon na ito”. And I commit myself to continue this crusade that our water body should be liberated from all these selective monopolies’ use of our water bodies for the sake of some businessmen, to the deprivation of the rights of fisherfolk to fish freely dito po sa kanilang ancestral fishing ground. Wala na pong mapangisdaan ang mga mahihirap ngayon, at wala na rin po tayong pakinabang diyan sa lawang iyan, sapagkat iyong mga factories sa paligid-ligid, patuloy po ang pagdi-discharge ng lason; lason po ang idini-discharge ng mga factories sa paligid ng Laguna de Bay. Ano ang ginagawa po ng Laguna Lake Development Authority? Ano po ang ginagawa ng gobyerno? Hinahayaan natin na ang katubigan ay ating babuyin. Iyan po ay isang pinakamahalagang regalo sa atin ng kalikasan galing mismo sa kamay ng ating Panginoong Diyos upang ang Pilipino ay hindi maghirap kailanman. Pero ngayon, pinaghihirap tayo dulot ng kapabayaang at kaswapangan ng ilang tao na pagsamantalahan ang walang kamalay-malay na Pilipino.

So, I do not believe, Mr. Speaker, I am appealing to the honorable Sponsor, I do not believe that they have removed 2,000 hectares. You know how much 2,000 hectares would be.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Two thousand fish pens po.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi po, nabasa ko po sa diyaryo, report nila 2,000 hectares e. Sinabi nila iyan sa Committee and I protested right away. You could not remove fish pens in 2,000 hectares. Napakalaking area po noon. Baka kalahati po ng Maynila iyon. Sa kamay ng o paraan ng pagbunot ng mga kawayan—use heavy equipment para matanggal po nang mabilis iyan; kailangan may heavy equipment. Magkakaroon kayo ng heavy equipment kung humingi kayo ng pondo. Kung wala kayong pondo, wala kayong heavy equipment. Ganoon kasimple iyon, hindi ba?

So do not believe these reports; do not believe these assurances unless there are funds, necessary funds that support this commitment. Sayang po naman ang pagkakataon natin na, year in and year out, pangako dito, pangako doon. I am hoping that President Duterte will have a different outlook in his commitment to give a better life to all of us including, especially, the poor fisherfolk. Ang sabi nga niya sa kanyang first State of the Nation Address, he promised “I will remove all

these fish pens. I cannot allow our poorer fisherfolk to remain poor. I commit to the Filipino people, aalisin ko po iyan by December.” Lumagpas na po ang December, magde-December na naman, nandoon pa rin po iyong fish pens. At ipapaalala ko na lang kay Pangulo, pati po ang Manila Bay ay punung-puno na ng fish pens. Hihintayin ba nating mapunta na iyan hanggang dito sa pampang ng Maynila? That the seawall of the city of Manila ay mapuno na rin ng fish pens?

Kaya, Ginoong Tagapangulo, ako po ay nakikiusap sa ating kagalang-galang na Chairman ng Appropriations Committee na sana naman ay tingnan niya iyong mensahe ng Pangulo as contained in the budget figures that are given to us for deliberations. Hindi ko po maatim na sumang-ayon sapagkat hindi ko nakikita ang pagbabago. “The Budget that reforms and transforms”—it is just not reflected in the Budget.

We will tax our people more heavily these coming months. This Body, our Congress, has already approved the new set of taxes that will be imposed on our people. They will be expecting a lot of changes too. Lahat po ng frustrations nila sa nakaraan ay hihintayin nilang bibigyan na ng aksyon ng gobyerno ngayon. Pero kung ang ating paraan ay palakihin lamang ang budget ng PPP, perang ipinamimigay “daw,” sa palagay ko ay hindi naman nakakarating sa dapat paroroonan sapagkat wala pong nakatatanggap doon sa pinakamahirap na mahirap na pamilya. Kapag itinanong ninyo kung mayroon silang natatanggap sa gobyerno sa PPP Program ay hindi pa rin po nila natatanggap. At marami pong milagro diyari, kaya naghahintay po ako ng pagkakataon na ang pondo naman ng Department of Social Welfare ang ating pag-usapan dito, and I have many questions to ask on this program. I hope they will be ready with answers; otherwise, we will really pursue them to the very corners, section, and portions of their budget.

Mr. Speaker, at this point, we have stressed our position that the President has a message that was clearly delivered to us but the Budget as prepared does not contain the essence of the message of the President. So we continue to question the Budget in many of its sections simply because it will not answer the problems of our people.

One big issue that has exploded in our faces is the rampant smuggling at Customs. Isipin ninyo, isipin ninyong mabuti, ang buhay ng mga mamamayan ay naisasakripisyo, libu-libong tao na ang napatay sa ating paglaban sa problema ng droga. We want the President to succeed. We agree with him that actions should be taken but not at the sacrifice of the lives of innocent people—possibly of innocent people who were just made pawns in this effort to rid our nation of the problem of drugs.

Patay tayo nang patay ng mga tao. Ngayon ang mga lumalabas na problema, ang mga kabataan ang pinapatay samantalang hindi natin malaman kung ito

ay mga pusher o user. Mayroon lamang dala-dalang ilang sachet ng shabu, papatayin na. Samantalang ilang droga ang dumadaan sa Customs, dumadaan sa pier, daan-daang kilo sa loob ng mga container van na hindi man lang iniinspeksyon. Iyan po ay pagbabago? Iyan po ba ay reporma? Iyan po ba ay magta-transform sa atin sa isang maunlad na bansa na wala nang problema sa droga?

Well, sorry to disagree, again, it will really amount to nothing but an exercise in futility. And when I am advised by a 106-year-old Gentleman from Congress like Congressman Raul Daza, I am always listening. Ito pong taong ito ay kasama pa ni Andres Bonifacio. Pakinggan po natin siya. Marami po sa sinabi ko ay gusto niyang sabihin, hindi lang niya masabi.

Dito po ako nagtatapos, Mr. Speaker. Thank you very much for the opportunity to disagree with you. We do not agree that this Budget will provide the Filipinos the kind of life that is meant for all of us.

Salamat po.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Gusto ko lang—pong linawin iyong kaibahan ng 2017 Budget pati noong 2018 Budget. Noong 2017 Budget, ito po ay ipinorma at binuo gamit iyong Zero to 10-Point Socio-Economic Agenda ng administration ni President Duterte at iyong pagbabago na ginawa natin or enhancement na ginawa natin for 2018. Ito rin naman po ay sang-ayon doon sa Philippine Development Plan of 2017 to 2022 na naka-divide po sa apat na focus areas: iyong “Reducing inequality and poverty, transformation or pagbabago”; iyong, “Maintaining the foundations for inclusive and sustainable development”; iyong “Enhancing the Social Fabric or Malasakit”; pati iyong, “Patuloy na Pag-unlad or Increasing the Growth Potential.”

So, iyon lang po iyong makikita natin na angkop at swak na swak po doon sa Philippine Development Plan ng administration Duterte. Sinunod po natin dito sa 2018 Budget na ito po, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Maraming salamat, Cong. Lito Atienza.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus of GABRIELA Party-List for her interpellation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Ang Kagalang-galang na Emmi De Jesus na mula po sa GABRIELA Party-List at mula rin sa Second District ng Marikina, ang pinakamagaling na distrito ay ating kinikilala para magtanong sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor. Please proceed.

REP. DE JESUS. Maraming salamat po, kinikilala kong Kongresista ng aming lugar. Alam ko namang nakahanda ang ating Sponsor kaya didiretso na po ako sa aking katanungan.

Ang isang magandang batayan po kapag pinag-usapan talaga ang General Principles ay iyong President's Budget Message, at nabanggit na rin naman ito ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, nakapakete ito sa isang pagtanaw na magkaroon ng "Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag na Buhay." Alam ko rin po na nakabalangkas din ito doon sa AmBisyon Natin 2040, at ito ay tinatawag na transition budget.

Puwede po bang sa maikling pagbabahagi mula po sa Sponsor, paano po nabuo itong AmBisyon Natin 2040? Kasi napakahabang roadmap ito, at sa biglang tingin, maganda sana kung may strategic na pagtanaw, pero maaari po bang magkaroon ng sharing? Paano po na-formulate at ano ang mga naging batayan nitong AmBisyon Natin 2040, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, nagmula po ito sa ginawang proseso ng series of surveys, focus group discussion, pati technical discussions involving around 10,000 respondents para mabuo po iyong AmBisyon Natin 2040, na magbibigay po sa atin ng, itong nga pong tinatawag nating 25-year roadmap to progress. Doon po sa pagsusuri nila gamit itong AmBisyon Natin 2040. Doon po lumabas iyong ambisyon ng karamihan, kung hindi po lahat, ay karamihan sa ating mga mamamayang Pilipino na gusto po nila ng isang matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay.

REP. DE JESUS. Thank you for that answer. Gaano po katagal ang proseso na inabot para po doon sa mga konsultasyon dito sa 10,000 respondents?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Umabot po noong higit isang taon ang buong proseso para mailabas ang ganitong mga resulta ng pagsusuri, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DE JESUS. G. Isponsor, Mr. Speaker, ang ibig sabihin, ito pong 25-year roadmap to progress, dapat ito pong ginagawa natin ngayon na talakayan kaugnay ng prinsipyo para sa—makapag-ambag sa ambisyon na ito ang budget, ang prinsipyo dapat ng budget, iyong "Matatag, Maginhawa at Panatag," ay dapat naglilingkod dito. Tama po ba, G. Isponsor, Mr. Speaker?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Tama po iyan. So, mula po sa AmBisyon Natin 2040, ito rin po iyong naging basis ng gobyerno para buuin ang Philippine Development Plan or PDP 2017-2022. Doon po nakalagay sa Philippine Development Plan ang iba't ibang mga detalye ng mga objectives, mga targets, mga goals natin para

sa ating bansa mula 2017 hanggang 2022. Mula din po doon sa Philippine Development Plan, doon po nila binuo ang Panukalang Budget para sa 2018. So, iyon po iyong naging proseso para mabuo ang ating 2018 Panukalang Budget, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DE JESUS. G. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, iyan din iyong naging batayan noong aking mga pagpapalalim na katanungan, na ultimately, kapag sinabi po nating pag-reach doon sa pagbabago, ang magiging isang malaking sukatan niyan ay kaugnay ng Development Strategy. Tama po ba, G. Isponsor?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Totoo po iyan. Tama po iyan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DE JESUS. Kaugnay po nito, ito pong pinakamalaking problema pa rin sa kasalukuyan ng marami sa ating mamamayan ay iyong employment. Malinaw din po sa mga datos at sa haba po ng mga proseso ng dinaanan ng ating mga komite kaugnay ng pag-aaral kung ano ba ang ihahain natin sa balangkas habang nandoon tayo sa pagtalima doon sa neoliberal policies which, to this Representation, are equated with the free flow of capital at the expense of majority of the people.

At siyempre po bilang sektor ng kababaihan, talagang ang Kinatawag ito ay hinahanap po iyong lugar ng kababaihan doon sa isang produktibong papel sa lipunan at hindi rin nalalagay doon sa isang kalagayan na lalong nagluluwal ng isang kultura na ang kababaihan ay secondary labor force, na nagluluwal din ng vulnerability ng kababaihan na maging biktima ng iba't ibang anyo ng karahasan, maging ito ay dulot ng State—State policies and programs man iyan o iyong gender specific. Kaya, ang unang tanong ko po, dito po sa national budget, nagbago na ba ang diin natin sa investment promotion? Dahil doon po sa pinakamalaking inaasahan natin ay nakasandig pa po tayo sa infrastructures spending, Mr. Sponsor. Maaari po bang makuha dito ang inyong paninindigan? Ito pong pagsandig ng investment promotion sa infrastructure spending ay nakakabahala na ipasok bilang transformative program para po sa pagbibigay ng kaalwanaan o pagbabago, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Well, Mr. Speaker, pagdating po sa unemployment gusto ko lang pong linawin na iyong targets po ng ating gobyerno ay pababain ang unemployment rate mula sa current levels niya to 3 percent or up to 5 percent. In fact, ang focus natin ngayon is to create one million new jobs kada taon. Doon naman po sa areas outside of the NCR, ang emphasis din po natin will be improving iyong quality of employment at pababain ang underemployment to 16 percent.

Iyong isang malaking parte din ng unemployment ay nandito rin sa po youth unemployment. Gusto rin natin na pababain ang youth unemployment to 8 percent. Ngayon, itong infrastructure program natin, isang paraan din po iyon para matugunan at maaksonan ang problema natin na kawalan ng trabaho. Kung mapapansin po natin, infrastructure projects lead to more access roads papunta po doon sa mga areas na makakapagbigay ng trabaho. Tulad na lang po ng ating Convergence Program ng DPWH at ng Department of Tourism na siyang magbibigay ng roads leading to tourism areas, dahil alam naman po natin na ang turismo ay nakakapagbigay po ng trabaho.

Patuloy po nating gagawin iyan ngayong 2018 at mayroon din po tayong bagong program, itong ROLL IT Program, para apart from roads leading to tourist destinations, mayroon din po tayong roads leading to economic, investment, and industry destinations. Sa ganoon ay makakatulong din po iyan sa pagbibigay ng tabaho para sa ating mga kababayan lalung-lalo na sa areas outside of Metro Manila. Napakaimportante po para sa gobyerno at administrasyong ito na palaguin ang ekonomiya ng ating mga probinsiya, ng ating mga munisipyo, at ng ating mga siyudad para hindi po naka-concentrate lamang sa NCR o sa Metro Manila ang trabaho at ang mga economic opportunities para sa ating mga ...

REP. DE JESUS. Corollary to the—para po pagpapalalim pa po doon sa binanggit ninyong one milyon na trabaho kada taon or, tama po ano, six, higit sa six million bago matapos iyong term ni President Duterte. Can the good Sponsor share with this Representation and also with the Plenary, saan sa economic sector manggagaling itong binabanggit nating one million na trabaho? Kapag pinagusapan din po kasi ang trabaho diyan, papasok iyong plano rin natin doon sa suporta para tiyakin iyong sustainable na trabaho at tiyakin na iyong magtatrabaho o iyong ating manggagawa ay sasahod nang sapat at may benepisyo, may sapat na sahod, at mayroon ding karapatan doon sa loob ng kanilang paggawa.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Iyong mga sektor po na ito includes manufacturing, construction, tourism, at BPOs. Ito po iyong mga fino-focus nating sector for employment generation.

REP. DE JESUS. Ayun, G. Ispiker, Mr. Sponsor, at kapag binanggit talaga itong BPO, nakakabahala rin po ito. Ito iyong sinasabi nating magbibigay ng paglobo ng bilang ng mga employment kasi totoo naman, since 1990, papalaki ang sector o employment share ng service sector, at isa na nga rito ang BPO. Pero ayon sa datos, 35 percent na po ng BPO investment sa bansa sa first five months, just for this year, dahil po sa merger

and acquisitions, ang nagpakita na may problema na nga dito sa ating BPO na inaasahan nating magbibigay ng employment. So, with regard to the 2018 national budget, may makikita po ba tayong adjustment o suporta ng gobyerno doon sa maaaring mawalan ng trabaho na BPO employees?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mr. Speaker, kaya po nagtataka kami rito dahil all numbers show na tumataas naman iyong employment rate natin. Sa sector naman po ng BPO, tumataas rin po ang employment rate. All numbers show na tumataas iyong employment rate ng BPO, tumataas iyong pag-generate ng jobs ng BPO sector, so hindi po namin nakikita na mayroon po tayong currently na problema sa BPO sector in terms of job generation dahil tuluy-tuloy pa po iyong pagha-hire nila. In fact, tumataas nga po iyong employment na dyine-generate ng BPO sector.

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, maganda pong palalimin ito kasi kahit po doon sa direktang nakakausap namin iyon pong sandamakmak na merger and acquisition, ang isang impact talaga nito ay iyon ring pagbaba ng kalidad o halaga noong sweldo, iyon pong higit na pagbawas doon sa mga benepisyo na nakukuha noong ating BPO workers at iyon pong instability, iyon pong walang katiyakan.

Anyway, I think we have to—this Representation moves that our budget, our finance managers really look into the realities of this industry. Kaya hindi ko na po ito, on this issue—my motion is just that our economic managers really look into the realities kasi may mga natatanggap po talaga kami na mga reklamo, mga pagkabahala with regard to their security. At kung idudugtong din po rito, gusto ko rin pong i-contrapose, kasi kapag sinabi nating itong service industry na naman iyong malaki natin...

Pagdating naman po doon sa productivity ng ating mga natural resources, gusto ko rin pong malaman, sa ating polisiya, sa ating general principles—kasi noong nandito po ang DOST, nagtanong po ako doon sa ating resource persons na nagsasabi na marami silang scientific research with regard to the improvement ng pagpapataas ng possibility ng production ng ating agriculture. Kaya, ang isa rin po na gusto nating itanong, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ano po ba ang prinsipyo na kailangang tindigan ng ating economic managers para po higit na magkaroon ng productivity iyong ating, or at this point in time, na manatili pa ring pag-aaari natin ang natural resources at nasa kamay pa rin ng ating pambansang pamahalaan ang pagdedesisyon kung paano ito gagawing mas higit na produktibo? At ito po, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, sa tingin ko ay kailangang pagtuunan ng pansin kasi habang naririyang ang ating kalupaan na puwedeng gawing produktibo—ano po ang economic managers' plan with regard to making

our agriculture sector more productive and giving more opportunity to our areas where the problem talaga ay kagutuman, G. Isponsor.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mr. Speaker, kasama rin po sa mandato ng Department of Science and Technology ang pag-aaral kung paano magiging mas produktibo ang ating mga natural resources, kasama na iyong sa agrikultura. So, ang DOST, mayroon din silang research and development focus para po tulungan din iyong agriculture sa pagpapalago at pagdevelop ng agricultural productivity. Ang Department of Agriculture, also by itself, mayroon din po silang mandato to increase agricultural productivity within the country, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DE JESUS. So, thank you for that answer.

This Representation's position with regard to the plan to enhance the productivity of our natural resources—ang sinasabi po kasi ng DOST, iyong scientific researches na mayroon na sila ay something that we should really take into account. Paano po ba natin iyan bibigyan ng budget? Kasi kapag sinabi po nating nag-budget tayo sa research, with regard to productivity, tapos hindi naman natin bibigyan ng budget ang implementation, ang plano nila para doon sa pagtugon, doon sa paglutas, sa pag-resolve ng problems of productivity in agriculture—I think this Representation will push na sana po bago natin aprubahan ang budget na ito, kapag pinag-usapan na iyong development strategy, tingnan nang maigi iyong kombinasyon noong sinasabi nating pagtitiyak ng pagbuwelo ng industry, na hindi po iyan lang bubuwelo, kung hindi bubuwelo rin ang ating agrikultura. Ang nakakabahala kung aasa lang tayo nang aasa doon sa ating industry na service, na alam natin na hindi ito iyong sustainable.

Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, gusto ko po ring i-pursue iyong pagdating din naman po dito doon sa Build, Build, Build na pangunahing tutungtungan din ng ating budget na kukunin nga doon sa TRAIN, ito po ay dumaan na rin sa mahabang talakayan at sa bahagi po ng Representasyong ito, at sa bahagi ng aming sektor at ng grupo ng Makabayan, ito pong TRAIN ay nakikita namin na talagang sasagasa. Iyong binanggit po ni Secretary Diokno during the DBCC budget hearing, pagdating po doon sa right of acquisitions, talagang iyong paliwanag na bibigyan na lang o babayaran iyong mga masasagasaan.

Ito po, very specific na gusto kong malaman, magkano po ang inilalaan doon sa right-of-way funds bilang payment doon sa mga property owners na sasagasaan po nitong infrastructure projects na ito?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Bago ko po sagutin, Mr. Speaker, iyong katanungan regarding sa right-

of-way, gusto ko lang din pong i-point out na doon po sa research and development para po sa increased productivity ng ating natural resources, lalung-lalo na sa agriculture, mayroon po tayong nakalaan na P1.3 billion for DOST's ...

REP. DE JESUS. Million po o billion?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mayroong P1.3 billion...

REP. DE JESUS. Billion.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). ...para sa DOST's Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development to produce climate-resilient plant varieties. Ito pong Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources for Research and Development, mayroon din po tayong nakalaan na P353 million to expand their research on post-harvest losses covering additional species of sardines and tuna in Central Luzon, MIMAROPA, Western Visayas, and CARAGA, at para rin po sa research and development of the National Stock Assessment Program-Reproductive Biology Assessment (NSAP-RBA) that will contribute to the establishment of the research framework and standardization of the methodologies for the freshwater stock assessment and assessment of commodity invertebrate species.

Mayroon din po tayong P243 million pesos na nakalaan para sa Forest Products Research and Development Institute to look into the processing and utilization of senile and unproductive rubberwood para sa school furniture, mouldings, and joinery products. Dito po sa Postharvest Facilities and Mechanization, mayroon din po tayong 4.2 billion to increase the production of agricultural crops by providing additional rice processing centers, storage facilities, tractors, hauling trucks, and combine harvesters and transplanter para po sa Department of Agriculture.

With regard doon sa payment for right-of-way, para po sa maaapektuhan ng Build, Build, Build infrastructure program natin, mayroon tayong nakalaan na P56.481 billion for right-of-way para lamang po sa DPWH, para sa kanilang infrastructure programs, iyong right-of-way para po sa implementation doon.

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ibig sabihin, kasama na rin po rito iyong allocation para bayaran po iyong mga maaapektuhang madadaanan.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes.

REP. DE JESUS. Is that correct, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes. Right-of-way includes ...

REP. DE JESUS. Oo. Siyempre naman, ano, lagi rin naman doon sa mga talakayan, bitbit namin iyong isyu pa rin ng resettlement na sinasabing io-offer dito sa mga madadaanan. Kaya lang, katulad na rin po ng nabanggit kanina ng unang interpellator, kapag tiningnan ninyo naman po talaga iyong budget sa housing ng NHA na siya ang dapat nangangasiwa doon sa socialized housing, nakakabahala.

Kaya itinatala pa rin po ng Representasyong ito na kapag sinabi po nating Build, Build, Build, talagang kung ilang libong mamamayan na naman ang maaapektuhan. At lalong nakakabahala bilang mga collateral victim ng ganitong mga proyekto na resettlement ang ino-offer. Pero kapag sinabi rin po kasing resettlement, hindi iyan simple. Nangangahulugan iyan ng pagtanggap doon sa kanilang matagal nang kinalakhang lugar kung saan doon din ang source ng kanilang kabuhayan, edukasyon ng kanilang mga anak at serbisyong malapit. Kaya gusto pong itala ng Representasyong ito na kapag pinag-usapan iyan at idudugtong ko na rin po iyong kasunod na isyu na kaugnay ng President's Message, iyong ensuring security, public order and safety. Ito talaga iyong laging pinag-uusapan hindi lamang sa media kasi minsan, ang media, sinasabihan na exaggerated. Pero pumunta po kayo sa mga komunidad at kahit sumakay kayo ng pampublikong sasakyan, pinag-uusapan po talaga itong isyu ng security, public order and safety.

Gusto ko pong idugtong, habang namomroblema tayo, saan nga ba—kapag na-push natin iyong budget para sa social housing, tulungan itong resettlement, ito pong P900 million na Oplan Double Barrel Reloaded, sa akin, ang tawag ko rito ay napaka-anti-poor na prinsipyo na bibitbitin natin. Naglalagay tayo ng budget na sa kalakaran po o sa nakaraang taon ng implementasyon ng war against drugs, napatunayan na iyon pong libong namatay o napatay na nanlaban daw, talaga naman pong ito ay galing sa mga komunidad ng mahihirap.

Ito po ang gustong itala ng Representasyong ito. If we are to talk about security, public order and safety, sa tingin po namin, hindi malulutas dito ang mga programang nilalaanan pa natin ng napakalaking budget, ang Oplan Double Barrel, na noon pong nagtanong tayo kay General Dela Rosa doon sa Appropriations hearing, at tinanong natin kung sa tingin niya iyong statement ng ating Presidente na hindi talaga malulutas ng operasyon kahit sa loob ng anim na taon iyong paglutas sa war on drugs, nag-oo si General Dela Rosa.

Kaya ang gusto ko pong kunin ay iyong paninindigan ng ating economic managers. Bakit pa tayo maglalagay ng malaking halagang P900 million at itutuloy ito kung pinatunayan na hindi ito—and, in fact, na-complicate pa ito ng napakaraming o naglabas pa ito ng napakaraming komplikadong problema na ang gulu-gulo na.

Ang paninindigan po namin, mayroon tayong Build, Build, Build na maaapektuhan iyong ating mga

mahihirap na mamamayan. Bakit hindi na lang ilagay iyong mga ganitong budget doon po sa pagtitiyak at pagdadagdag doon sa budget para doon sa mga maaapektuhan nating mamamayan na, sa totoo lang, iyong resettlement pa lang ay nakakabahala na. Pero sa minimum po, paano po ba natin titiyakin na malalagay sa mabuting kalagayan itong ating mga mahihirap na mamamayan?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Well, Mr. Speaker, gaya po ng sinabi ko, mayroon pa pong naiwang P41 billion sa NHA mula sa mga Unreleased Appropriations and Unobligated Allotments nila. So, napakalaking halaga po iyan, ang P41 billion, kung ikukumpara natin sa ibang programa ng gobyerno tulad ng, sabihin natin, iyong Oplan Double Barrel, na gaya po ng sinabi ng Kinatawan ng GABRIELA Party-List, ay P900 million. So, hindi naman po natin nakakalimutan iyong ating Resettlement Program, nandiyan pa po iyan na pondo na P91 bilyon para sa NHA for the Resettlement Program. At gaya ng nabanggit ko na, mayroon pa pong P50 plus bilyon para sa road right-of-way na nagagamit din para sa Resettlement Program sa mga maaaring maaapektuhan ng ating infrastructure projects.

Ngayon, ito naman pong anti-illegal drugs campaign na sinasabing anti-poor, ang palagay ko naman po dito, importanteng ipagpatuloy ang krusada natin laban sa iligal na droga dahil alam ninyo po, ang kadalasan na nagiging biktima ng illegal drugs ay nandoon po sa sektor ng mga mahihirap. At kapag sinabi ko pong biktima, ito na nga po ang pag nandoon po umiiral sa isang komunidad ang isang drug lord o mga drug pusher na naghari-hari sa kalsada, tiyak po iyong mga mahihirap natin na mga kababayan ang walang kalaban-laban sa ganoong klaseng mga drug lord at drug pusher. In fact, nagiging biktima din po sila dahil maaaring sila po ay inaalok o pinupuwersang pumasok na rin sa illegal drugs. Inaabuso rin po iyong mga mahihirap na mga illegal drug dealer. Kaya nga po importante na ipagpatuloy natin iyong anti-illegal drugs campaign natin para bigyan ng sapat na proteksiyon ang ating mga mahihirap na kababayan—proteksiyon kontra at laban sa organized crime groups, drug groups, drug gangs, anti-illegal drug groups. Kinakailangan po din natin silang bigyan ng sapat na safety and security laban at kontra sa mga criminal group na ito.

Gusto ko rin pong ipaliwanag na mula sa budget ng DILG at ng Philippine National Police, tayo po ay magke-create at magha-hire ng karagdagang 10,000 police officers, Police Officer 1—mayroon tayong capacity enhancement para sa ating mga kapulisan. Magdadagdag din po tayo ng additional police stations and provincial offices para sa mga pulis. Mayroon din po tayong construction of new jail facilities, hiring of new jail guards, at increased allowance para sa ating

mga kapulisan, mga men in uniform, at mayroon din po tayong karagdagan support para sa drug enforcement group ng PNP.

Ang mga target na gusto nating mangyari are a number of patrols, ng police patrols conducted by foot at dadagdagan ng 5 percent ang number of patrols conducted by foot, dadagdagan iyong number of patrols conducted by mobile cars by 5 percent, at makikita rin natin ang decrease in crime rate by 5 percent, and the arrest of high-value targets or most wanted persons—ang target po natin ay aakyat din po ito ng 5 percent, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, una, gusto ko pong magpasalamat sa G. Isponsor dahil lumalabas, ina-appreciate ko po yaong pagkilala niya at paggamit niya ng salitang “biktima” kaugnay noong ating mga mahihirap na, sabi nga, mismong sila ay binibigyan ng droga at sila mismo ang pinagkakakitaan nitong menace na ito at the expense of pagwasak na nga talaga noong communities hanggang buhay ano. At gusto ko rin pong itala, lalung-lalo na bilang Kinatawan ng sektor ng kababaihan, talaga pong mahigpit ang aming pakikipagkaisa dito sa krusada laban po sa war on drugs. Pero ang itinatala ko rin po, sana hindi po ang programa na gagamitin ay iyon pong one-track mind na nakita na natin sa karanasan na hanggang wala rin pong reorientation ang humahawak ng public order and safety natin o ang kapulisan, talaga pong magpapatuloy ang ganitong attitude at pananalanta doon sa sinasabi nga po nating biktima. Kaya, kinikilala ko po na mahalaga ang krusadang iyan. Kinikilala ko rin po na patuloy ang victimization. Pero naninindigan pa rin po ako na pag pinag-usapan ang budget, sana po higit na paglaanan iyong mga programa na magtitiyak ng pag-aresto o iyong ugat ng paglaganap ng droga. Iyon po ang higit na dapat paglaanan natin. At kung mayroon mang naging biktima lalo na sa hanay ng kabataan, ang pinakamaganda pong paglaanan ng programa ay rehabilitasyon. Ito pong mga kabataang ito na sinasabi natin at nagkakaisa tayo na sila ay nagiging biktima, sila po ang puwede pang bigyan ng magandang kinabukasan.

So, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ito po iyong nais kong maging panawagan dito sa ating economic managers doon sa pinal na pag-a-apportion na ano ba ang dapat nating batayan habang tayo ay magkakaisa sa krusada. Pero ano pa ba ang makaaaresto sa ganitong krusada at pag-uugat at pagta-target doon sa talagang may malaking kinalaman.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mr. Speaker, nandoon po sa budget natin sa Department of Health iyong nakalaan na pondo para sa drug rehabilitation. In fact, noong itong taon na ito, 2017, mayroon din nga po tayong nakalaan na pondo para sa construction ng mga mega drug rehab centers. Pero ito po ay mga private sector initiatives na

nag-construct ng mga mega drug rehab center sa iba't ibang bahagi po ng ating kapuluan.

So, nakikita din po natin na tuluy-tuloy po iyong suporta ng pribadong sektor dito sa krusada natin kontra illegal na droga. Sila na nga po ang nag-construct ng mga mega drug rehab center, at nagpapasalamat po tayo dahil po diyan. At dahil nakatayo na po iyong mga mega drug rehab center natin, ngayong 2018 ay nag-allot po tayo ng pondo para sa pagpapatakbo po nito para tuluyang matulungan ang ating mga kabataan na pumasok sa illegal drugs. Iyong naging users ng illegal drugs ay ma-rehabilitate po natin sila para maging productive citizens sila ng ating bansa. Hindi naman po tayo nawawalan ng pag-asa na pagkatapos ng rehabilitation nila ay maibabalik po natin sila sa communities, sa kanilang mga pamilya at mananatili silang mga productive citizen ng ating bayan.

REP. DE JESUS. Maraming salamat po sa sagot ng ating G. Isponsor. Sana po ano, kasi nga that is exactly my point. Bagamat ito ay collective effort kasama ang private sector, my point is, iyon po mismong manggagaling sa ating national budget ang ating—sana dagdagan ang budget doon sa pag-address dito sa war on drugs na hindi nakapatungkol lamang doon sa police project.

Last na po, dahil mukhang marami na pong oras na ilalaan pa iyong para sa iba pa po, isa na lamang pong katanungan. Kasi dito po sa President's Budget Message, napakahalaga po nito para sa Representasyong ito—Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice. Kasi sa lahat din po ng mga committee na may pagkakataon tayong itanong na pag pinag-usapan talaga itong budget sa Pursuing Swift and Fair Administration of Justice, alam po siguro ng lahat iyong kalagayan na malaking problema po ito at problema na naman ito ng mga mahihirap kasi may mga napakarami nating detention center na kahit ang mga petty crime, nagtatagal diyan ng mga anim na taon, walong taon at dahil hindi lang umaandar ay na-serve na nila iyong supposedly sentence nila. Tapos, tiningnan ko rin po iyong budget natin, naglagay pa tayo ng budget na, itatanong ko po, very specific, why is there a need for a budget to construct a new Supreme Court na sa isang lugar po, na ang tingin namin ay hindi accessible, dito po sa loob ng Fort Bonifacio complex.

So, kung puwede pong idugtong na iyong kasagutan with regard to delivery of justice at saka po iyong specific question ko kaugnay ng Supreme Court budget na lililipat pa. Ano po ba ang rationale dito?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Kasi, Mr. Speaker, kinakailangan ng Supreme Court na lumipat dahil iyong kung saan sila kasalukuyang nag-oopisina ngayon ay hindi po property ng Supreme Court. So, hindi nila property iyong kasalukuyang lugar ng Supreme Court ngayon, doon po sa Taft. Kaya nga po may budget

pong naka-set aside para po sa paglipat nila dito po sa new Supreme Court complex in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

REP. DE JESUS. Siguro po ang habol na lang ng Representasyong ito, if that is the case, siguro iyon pong paglilipatan ay, una sa tingin ko, hindi ganoon ka-accessible doon sa mga mamamayan na mag-a-avail sana for whatever reason kasi iyan nga iyong luklukan ng pinakamataas nating Korte.

Kahit iyong imahe ng opulence noong nasa loob, wala na bang ibang solution? Pero ito ay ibinabato ko na lamang doon if there is still any solution on that issue. But, I think, I am more concerned with the issue on budgeting the delivery of swift and fair administration of justice na problema po ito sa kasalukuyan at sana po sa pagre-review ng ating economic managers dahil dito mismo sa mensahe, dito po sa President's Budget Message, talagang isa po itong napakalaking issue lalung-lalo na doon sa mga mamamayan na naghahangad talaga ng katarungan.

So, with that Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, dito ko po tinatapos ang aking interpellation.

Maraming salamat po.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Maraming salamat. Gusto ko lang pong idagdag, Mr. Speaker, na kasama po sa mga target natin iyong sa Public Attorney's Office na ma-achieve natin iyong target na one-is-to-one public attorney to court ratio. Magke-create tayo ng mga new jail officer. Magke-create din po tayo ng karagdagang Halls of Justices' buildings, at marami pa pong ibang mga target natin dito sa ilalim po ng swift and fair administration of justice, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Tom S. Villarín of AKBAYAN Party-List for his interpellation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo.). The honorable AKBAYAN Representative, Tom Villarín, is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, future Mayor of Marikina. Thank you, Floor Leader.

Would the good Sponsor yield to some questions?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). It would be my honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Would the good Sponsor yield to some questions?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, gladly.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, it will not be that long, Mr. Speaker. I will just make this brief.

As we are discussing budgeting principles, I would just like to enumerate for the good Sponsor with regard to the key elements of the budget. One, a budget should be purposive enough, meaning, it should be bold and noble, not short-term insight, but it should be long-term and strategic. Second, the budget should have values that promote, meaning, the values that we would put in this budgeting process system should be more for the respect of human rights, the rights of our people. Third, the principle of being transparent in our budget process that all the funds, the P3.7 trillion that we would be spending, would not go to waste, that the people should have a look into it. Fourth, the principle of accountability—building systems and mechanisms wherein it should not be just Congress that provides oversight but it should be intrinsic to all agencies. They should have accountability mechanisms. And lastly, I think a budget should be one that is inclusive in which stakeholders are made to participate not just in the processes but also in the decision-making that accompanies such processes.

So, would the good Sponsor say that this proposed budget would fall under these five principles I have enumerated?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. As mentioned earlier, when the government came up with this budget, iyong proseso po nito is dumaan po ito sa series of consultations, kung saan mayroong surveys and caucus group discussions na ginawa through the AmBisyon Natin 2040 na process po na ginawa nila. So, through surveys, caucus group discussions and technical studies, they were able to come up with the AmBisyon Natin 2040. Mula sa AmBisyon Natin 2040, gumawa po tayo ng Philippine Development Plan 2017 to 2022. After the Philippine Development Plan, ito na nga po, ginawa iyong proposed budget na following what was already written down doon sa Philippine Development Plan 2017 to 2022. So, in terms of long term, this is long term, it is deliberately crafted in order to bring us to our goals for 2022 up to 2040. Iyong values po, pasok din po dito sa budget kasi gaya ng sinabi ko, noong ginawa po itong budget na ito, it was based on the values such as “malasakit, pagbabago” and all of the values that have been stated and studied under the AmBisyon Natin 2040 Survey.

It is transparent because, as you can see, it has gone through the series of deliberations by Members of the House. It was open to the media. It is open to everyone. Itong ginagawa nating deliberations mula sa

Committee hanggang sa plenary ay transparent naman po sa lahat at iyong budget presentation itself is very transparent. Nakikita mo kung ano iyong objectives at targets natin, magkano ang nakalaan, line item, nandiyan po.

In terms of accountability, gaya ng sinabi natin, of course, the budget process, kasama na po sa pagsusuri natin ng budget iyong COA Reports. Tinitingnan po natin iyong COA Reports ng bawat ahensiya ng gobyerno kung paano nila ginastos iyong kanilang budget noong mga nakaraang taon. Tinitingnan natin iyong absorptive capacity niya. Tinitingnan natin iyong spending patterns. Mayroon tayong statement of allocations and obligations, sinisilip din natin iyan.

In terms of being inclusive, gaya ng sinabi ko, dumaaan ito sa proseso ng AmBisyon Natin 2040. Mayroon tayong a lot of discussions, tayo, as Representatives of the people, nirerepresentahan natin ang ating mga distrito at sektor. Kasama tayo rito sa budget na ito at huwag nating kalimutan na sa pag-craft ng budget, dumadaan po ito sa Regional Development Councils or RDCs; ang Municipal Development Councils, ang MDCs; hanggang sa Barangay Development Councils, kasama din po ito sa pagka-craft natin ng kabuuan ng Panukalang Budget para sa 2018, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you for that answer, good Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

Well, again, I would also like to raise certain concerns with regard to the budget. As I know, this is a 12.4-percent increase for the present budget, and almost around P700 billion, I think, would like to be raised from new taxes and, of course, borrowings.

With these pump-priming activities, the focus would be on infrastructure development as what was stated, it is a Build, Build, Build budget. In this Build, Build, Build scheme, the main challenge is not just the absorptive capacities of our agencies, but also it will be reflective of how development will impact upon the poor. So, again, this Representation of AKBAYAN would like to raise concerns with regard to infrastructure projects that would affect the poor. Would this budget be considerate and would look into the effects of this heavy infrastructure development spending?

For one, again, in Metro Manila and urban centers, those that will be directly affected would be the informal settler families. Is there a comprehensive, cohesive plan to involve all the informal settler families in all these infrastructure buildings considering that given the timetable for doing infra projects—maiksi lang ho iyan, gusto kaagad na mag-start na ng build, pero iyong proseso ng pag-relocate ho, pag-resettle ng ating informal settlers ay hindi rin ho ganoon kadali. So, I am just wondering if there is a comprehensive and in-sync approach to Build, Build, Build to mitigate the effects on the informal settler families. It is not just

the budget per se but how we address these concerns not just on settlement but also on livelihood and basic service delivery.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Gaya ng nabanggit na po natin kaninang madaling araw, sa infrastructure projects natin, mayroon naman po tayong right-of-way na puwedeng paggamitan para sa relocation ng mga informal settlers to ensure na mayroon tayong assistance para sa kanila, at may pabahay program din po tayo sa kanila. Kasama rin po natin doon ang NHA dito po sa pagre-relocate at pagsisiguro na may pabahay po tayo sa mga informal settlers na maaaring maapektuhan ng mga infrastructure projects ng ating pamahalaan. So, that is taken into consideration, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you for that. I raised that question because right now, we have around 100 families' houses being demolished in Navotas and they have nowhere to go. So, people are wondering if all these development really impact on them. That is a very specific concern, good Sponsor, but I am just raising that because these people, they are people, they are now in the streets, they have nowhere to go. There are other informal settler families who are being evicted from their settlements now because development supposedly is coming to their area. So, these are the very real issues that, again, we want to be resolved and perhaps in the implementation of these projects, they should be involved.

Now, on another issue, I am very concerned about the issue of peace in Mindanao, peace in general. This is focused more on providing the human security for our people. Would this budget be responsive to the call for negotiating a comprehensive peace settlement with the CCP-NPA-NDF, the MILF, and other groups that should we say...

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mayroon po tayong OPAPP, iyong Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process, so tuluy-tuloy pa po iyong trabaho nila when it comes to negotiating for peace, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, I am concerned about that because I think the thinking right now is that, okay, the peace process can be had later. What we should do is just Build, Build, Build so we will build a Mindanao railway system, we will put in infrastructure, roads to the outermost provinces and barangays but again, I think, peace is not just infrastructure; it is not just bringing in the goods to these very remote areas but it is a peace wherein people are discussing and having a dialogue, and there is a specific political settlement that should be resolved in a given timetable. So, do you think that an inclusive peace can be addressed or can we have an inclusive peace within the next few months or years under this administration?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Well, we are hopeful. Iyan naman ang pangarap natin, na magkaroon tayo ng just and lasting peace. Gusto ko lang din i-point out na under the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace Process or iyong OPAPP, iyon po iyong kanyang sector outcome or objective—just and lasting peace attained. Kaya nga po iyong outcome na sinusuri natin, ang outcome na gusto nating mangyari mula sa OPAPP is magkaroon ng negotiated political settlement of all internal armed conflicts.

Ito ay very clear. Nasa General Appropriations Bill na pinag-uusapan natin, written in black and white kung ano ang magiging organizational outcome ng OPAPP kasama na rin po diyan ang peace promotion and delivery of government services in conflict-affected areas kaya nga po makikita ninyo na mayroong projects and programs ang OPAPP dahil po ito ay para sa delivery of government services that will promote peace in that area. Ang mga outcome indicators natin para sa OPAPP include the Comprehensive Agreements for the final peace agreement, kasama dito iyong delivery of government services in conflict-affected areas that will promote peace. So, Mr. Speaker, ang ibig lang po nating sabihin, mayroong isang opisina, ang OPAPP, na hanggang ngayon, patuloy na nagne-negotiate at patuloy na nagsisikap na ma-attain natin ang just and lasting peace.

REP. VILLARIN. Well, thank you for that again, good Sponsor, Mr. Speaker. I do hope that we would attain that sustainable peace, that lasting peace that we want so that all our development efforts would be doubled or, in a way, it would really be beneficial to the whole country.

Now, my last point, Mr. Speaker, good Sponsor, would be this concern, this issue on the matter of this shift—the Build, Build, Build, and the PPP. I raised this during the DBCC briefing and again, I would like to note that the good Secretary of NEDA, Ernesto Pernia, already wrote and responded to my request. I would no longer raise these issues pertaining to the concerns about the cost recovery policy and revenue accounting approaches under the PPP scheme, and now, with the Build, Build, Build. I raised these concerns, mainly as a matter of policy and that the revenues projected in a PPP and the Build, Build, Build scheme should have some sort of a comparative look.

So, again, thank you for the response, and I would study this matter, and perhaps, in other forums, I could again raise certain follow-up questions with regard to these policies on infrastructure development.

With that, Mr. Sponsor, good Speaker, I would like to terminate my interpellation.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would just like to assure the good Gentleman that this government and this administration has not forsaken or let go of the idea of the PPP projects and programs.

Nandiyan pa rin po iyong PPP. In fact, the government is open to unsolicited bids for PPP projects. Iyon lang, nakikita lang ng administration na ito na kung may pera naman po tayo para i-construct iyong mga infra projects na kinakailangan ng ating bansa, then, we can just go ahead and construct dahil po mas mabilis kung tayo po iyong gagawa, kasi kung idadaan pa natin sa PPP projects, mayroon pong delay doon sa implementation. But that is not to say that the government is altogether abandoning the PPP concept. In fact, we are encouraging unsolicited proposals for PPP, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Thank you.

Yes, the Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Gentleman from BAYAN MUNA Party-List, Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, for his interpellation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Quimbo). Ang kagalang-galang na Representante ng BAYAN MUNA, ang number one Party-List sa siyudad ng Marikina, ay kinikilala po. Please proceed.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker. Magandang umaga ho sa ating lahat. Sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, magandang umaga muli.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Good morning.

REP. ZARATE. Maaari po bang magtanong sa ating Sponsor.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). It will be an honor, Mr. Speaker, lalung-lalo na mula sa isang Kinatawan na mula sa Davao City.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po. Ako po ay nagalak at naunang nagsalita kanina ang Kinatawan ng BUHAY, si Congressman Atienza, at nailatag niya ang ilang punto sa usapin ng budget. At sa kabuuan, ang pananaw na ang budget na ito ay taliwas sa sinasabing ito ay for reforms and transformation, sa amin pong palagay at pagtingin ay ito ay muling magpapahirap sa ating mamamayan sa kabuuan.

Ang atin pong presentasyon at deliberasyon ng budget para sa susunod na taon ay mayroon—kung pipili ako ng tatlong tampok na aking narinig sa taong ito, una po, noong DBCC presentation ay narinig natin na sinabing ang ating bansa raw ay hindi na agrikultural na bansa, kaya napakaliit naman, ganoon na lang ang ibinigay na pondo para sa ating sektor ng agrikultura.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Quimbo relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Mylene J. Garcia-Albano.

Pangalawa, habang tuluy-tuloy ang ating debate, nalalaman nating sa susunod na taon, mahigit P3 trilyong budget na ito, halos P4 na trilyon, kukunin ito sa mga panibagong buwis na ipapataw sa ating mamamayan, dahil sa katotohanan, tuluy-tuloy naman na ang ating budget ay palobo ito nang palobo pero kulang na kulang ang ating pondo at kung hindi man sa utang manggagaling ito, ito ay kukunin sa panibagong buwis. At ito nga ang sasagasa, mayroong isang TRAIN na sasagasa sa mamamayan sa susunod na taon dahil dito kukunin ang malaking pondo para sa tinatawag na Build, Build, Build.

Pangatlo, Mme. Speaker, nitong huli, nasabi rin dito ang sa kasalukuyang pabagsak ng value ng ating peso kumpara sa dolyar. At sa halip na mabahala, ang sinasabi ng ating economic managers, ito ay mabuti para sa ating ekonomiya. Ito po ay nakakabahala dahil alam naman natin na kapag patuloy na bumulusok ang value ng peso, ibig sabihin nito ay malaki ang epekto nito sa ating ekonomiya. Habang nag-uusap tayo ng trilyun-trilyong budget, habang lumalaki iyong pondo, halimbawa, sa giyera laban sa droga, Double-Barrel Reloaded, panibagong P900 million para sa susunod na taon, halos P1 bilyon, tuluy-tuloy naman nating tinatapyasan ang mga pondo para sa pangunahing serbisyo publiko, halimbawa, ng mga pampublikong ospital. Habang palaki nang palaki ang ginugugol natin sa nangyayaring giyera ngayon sa Mindanao, binibigyan natin ng maliit, ng katiting o kung hindi man ay walang budget ang mga ahensiya para sana sa mga pabahay.

So, iyon ang buod ng budget na ito, Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, na ating nakita. At kung ito ay sinasabing papunta sa reporma at transpormasyon ng ating bayan, mukhang napakalayo po ang mga katagang iyan sa katotohanan. Bilang paglalalatag ng mga puntong iyan, ako po ay magtatanong doon sa General Provisions on this budget, bagamat parang nahuhuli na ito.

Una ko hong katanungan, Mme. Speaker, ay doon ho sa usapin ng Availability of Appropriations. Kapansin-pansin na sa taon ngayon, sa panukalang budget para sa susunod na taon, ang Release and Use of Funds ay nilimatahan na lamang natin ng isang taon hanggang December 31, 2018. Kaiba ito doon sa panukala o naaprubahan ng Kagawaran ng Kongreso noong 2017 na binigyan natin ng dalawang taon na available iyong pondo para magamit ng mga ahensiya, bagamat nagkaroon din ito ng conditional or veto from the President, na sinabi niya na ito ay dapat gamitin ng mga ahensiya sa loob lamang ng isang taon.

Doon din sa usapin ng savings, may napansin tayo na although magkakapareho sa esensiya pero magkakaiba-iba ang partikular na probisyon ng 2017

General Appropriations Act at ang nakalagay dito sa 2018 NEP as defined in the General Provisions.

So, ang unang tanong ko, Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ay the General Provisions, Section 59, it says that the availability of appropriations will only be until the end of 2018 or December 31, 2018. And, may I inquire, what is the purpose of deviating from the previous provision or the practice of allowing the availability of the fund for two years, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mme. Speaker, totoo po iyong sinabi ng Kinatawan ng BAYAN MUNA Party-List na klarung-klaro po dito sa 2018 panukalang budget natin, nakalagay po talaga dito na one year lang po ang availability ng appropriations ng 2018 Budget. Hindi tulad noong nakaraang taon, nakaraang budget, sinubukan po natin na gawing two years, ngunit nsubject po siya ng conditional veto ng ating Pangulo. Ang mensahe po ng Ehekutibo para sa atin at tayo naman po ay sumasang-ayon, kailangan na po talaga nating lagyan ng disiplina ang ating mga ahensiya at departamento sa paggamit nila ng pondong inilaan natin o ilalaan natin para sa kanila para sa susunod na taon. Ibig pong sabihin nito ay napansin po natin na noong ginagawa noong nakaraang administrasyon ang two-year availability of appropriations, napansin po natin na ang mga ahensiya at departamento ay hindi po naging ganoon ka-urgent para sa kanila ang paggastos ng pondong nakalaan para sa kani-kanilang mga opisina at ang naging resulta nga po nito ay iyong tinatawag nating underspending. At ang naging resulta nga po nitong kultura ng underspending ay napansin po natin na pagdating noong expiration noong ikalawang taon, iyong second year after the expiration of the budget, naging kultura rin po ang pagre-revert ng napakalaking pondo pabalik doon po sa National Treasury. Itong ganitong klaseng kultura ay gusto na nating tapusin dito sa administrasyong ito. Dapat ay mas maging responsible at disiplinado ang mga opisina, ahensiya at departamento ng gobyerno na kung anuman ang pera o pondong inilaan para sa kanila na inaprubahan ng Kongreso, dapat gamitin agad nila dahil po kapag hindi nila ginagamit ito, ang taumbayan din natin ang siyang nagsa-suffer noong consequences at hindi nakararating sa ating mga taumbayan ang dapat na mga programang makakatulong po sa kanila.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po G. Isponsor, Mme. Speaker, pero hindi po ba sinabi na rin ng ating Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, na isa talaga sa malaking problema rin ng mga kagawaran at mga ahensiya ay ang usapin hindi lamang sa paggugol ng pondo, the manner of spending, but even their absorptive capacity. Taun-taon po pabalik-balik itong sinasabing problema, the absorptive capacity of different agencies and departments. Hindi po ba kung mas lalo nating paliliitin ang iyong availability

ng pondo magmula sa dalawang taon ay isang taon ay mas lalong mahihirapan ang ating mga ahensya dahil po sa usapin pa lamang ng halimbawa kung ito ay Capital Outlays, sa pag-aanunso pa lamang ng pagbibid sa preparation nito, sabi noong ibang mga ahensya, it took several months and, finally, noong handa na silang maimplementa ito, ubos na iyong isang taon, at eventually, hindi na rin naimplementa iyong proyekto at mga programa. Ano po ang masasabi ng ating Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Well, Mme. Speaker, palagay ko po at ako ay naniniwala kapag ginawa po nating one year ang availability of appropriations ay mape-pressure talaga ang departments, offices and agencies to really spend their budget within one year at dahil mape-pressure natin sila nang ganito ay naniniwala naman ako na talagang uubusin nila, gagastusin talaga nila ang pondo, sa ganoong paraan, pipilitin nilang gastusin ang pondong inilaan sa kanila at ang magbebenepisyo po nito ay ang ating taumbayan. Hindi na po sila mabibitin sa mga programa, at mga proyektong dapat at para sa kapakanan po nila.

Ngayon, ang pangalawang benefit na makukuha natin dito ay talagang malalaman na talaga natin, finally, once and for all, kung ano talaga ang tunay na absorptive capacity ng isang departamento, ahensya or opisina ng gobyerno. Sa two-year validity kasi, Mme. Speaker, maaaring hindi pa talaga natin ma-test kung ano ba talaga ang lebel ng kanilang absorptive capacity or kung hanggang saan ba talaga ang kaya nilang gastusin na kuwarta o pondo ng gobyerno. Pero, kami ay naniniwala na kapag nilimitahan natin to one year, mas makukuha natin iyong accurate absorptive capacity ng lahat ng ahensya at departamentong ito. Sa ganoong pamamaraan, malalaman natin at mas maga-guide pa ang Kongresong ito sa susunod na mga budget seasons natin, at makukuha talaga natin na hanggang dito lang talaga ang lebel na kayang gawin or ma-absorb ng isang departamento, so alam talaga natin na sobra po diyan, hindi na po niya talaga kaya.

Ngayon, hindi ko naman din sinasabi na basta-basta na lang po natin iiwanan at hindi tututukan ang mga departamento na iyan pagdating po sa implementasyon ng budget sa 2018. Tungkulin po natin ang mag-exercise ng ating oversight functions. So, ang DBM din ay nagko-commit na tuluyang tututukan din po daw nila ang pag-monitor ng paggastos ng pondo ng 2018 ng lahat ng mga opisina ng gobyerno. So, magtutungan po tayo dito sa Kongreso in exercising our oversight functions, pati ang DBM. Tulungan natin ang pagtutok at pagmo-monitor natin ng paggastos ng pera ng iba't ibang ahensya at departamento ng gobyerno, at ako po ay naniniwala na sa ganoong paraan, wala pong masasayang sa pondong ibibigay natin sa iba't ibang mga opisina ng ating pamahalaan.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

Kung susundin ang kasalukuyang panukala, na isang taon na lamang na available iyong pondo, kung hindi ho ito magawa ng mga ahensya, mayroon ho bang mga consequences para sa kanila, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Ang consequences po niyan ay mararamdaman nila sa susunod na budget. Tatapyasan po natin kung nakita natin na hindi nila kayang i-absorb ang ganitong halaga, then sa susunod na budget season, hindi na natin bibigyan ng ganoong klaseng pondo. In fact, babawasan po natin ang pondo po nila.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat po.

Sa katunayan ay ginagawa na ng DBM iyan ngayon. In fact, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, iyan iyong naging tugon ninyo sa ating talakayan din kaninang umaga kung bakit, halimbawa, ang usapin ng housing ngayong taon, kung hindi ako nagkakamali, ay mayroon silang P8 billion—P6 to P8 billion, pero sa susunod na taon, ang buong Ahensya ng Pabahay ay bibigyan na lamang ng P2 billion mahigit, P2.6 billion. At halos kalahati—sobra sa kalahati pa dito sa P2 billion na ito ay pabahay para sa mga pulis at mga military, at ang maiiwan na lamang sa mga mahihirap ay humigi't kumulang P625 million—napakaliit, na kung iisipin natin, ang kasalukuyang backlog sa usapin ng pabahay ay nasa limang milyong units pa ang kailangan sa buong bansa. So iyon ang sinasabi po ng G. Isponsor na consequence.

Pangalawa, iyon din po ang sinabi ninyong kadahilanan, bakit tinapyasan sa taong ito, gaya ng ginawa noong mga nakaraang taon, ang pondo ng mga halos 50 pampublikong ospital sa buong bansa. Kasama na po riyan ang dalawang ospital na nasa rehiyon ng kagalang-galang na Sponsor at ng Kinatawagang ito, ang Southern Philippines Medical Center at ang Davao Regional Hospital na, ironically, halos 50 porsiyento ang ibinagsak ng kanilang Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses sa susunod na taon, kung magkaganoon po ang ating pananaw. Samantalang, mayroon ding ibang ahensya na ang kanilang absorptive capacity ay mahina din naman pero hindi binawasan. Halimbawa, sa usapin po ng budget, ibalik ko lang ulit, Oplan Double Barrel, P900 million ito. Marami hong namatay na mga kababayan natin, kasama na ang mga kabataan, pero hindi naman din tinapyasan ang kanilang budget kahit na ang epekto nito ay talagang masama, hindi lang doon sa mga naging biktima, kundi sa ating bayan.

So, hindi ko po makita rito iyong sinasabing rationale na, if you cannot spend the budget within the period given by the GAA, you will suffer the consequences.

Para hong nakita natin dito ang mga ahensya lamang na talagang pinarusahan ay ang mga ahensang dapat sana ay magdadala ng batayang serbisyo sa ating mga kababayan at ito nga ay ang mga, halimbawa, sa usapin ng health, housing and others.

So, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor, ito hong sinasabi nating consequence if they cannot spend their budget within the one year period ay para hong consequence lamang ito laban sa ating mga mahihirap at hindi po doon sa, halimbawa, ibang mga sektor ng ating sosyedad, ng ating bayan, na nakikinabang rin nang malaki sa pondong ito, Mme. Speaker, Mr. Sponsor.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Klaruhin ko lang po, Mme. Speaker, iyong sa public hospitals, mayroong kasi silang sariling income at mayroon silang use of income. Ngayon, iyong ibinigay na level or budget ng DBM sa proposal po nila para sa mga public hospitals ay iyon po iyong based sa actual use noong hospitals. Kaya po ganoon po iyong nag-reflect sa kanilang proposed, iyong sa NEP, iyong sa proposed NEP, iyong National Expenditure Program na inilagay na rin natin sa General Appropriations Bill.

Iyong level or iyong budget na nakalagay sa mga public hospitals is really based doon sa actual usage nila noong pondong ibinibigay natin sa kanila, kasi mayroon pa silang—income generating po kasi iyong hospitals, so usually, ang tendency ng hospitals, dahil mayroon nga silang use of income, iyong ibinibigay po ng DBM ay hanggang doon lang sa level ng actual na paggamit nila ng kani-kanilang pondo.

Iyong doon naman sa housing, kagaya po ng sinabi ko po kanina, iyong sa housing kasi mayroon pa silang P41 billion na unused funds mula 2016 hanggang 2017, kaya minarapat ng DBM na i-pressure muna natin iyong NHA na gamitin muna iyong pondong iyon dahil nasasayang kapag hindi naman nagagamit iyong funds na iyan. So, hindi naman po ibig sabihin na hindi natin pina-prioritize iyong housing, iyon nga lang, nakikita natin na may natitira pang pondo ang NHA at kailangan po muna nilang gamitin iyong pondo na iyon bago pa man sila humingi ng panibagong pondo mula sa gobyerno para sa taong 2018. Magagamit pa naman po nila iyong unused allotments nila.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po. Magkaganoon pa man, malinaw po, kahit na doon sa usapin na sinasabi ninyo, ang pondo ng mga pampublikong ospital ay base doon sa kanilang aktuwal na paggamit ng pondo. Pero ito nga ho iyong usapin diyan sa mga pampublikong ospital, dahil sa taun-taon, noon pa man at akala natin ay may pagbabagong mangyayari sa kasalukuyang administrasyon, dahil sabi ay magkakaroon ng mga reporma, noon pa man hanggang ngayon, talagang tinatapyasan ang pondo para sa ating pangkalusugan

at lalung-lalo na sa mga pampublikong ospital at sila ay tinutulak, sabi ho ninyo, mayroong silang income, totoo po iyon, tinutulak silang magkaroon ng income-generating activities sa mga pampublikong ospital. Ang dating mga serbisyon libre ay ngayon, ang iba ay mayroon nang kabayaran kaya mas lalong nahihirapan ang ating mga mahihirap na kababayan.

Doon naman po sa usapin ng pabahay, ang sabi ng NHA, ang pondong sinasabing Unused Funds, these are actually ongoing projects at different levels. If these are already ongoing projects, kahit na mayroon tayong mga pagpuna sa naging policy ng National Housing Authority, hindi natin maintindihan na why we have to punish them or they have to suffer the consequences dahil hindi pa fully-spent o na-implement ang pondong ibinigay sa kanila even if there are already ongoing projects.

At any rate, Mme. Speaker, kung puwede ko lang maitanong dahil nilimitahan na natin sa isang taon, ano po ang mangyayari sa continuing appropriations until 2017 na aabot sa P354.6 billion based sa Annex ng Summary on Appropriations and Obligations of our national government. Ano ang gagawin natin dito? Ito ba ay ide-declare na lang nating savings o ano po ang mangyayari, Mme. Speaker?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Bago ko po sagutin ang tanong, nais ko ring ipaliwanag na sa DOH, mayroon din silang nakalaan na pondo para sa Medical Assistance Program na puwedeng paggamitan para sa nangangailangan ng medical assistance, lalung-lalo na ang mga mahihirap nating mga kababayan sa iba't ibang mga ospital.

Ngayon, with regard po sa 2016 continuing appropriations natin, kung hindi ito magagamit hanggang December 31, 2017, it would revert to the National Treasury, mga pondong hindi mauubos mula sa 2016 funds.

REP. ZARATE. So, ang ibig po sabihin, ang kabuuang pondo, dahil ito ay continuing appropriations, kung ating ihihinto ang dalawang taong availability of funds, ano ang mangyayari sa mga proyekto na dapat popondohan nito? Sabi ko nga, base doon sa Annex A ng Summary of Appropriations and Obligations, aabot ito sa halos P355 billion, Mme. Speaker.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes. Ito po ang carry-over mula sa 2016, at ito ay kailangan gamitin ...

REP. ZARATE. For 2017.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). ... on or before December 31, 2017. So, continuing appropriations po ito carried over from 2016. Ang expiration po nito is December 31 of this year.

REP. ZARATE. Yes.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Kaya kailangang sikapin na dapat talagang maubos ito. Otherwise, it would revert to the National Treasury.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po.

Ang ibig sabihin nito, para matapos na ang aking pagtatanong dito, by 2019, wala nang continuing appropriations.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Wala na po.

REP. ZARATE. It will be totally erased from our budget books, itong sinasabing continuing appropriations.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo, dahil ang availability ng appropriations natin for 2018 is hanggang 2018 lang, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

Pupunta naman po ako sa ibang usapin pa sa budget. Para sa taong 2018, puwede po bang mailatag ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor kung ano ang bagong rules natin on the realignment of savings, if there is any, in our 2018 Budget, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Ang ibig po bang sabihin ng ating Kinatawan mula sa BAYAN MUNA, Mme. Speaker, iyong nasa Section 67 sa Rules on Augmentation?

REP. ZARATE. Iba po iyon, Mme. Speaker.

Pupunta rin po ako doon sa Rules on Augmentation. Dito sa 2018 Budget, kapag nagkaroon ng savings, paano gagamitin ang savings ng mga ahensyang pinapayagan naman sa ating Constitution na mag-realign ng kanilang savings?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Ito po ay based sa Article VI, Section 25, subparagraph (5) of the Constitution, which states:

No law shall be passed authorizing any transfer of appropriations, however, the President, the President of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the heads of Constitutional Commissions may, by law, be authorized to augment any item in the general appropriations law for their respective offices from savings in other items of their respective appropriations.

So, an item of appropriation shall pertain to the amount appropriated for a program, activity or project authorized in this Act. The foregoing constitutional officers authorized to use savings shall be responsible for ensuring a semestral and annual report. The report will indicate the amount of savings generated, the sources and use thereof at ipo-post din po ito sa kanilang website.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat po.

Kaugnay ng tanong na iyan, alam naman po natin napakalaking usapin ang savings ng mga nakaraang panahon kaya nga ito ay naging usapin, lalung-lalo na sa paglitaw ng Disbursement Acceleration Program kung saan na-centralize ang savings ng mga departamento. Puwede ko lang sana maitanong, Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, as we speak now, magkano po ang naitalang savings ng ating pamahalaan sa lahat ng mga departamento as of this moment?

Mme. Speaker, para makapunta ako sa iba pang punto dahil sinesenyasan na ako, mayroon pa akong isang punto na itatanong. Puwede na lang po hingin, Mme. Speaker, ang historical data natin ng savings, halimbawa, from 2010 hanggang sa kasalukuyan.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Sige po. Mme. Speaker, bibigyan po namin ang Kinatawan ng BAYAN MUNA ng hinihingi niyang datos sa savings.

REP. ZARATE. Itinanong ko po ito dahil gusto nating malaman, Mme. Speaker, kung totoong may savings pa tayo at puwedeng gamitin to augment sa iba pang pangangailangan, halimbawa, sa social services kung kinakailangan.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. I will now go to my last point. Ang ating kagalang-galang na Secretary ng DBM noon ay may ginawang isang pag-aaral sa budget ng mga nakaraang panahon. At may isa lang ho akong gustong basahin dito na sinabi niya, sa usapin nang pagpalit-palit, pag uulit-ulit noong mga nakatala o pagbabago kung anuman ang nakalagay sa ating General Appropriations Act.

Sinabi po ng ating Kalihim:

Why rearrange the Congress-authorized budget in the second half of the year if the budget was well-prepared? The “use-it-or-lose-it” policy gives the woefully wrong signal that budgeting should not be taken seriously. The reason for spending so much time and effort in preparing a budget is undermined when the DBM can impound, confiscate and hoard the budget in the middle of the year, and to think

that appropriations for some Maintenance Items and Capital Outlays have a lifetime of two years.

The budget may be seen as a contract between the Executive Department and Congress under which the former delivers some level of government service for a given appropriation. When an agency's budget is impounded in the middle of the year because it fails to spend or obligate, the authorized budget then that the agency's ability to deliver services is committed to Congress is severely curtailed.

Nandoon iyan sa isang isinulat ng ating Kalihim. Kaugnay dito, magtatanong ako sa ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, Mme. Speaker.

Puwedeng pakilinao po ang Section 69 on Rules of Modification in the Allotment sa General Provisions.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Sa Rules on Modification in the Allotment, nakalagay po dito:

As a general rule, departments, bureaus and offices of the National Government, including Constitutional Offices enjoying fiscal autonomy and SUCs shall spend what is programmed in their respective appropriations in this Act. In exceptional circumstances, agencies may modify the allotment issued within a program, activity, or project subject to the approval of the following ensued by the timely submission of reports by all offices concerned:

(a) The heads of agencies for change in object of expenditure (Salaries and Wages, Travelling Expenses or Investment Outlays) within an allotment class (Personnel Services, MOOE, Financial Expenses or Capital Outlays);

(b) The DBM in the following modifications (i) for payment of magna carta benefits authorized under Section 49 thereof; (ii) from one allotment class to another; (iii) from one operating unit to another; and (iv) within a special purpose fund; and

(c) The President of the Philippines for the payment of intelligence funds within the Executive branch.

All modifications within Capital Outlays may only be made until June 30, 2018, except if due to the occurrence of calamities. All modification in the allotment shall not entail any increase in the total amount appropriated for the program, activity or project. In the case of programs with several activities and/or projects, modifications may only be done within each activity and/or project.

Ang general rule, Mme. Speaker, dapat wala nang pagbabago. But only in exceptional circumstances, may modifications in the allotments be made.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat, Mme. Speaker.

Matanong ko lang po dahil kaugnay sa binasa ko kaninang paglilipat-lipat ng pondo, ito bang rule na ito, hindi violative of a constitutional provision? Dahil parang pinapayagan natin dito na baguhin at i-realign ang lahat ng klase ng pondo. Savings man ito o hindi, parang pinapayagan nating baguhin ng mga tinuran ninyong ahensya under Section 69 on the Rules of Modification in the Allotment, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Pakilinao po sana ito.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Only in exceptional circumstances puwedeng mag-modify, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. But it is not modification. Sabi ko nga kanina, kaya binasa ko ang sinulat ni Secretary Diokno na taliwas ito pag baguhin mo ang Congress-authorized budget, parang hindi mo sinusunod kung ano ang kagustuhan ng Kongreso.

Gusto ko lang malinao kung papayagan nating magkaroon ng pagbabago o re-alignment of all kinds of funds. Hindi na nga lang usapin ito on savings. Puwedeng baguhin lahat ang nakalagay sa ating General Appropriations Act maging Personnel Services man iyan, MOOE or Capital Outlays, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Again, Mme. Speaker, very clear po dito, it is only in exceptional circumstances. Ang interpretation natin ng exceptional circumstances is force *majeure*. Doon lang po at iyon lang po ang exceptional circumstance na puwedeng gamitin na basis para mag-modify, dahil nga nirerespeto natin ang allocation, ang sinulat at ang pagpasá ng budget ng Kongreso. Kaya nga inilalagay lang natin iyan as a last resort. Kumbaga, hindi naman natin nafo-foresee kung ano pa ang mangyayari during the course ng taong 2018. So, kailangang mayroon pa rin tayong ilalagay na General Provisions tulad nito para kung magkaroon nga ng force *majeure* or exceptional circumstance, maaaring i-modify ang allotment.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat, distinguished Sponsor, Mme. Speaker. Siguro po ang napuna ko lang dito, kahit na ang sinasabing force *majeure* napaka-broad nito sa exceptional circumstances. Ito rin ang naging tungtungan kung bakit nagkaroon ng Disbursement Acceleration Program na nakalagay sa special provisions kung kailangan mag-declare ng savings ang mga departamento at ano ang mangyayari sa savings na ito.

Dito po sinasabi natin, pero hindi naman nakalagay ang sinasabi ninyong force *majeure* in exceptional circumstances. So parang binibigyan natin ng elbow room, kapangyarihan ang mga ahensyang nakalagay dito na sabihan nila na there is an exceptional circumstance, and we have to modify our allotment in violation of the power of the purse, ang kagustuhan ng Kongreso na kung ano ang nakalagay sa General Appropriations Act, iyon ang dapat na masunod at hindi puwedeng baguhin. Kung may gusto mang pagbabago dito, kailangang bumalik ang mga ahensyang ito. Bumalik sila sa Kongreso at humingi ng poder para baguhin ang kanilang budget, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). The DBM barely uses this provision, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Yes, but this is already included in the NEP or in the General Appropriations Bill. If we will approve this, ako po ay nangangamba na darating ang panahon na ito na naman ay gagamiting tungtungan ng iilang mga ahensya kaya nagkaroon tayo ng DAP noong mga nakaraang panahon. Nakahanap ng butas ang nakaraang administrasyon para isentro ang napakalaking pondo at sabihin na ito nga ay savings at kabahagi na ng Disbursement Acceleration Program.

Dito, kapag hindi natin nilinaw, what are these, even granting that we can modify exceptional circumstances, I think, at the very least, we should enumerate what are these exceptional circumstances. Tayo po sa Kongreso ang dapat naglalagay ng mga parametro kung papaano gugugulin ang napakalimitado nating pondo. Kayo na rin po, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor ang nagsabi na kailangan na ang pondong ito ay gugugulin nang maayos ng mga departamento, at kung magkakaroon ng mga ganitong probisyon sa ating budget, ako ay nangangamba na ito ay muling gamitin sa darating na mga panahon bilang tungtungan para magkaroon na naman ng mala-DAP na pondo sa ating budget, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mme. Speaker, we are already guided by the decision ng Supreme Court laban sa DAP o ang Disbursement Acceleration Program na ginawa noong nakaraang administrasyon, at ang kasalukuyang Kalihim ng Department of Budget and Management ay isa po sa petitioners na lumaban kontra sa DAP. Kaya hindi po mangyayari iyong nangyari sa DAP dito sa administrasyong ito. So, sa palagay ko naman, iyong probisyon na iyan ay naging probisyon na rin iyan noong nakaraang budget natin, na-carry over na rin po iyan mula sa nakaraang budget. Mayroon naman po tayong assurance from the DBM na hindi ito mangyayari, kasi dadaan pa sa DBM ito kung mayroon mang mga request for modification, at guided naman po ang DBM na hindi

sila puwedeng gumawa ng mga actions na maging unconstitutional. Kaya, wala po tayong pangamba dito sa wordings na nandito sa Section 69, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Salamat, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker.

At any rate, at the very least, ang atin hong minumungkahi, magkasama ho kami ng Kalihim ng DBM na petitioners sa DAP, at ganoon din ho ang sinabi noong mga nakaraang administrasyon, hindi tayo dapat mangamba dahil pinag-aralan ng Kongreso iyan. Pero nangyari pa rin ho iyong DAP. At the very least ho, sana ay pag-aralan ito, i-review ito ng ating mga Kagawaran sa Budget and Management.

With that po, salamat, G. Isponsor, sa mga paglilinaw ng aking mga katanungan. I will now end my interpellation.

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

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Maraming salamat din po sa ating kagalang-galang na Representante ng BAYAN MUNA, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize the Gentleman from Party-List ACT TEACHERS, Rep. Antonio L. Tinio, for his interpellation.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Antonio Tinio is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. TINIO. Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, una, nais ko pong magtuon sa usapin ng sweldo ng 1.4 million government employees na nakapaloob sa proposed budget for 2018.

Alam po natin na sa 2018, ito na po ang ikatlong taon ng implementasyon ng Executive Order 201. So ibig sabihin nito, magkakaroon ng isa pang tranche ng increase ng mga sweldo sa lahat ng regular government employees. Magkano po ang nakalaang pondo para sa third tranche ng SSL?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). P61.4 billion, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. P61.4 billion po.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Billion, billion.

REP. TINIO. Yes, P61.4 billion. Noong panahon ng kampanya, Presidential campaign, at matapos ang kampanya nang manalo na si Pangulong Duterte ay isa sa mga malinaw na ipinangako niya ay ang pagtaas daw ng suweldo ng ilang mga tampok sektor sa hanay ng

empleyado ng gobyerno. Una, sinabi niya na dodoblehin daw niya, within the first year of his administration, ang sweldo ng pulis at sundalo. Tapos, sunod niyon, binanggit din niya na pagkatapos daw ng pulis at sundalo ay itataas din naman daw niya ang suweldo ng mga guro. Naipatupad po ba ang mga pangakong ito?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Iyong sa pulis, pati sundalo, natupad na po natin na dumoble na po iyong kanilang take-home pay.

REP. TINIO. Dobleng take home pay? Ano po ang ibig sabihin noon? Mayroon po bang pagbabagong ginawa o gagawin sa Executive Order No. 201 at sa Salary Schedule na itinatakda nito? Kasi po, sa pagkakaalam ng Kinatawang ito ay hindi pa naman nababago ito at walang bagong kautusan na nanggagaling sa Malacañang na magpapatupad ng pagdoble ng take-home pay.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Dumoble po iyong basic pay ng mga sundalo pati mga kapulisan.

REP. TINIO. Magkano na po ang basic pay ngayon ng—ano po ba iyong baseline natin? Anong taon iyon at magkano na po, sa susunod na taon, 2018, sabi ninyo, dodoble, so magiging magkano na po iyan? Kasi, mahalagang impormasyon po ito at kailangang maging maingat tayo at malinaw sa pagpapaliwanag, lalo pa at syempre sinusubaybayan ang ganitong usapin ng ating kapulisan. Mabuting malinaw, mahirap na umasa sila sa pagdoble ng kanilang take-home pay, so kailangang ilinaw natin ito.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mayroon na pong draft ngayon na for approval po ng Malacañang na iyong basic pay na P14,000 ay magiging P28,000 na po sa darating na taon 2018.

REP. TINIO. So, ang kasalukuyang basic pay ng—pulis po ito, pulis ang pinag-uusapan natin?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Pulis pati sundalo po.

REP. TINIO. Pulis at sundalo, ang basic pay na P14,000 sa 2018 ay magiging P28,000.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo.

REP. TINIO. Tama po ba?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Tama po iyon.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Pero ang sinabi ninyo ay mayroon pala pong draft na— Executive Order po ba ito na mag-i-implement?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, tama po iyon, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. Okay. Well, bago po ito at actually hindi natalakay kahit na doon sa mga budget briefings natin nitong nakaraang buwan. So, kung maintindihan po natin nang tama ito, ibig po bang sabihin nito na iyong P61.4 billion na nakalaan para sa salary increase ng lahat ng empleyado ng gobyerno ay nakapaloob na po roon iyong pondo para doblehin ang basic pay ng mga sundalo at pulis?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Tama po iyon, Mme. Speaker, it is already included doon sa budget.

REP. TINIO. P61.4 billion po ay magkano po ang nakalaan para sa pagdoble ng suweldo ng uniformed personnel?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Ito po ay bagong proposal lamang, so kailangan pa po nilang i-compute at willing naman po silang ibigay sa Kinatawan ng ACT TEACHERS iyong computation na iyon.

REP. TINIO. Well, magkano po ang kailangan para ma-implement iyong kasalukuyang third tranche ng Executive Order No. 201? Kung susundin lang po natin iyong Executive Order No. 201 at iyong mga pagtaas ng sweldo na nakatakda roon, halimbawa, currently ang increase lamang para sa PO1 at maging sa Teacher 1 ay mahigit kumulang P500 lamang kada buwan. Ngayon, ang sinasabi ninyo po, from P14,000 sa isang taon lamang ay gagawing P28,000 a month ang sweldo ng pulis, sundalo, at iba pa, so malaking pagkakaiba po iyon.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Hindi po magbabago iyong P61.4 billion. Sapat na po iyon para sa implementation ng Executive Order No. 201. Ngayon, itong pinag-uusapan kasi natin na double pay para sa military and police, iyong men in uniform natin, kung natatandaan po ninyo noong pinag-uusapan po natin ito noon during the committee hearings hanggang po ngayon, ang idea—ang initial idea po kasi ng DBM iyong doble—double take-home pay. Kaya sinabing double take-home pay iyan kasi babawiin sana nila doon sa mga allowances, hindi po ba? Iyon sana iyong gagawin—allowances, iyong mga hazard pay, doon nila babawiin, doon nila mafu-fulfill iyong dobleng sahod na ipinangako ni President Duterte.

Noon po iyon, so ngayon, may bagong development na. Ang bagong development nga po is may proposal na imbes gawing double take-home pay na babawiin nga through the allowances, mga hazard pay na gagawin para may dobleng take-home ang mga sundalo, ang bagong proposal ngayon is idodoble na lang po iyong

baseline pay. So, iyong hindi na po siya take-home kung hindi iyong basic salary na po talaga ang dodoblehin. Kaya wala namang nagbago doon sa assumptions natin sa pagbayad para sa Salary Standardization, ganoon pa rin iyon. Iyong P61.4 billion na nakalaan para sa increase, implementation ng Salary Standardization, tuloy pa po iyon, wala pong nabago sa computation. May bagong treatment lang na ginawa para sa military, police, and uniformed personnel na sabi naman ng DBM, kaya naman—kaya namang gawin.

REP. TINIO. Mme. Speaker, ito nga po iyong sinasabi ko na kailangang maliwanag po nating ilinaw sa publiko kasi po kapag nagbibitiw ng salita ang Sponsor at ang DBM na dodoblehin ang basic pay ng pulis, sundalo, at iba pang uniformed personnel, of course, umaasa sila na talagang mayroong totoong increase at dahil doble, napakalaki—substantial na increase ito. Ngayon po, dahil napakalaki niyan, hinahanap ko po sa proposed budget. Ngunit ang sinasabi ninyo sa akin iyong P61.4 billion ay para lamang iyan sa implementasyon ng Executive Order No. 201. Sa Executive Order No. 201 naman po, wala namang probisyon doon para doblehin ang basic pay ng mahigit kumulang 100,000 PNP, another 100,000 plus AFP at several tens of thousands na BJMP, Bureau of Fire Protection pati iyong Coast Guard at iba pa.

So, as I said, huwag po nating bigyan ng false hope ang ating uniformed personnel, kasi parang lumalabas sa paliwanag ninyo, mukhang tila ire-repackage ninyo lang yata iyong existing salaries and compensation package at sasabihin ninyo na dahil doon ay nadoble na ang basic pay ng mga uniformed personnel natin.

Alam ninyo po, magagalit lang sa inyo ang ating mga kapulisan at kasundaluhan kung ganyan. We are just playing with words, parang ganoon ang naririnig ko eh, kasi wala namang additional budget.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Gusto ko pong linawin, Mme. Speaker, iyong P61.4 billion na nakalaan para sa third tranche ng SSL, para po iyon sa lahat noong ...

REP. TINIO. Yes.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). ... magbe-benefit niyan.

REP. TINIO. Klaro.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Iyong kawaning gobyerno, ...

REP. TINIO. Opo.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). ... ang mga teachers, kasama po diyan sa P61.4 billion. Iyong dagdag para sa mga police, military, men in uniform, apart from iyong sa SSL III—third tranche ng SSL, mayroon pa po tayong

ibang pagkukuhanan para po diyan. Hindi po natin iyan gagalawin doon sa implementation ng SSL.

REP. TINIO. Well, iyon nga po, Mme. Speaker, ang gusto kong malaman. Saan sa proposed 2018 Budget na ito at magkano? Kasi obviously po, alam naman natin, bago ninyo maibigay iyan, kailangang ipaalam dito sa Kongreso at kailangang pahintulutan ng Kongreso. So, saan po kukunin? Magkano?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Ang halaga ay P24.9 billion, ang pag ...

REP. TINIO. Twenty ...

REP. NOGRALES (K.). P24.9 billion ang pagkukunan po, iyong pondo sa MPBF, Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund.

REP. TINIO. Okay. So, iyong P61.4 billion, nasa MPBF na po iyan, tama po?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Iyong P61.4 billion ay naka-built-in na po sa mga agency funds. Nakapasok na po sa mga agency funds.

REP. TINIO. Okay. So, naka-built-in na ...

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo.

REP. TINIO. ... itong P61.4 billion.

Pasensya na po, hindi ko po hawak iyong budget book ngayon, magkano po ba iyong total MPBF for this year?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). P84.4 billion.

REP. TINIO. So, P84.4 billion. Ang sinasabi ninyo po, sa P84.4 billion na iyan, mayroong P24.9 billion na nakalaan para sa salary increase, additional salary increase ng mga uniformed personnel. However, wala pa ito actually na legal cover.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo. Draft pa lang po, awaiting the approval of the President, anyway, it is for 2018 pa naman po.

REP. TINIO. So, hinihingan na po ng approval ng Kongresong ito, ngunit actually, wala pang kongkretong proposal. Parang hindi po ba may problema iyan?

Hindi po ba, ang tamang pamamaraan diyan ay, actually, kung sa usapin ng suweldo, sa pamamagitan ng—well, actually, Mme. Speaker, kung ganyan po, kailangan ko na pong kuwestiyunin ang legal basis dahil mayroon nga tayong tinatawag na Salary Standardization Law.

Ang sinasabi nga noon ay kailangan may isang sistema ng pasuweldo na umiiral sa buong gobyerno na itinatakda ng batas. Ang pinakahuling batas—ano ba iyong huli? Joint Resolution No. 4, ito ba iyon? In effect, ito iyong SSL 3, tapos tinangka noong nakaraang Kongreso na magpasa ng bagong batas sa SSL, iyong SSL 4, pero alam natin na hindi naging batas iyan dahil sa isyu ng uniformed personnel pensions at saka iyong indexation, kaya, ang ginawa na lang ng Aquino administration, nag-issue sila ng Executive Order No. 201. Ngayon po na mukhang mayroong balak ang Duterte administration na doblehin ang suweldo, ibig sabihin major na pagbabago ito sa salary scales, partikular ng salary scale ng uniformed personnel. Sa aking palagay po, Mme. Speaker at G. Isponsor, ay hindi maaaring gawin iyan ng isang executive order dahil, otherwise, sinasabi ninyo hindi na pala kinikilala iyong Salary Standardization Law. Ano po iyan?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mme. Speaker, nasa powers po ng Ehekutibo na gawin iyan. Unang-una sa lahat, kung tutuusin, itong ginagawa nga nating pagpataas ng suweldo ng ating mga kawani sa gobyerno sa salary standardization na tinatawag ay nagmula rin po sa executive order, EO din po iyan, E.O. No. 201. Kaya nga po kung nag-pronounce po, malinaw po nag-pronounce si Pangulong Duterte na tataasan po niya, idodoble po niya iyong suweldo ng pulis pati na ang military natin, puwede po rin gawin iyan sa pamamagitan ng isang executive order na ngayon nga ay mayroon draft na nandoon na po sa mesa ni President Duterte para sa kanyang approval.

Ang Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund, ginagamit talaga natin ito para sa payment ng miscellaneous personnel benefits para sa national government officials and employees natin. In fact, Mme. Speaker, nakalagay po dito that the payment of personnel benefits in the amount of P84 billion na nasa MPBF, appropriated herein will be for the payment of personnel benefits—sorry, “appropriated herein for the payment of other personnel benefits shall be used for deficiencies in authorized salaries, bonuses, allowances, associated premiums and other similar personnel benefits of national government personnel.” So, ibig pong sabihin nito, ang pondo nga na ito, ang MPBF, ito na nga iyong nakalaan na pondo para, in case, mayroong i-approve na additional salaries, bonuses or allowances ng Presidente through an executive order, ito po iyong pondong pagkukunan natin po niyan.

REP. TINIO. Well, alright, mukhang tila nagbabago na ang patakaran at ang nakaraang kalakaran na ang mga salary increase sa gobyerno ay idinadaan sa Kongreso at pinapasa sa pamamagitan ng batas o di kaya ng joint resolution na may bisa rin ng batas. Ngayon, mukhang ang umiiral na pananaw na ay sapat na pala ang executive order. Sa isang banda, sa palagay ko ay

magandang balita iyan para sa government employees, hindi lang sa pulis, militar at iba pang uniformed personnel, kasi ibig sabihin niyan ay puwede palang baguhin ng ganoon na lamang ang EO 201 o iyong mga susunod pang—mayroong kayong hinahanda, sabi ninyo, na bagong salary schedule, well, siyempre nandiyan po ang pag-asa ng 1.4 million government employees, lalo na iyong civilian bureaucracy, na baka sila rin ay maaaring makinabang sa ganitong paraan ng pagtaas ng suweldo. Ang alam ko sa Executive Order No. 201, sinasabi doon na kailangan munang tapusin iyong full implementation nito at pagkatapos noon, nagkakaroon o binibigyan na ng awtoridad ang DBM para mag-review at mag-adjust, pero kung sa kalagitnaan ng implementasyon ay puwede nang baguhin, well, sa palagay natin ay bukas na ito para sa iba pang government employees. So, frankly, I think that is a welcome development, kaya po ang sunod na tanong ko, unang-una, ano po ba ang ang economic basis or justification para doblehin iyong suweldo ng uniformed personnel?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Iyong adjustments po, Mme. Speaker, ginawa nating commensurate to the salaries received by their counterpart civilian personnel sa government, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. Sorry po, Mme. Speaker. Puwede po bang ulitin ng Sponsor iyong kanyang paliwanag.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Ginawa natin iyon, Mme. Speaker, para maging comparative sa salaries being received by civilian government personnel, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. Mme. Speaker, para maging comparative po sa?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Sa salaries and compensation na nare-receive ng mga civilian equivalent nila sa government.

REP. TINIO. So, iyong take-home pay ng pulis at sundalo ...

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Ang basic pay.

REP. TINIO. Opo, ang basic pay ng pulis at sundalo na kasalukuyan ay P14,000 a month, sa susunod na taon, 2018, ay gagawing P28,000 a month at ang basis ay para maging katumbas o competitive sa mga counterpart nila sa pribadong sektor. Iyon po ang argumento? Okay.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Hindi sa pribadong sektor, Mme. Speaker, kung hindi iyong halos kapantay nila na civilian personnel sa government.

REP. TINIO. Ah, okay, iyong kapantay na civilian personnel sa government. So, halimbawa, iyong PO1 po, ano ang kapantay niya sa civilian personnel kasi P14,000 a month? Iyong P28,000 a month na suweldo, ano po ang katumbas niyan sa civilian bureaucracy? Ang akala ko po kasi ang katumbas ng PO1 ay Teacher I at saka Nurse I. Sa kasalukuyang SSL natin, iyon po ang magkatumbas kasi in terms of educational attainment, qualifications, and so on, at DBM din naman po ang nagtakda niyan, iyon po ang magkatumbas. Ngayon po, mukhang nagbabago na. So, iyong PO1 o kaya iyong Private sa AFP, kung P28,000 na po, ano pong salary grade na iyan?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Salary Grade 14.

REP. TINIO. Salary Grade 14. So, sa civilian po in terms of position in the bureaucracy, ano po ang katumbas niyan?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Specialist I, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. Specialist I. What is a Specialist I? What are the qualifications for Specialist I?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Kung sa teacher, Mme. Speaker, SPED teacher.

REP. TINIO. SPED teacher, at ang SPED teacher po ay may mga partikular na qualifications po iyan, hindi lang po iyan iyong Bachelor's degree, Education units na at least 18. Tapos, pagpasa sa licensure examination. Kaya kailangang mayroong SPED degree at iba pa.

So, ang sinasabi po ngayon ng DBM ay iyan ang katumbas ng PO1 sa pulis at private sector sa Armed Forces. Tama po ba iyan?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mahirap kasing i-compare talaga dahil iba iyong trabaho ng pulis, pati iyong military doon po sa mga civilian counterpart nila dahil kailangan nating maunawaan na ibang klase naman po ang hazards na hinaharap nila dahil sila, iyong buhay ang niri-risk po nila kapag sila po ay nasa battlefield or habang ginagampanan nila ang kanilang tungkulin.

So, mahirap po iyon, hindi po apples to apples ang pag-compare dahil, kagaya nga ng sinasabi ko, iba ang classification dahil sa isang banda, ito po ay civilian component pero dito naman sa men in uniform, military component po iyan. So, iba iyong hinaharap nilang challenges, ano po. Pagdating sa mga military pati mga pulis, ang buhay naman nila, sila ay nangangamba tuwing gaganap sila ng kanila pong tungkulin at ito ay naging polisiya na nga ng ating administrasyon na, gaya ng sinabi ng ating Pangulo, kailangan taasan natin ang suweldo po nila, doblehin ang suweldo nila, para maipakita natin sa kanila na ang katumbas ng buhay

na kanilang nare-risk, katumbas ng buhay na sinusugal nila habang sila po ay nagtatrabaho, ito po iyong kapalit na karagdagang suweldo. So, hindi po apples to apples or lemons to lemons ang pag-compare dahil iba iyong civilian, iba naman ang military po.

REP. TINIO. Well, kaya po tayo napunta sa comparison dahil ang dahilan po na ibinigay ng Sponsor ay kaya daw itataas o dodoblehin ay para daw itumbas sa suweldo ng counterparts sa civilian bureaucracy, kaya po tayo nagpunta sa comparison. Sa totoo lang, ako mismo ay ayaw kong pumasok sa paghahambing kung sino ba o kaninong trabaho ang higit na mahalaga, sino ang mas higit na nagsasakripisyo ng kanyang pawis at dugo sa paglilingkod bilang empleyado ng gobyerno. Of course, puwede mong sabihin, "Aba, ang mga sundalo at pulis, sinusugal ang kanilang buhay," and so on. Aba'y puwede naman sabihin, halimbawa, ng mga teacher, "Aba ay walang sundalo, walang pulis, walang kahit sino kung walang teacher." Iyong mga nurse o mga public health worker natin, puwede ring sabihin iyon, na," Aba'y sino ang mabubuhay kung walang nangangalaga sa kanilang kalusugan? Ang mayorya ng mamamayan natin ay nakatatanggap ng serbisyong pangkalusugan sa pamamagitan ng ating public health system." So, mahirap pong pumasok sa ganyan pero ang nais ko lang banggitin na—at ito, DBM at Civil Service din naman ang nagpapairal nito—iyong sistema ng salary standardization ay hindi nakabatay doon sa judgment kung ano ang linya ng trabaho sa gobyerno na mas mahalaga, and so on, and so forth, kung hindi nakabatay sa mga objective o criteria katulad ng qualifications.

Tapos, pangalawa, kinikilala ng Estado ang sakripisyo at mga partikular na panganib na hinaharap ng mga sundalo, pulis, bumbero at iba pa at ginagantimpalaan nila ito sa iba't ibang paraan at hindi lamang po sa suweldo. Una, alam natin, in fact, sa buong lipunan natin ngayon ay puwede kong sabihin na sila ang may pinakamalaking retirement package or pension package sa buong Pilipinas.

Kahit pa sa pribadong sektor, hindi natin makikita iyong index system of retirement nila anywhere. Tapos, mayroon pang mga dagdag na ibinibigay—may combat duty pay, hazard pay, and so on and so forth—bilang pagkilala ito ng estado doon sa partikular na kalagayan ng sundalo at pulis. So, iyon lang po.

Anyway, salamat sa paglilinaw niyan. Ako, I am sure matutuwa po ang ating uniformed personnel na sa susunod na taon ay magiging doble ang kanilang take-home pay from P14,000 to P28,000. Malaking talon po iyan sa isang taon. Ngayon, dahil ang pagbabago sa patakaran sa suweldo ng uniformed personnel ay nagsimula o sinimulan ng pangako ni Pangulo, ako naman po, obligado nang i-follow up iyong sumunod na pangako ni Pangulong Duterte dahil noong December

2016 ay naglabas din po ng pahayag si Pangulong Duterte and I quote, "Itong increase of salaries, ang sunod ko mga teachers." Sinabi din po niya iyan. So, ito po, let me quote, reported, for example, in ABS-CBN, December 29, 2016:

Duterte: Teachers to get pay hike after cops, soldiers.

President Rodrigo Duterte on Thursday said public school teachers will also get a pay raise soon, following his promises of increases in the salaries of police officers and soldiers.

"Sunod iyon," he said in an interview with ABS-CBN News.

So, natutuwa po tayo na maagap na inaksiyunan ng DBM ang pangako ni Pangulong Duterte kaugnay sa suweldo ng pulis at sundalo at iba pa. Ngayon po, obligado naman akong singilin sa ngalan ng mga guro iyong pangako rin ni Pangulong Duterte na isusunod naman daw ang mga public school teacher. Ibig sabihin, para kay Pangulong Duterte, kung mahalaga ang suweldo ng kanyang pulis at sundalo ay mahalaga din naman daw ang suweldo ng mga guro. So, ano po ang maaasahan natin sa Malacañang at kailan po matutupad ang pangakong ito ni Pangulong Duterte?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mme. Speaker, before I answer iyong question ng kagalang-galang na Kongresista mula sa ACT TEACHERS, gusto ko lang i-put on record iyong naging basis ng pagtataas o pagdoble ng suweldo noong men in uniform. I will just put this on record. This is part of the draft na naging basis para sa pagdoble ng suweldo ng military and uniformed personnel:

Whereas, the military and uniformed personnel are mandated to enforce the laws to protect the public and safeguard the life and property. Military and uniformed personnel are exposed to a higher risk environment in the performance of their duties in order to maintain peace and order, ensure public safety and suppress threats to national security. The base pay schedule of military and uniformed personnel shall take into account the prevailing economic realities and create professionalism, exemplary performance and commitment to service. Government is mandated to update the compensation and position classification system of civilian personnel and base pay schedule for MUP as well as the policies and levels of allowances, benefits, and incentives applicable to all government personnel. So, in order to make the compensation package more effective in motivating the men in uniform

personnel and commensurate to their critical role in maintaining national security and peace and order, there is a need for this increase in base pay...

So, ito po ang basis natin for the increase ng base pay ng men in uniform personnel, mga police pati mga military natin.

Gusto ko rin pong linawin sa ating kagalang-galang na Representante, Mme. Speaker, na iyong sinasabi po ng DBM na draft nila na pending ngayon sa desk ni President Duterte is for his approval lamang before it goes to Congress and so, ultimately, tayo rin po ang mag-a-approve nito through a joint resolution ng House of Representatives pati ng Senado. So, iyong draft po na iyon ay ipapa-approve kay President Duterte at kapag na-approve na po niya iyong draft, ito po ay ibibigay niya sa atin for our approval through a joint resolution.

REP. TINIO. Thank you for clarifying that, Mme. Speaker. I think that is a very important clarification. Well, at least, sa inyong paliwanag ay hindi naman pala iba-bypass ang Kongreso. May mga bentahe at mga disbentahe iyan pero ang bentahe nito, at least ay magkakaroon ng pagkakataon para sa public debate and discussion iyong proposed joint resolution para sa salary increase. In other words, you know, hindi lang po ito aayusin at pag-uusapan at pagkakasunduan ng executive branch. Okay. So, thank you for that important clarification.

Ngayon, kasunod na tanong ko po iyong, well, itong substantial increase sa suweldo ng PNP, AFP at iba pa ay bunga ng pangako ni Pangulong Duterte. So, binasa ko kanina sa records iyong isa pang pangako rin ni Pangulong Duterte na sabi niya, pagkatapos daw ng increase ng pulis at sundalo ay susunod na ang teacher. Alam po ninyo, talagang inaantay po ito, inaabangan ng mga public school teacher natin. So, ano po ang maaasahan na ating mahigit-kumulang halos 700,000 public school teachers nationwide sa ilalim ng Duterte administration given iyong pangako ng Pangulo?

REP. NOGRALES (K.) Kasama na po sila doon sa salary standardization na increases, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. So, ibig sabihin sa sagot ninyo ay wala pong dagdag pa na maaasahan bukod doon sa ibinibigay na ng Executive Order No. 201. Hindi tulad ng uniformed personnel na dodoblehin ang kanilang suweldo, wala pong ganoong maaasahan ang ating mga guro at iba pang government employees. Tama po ba?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Dito lang po sa EO 201, iyon lang po iyong ii-implement natin.

REP. TINIO. Iyon lang po. Okay. So, klaro din po iyan. So, at least nagkalinawan po tayo at mayroon pong mahalagang impormasyon na nailabas dito kaugnay sa pagdoble ng suweldo ng pulis at military. As I said, walang anumang pagbanggit diyan during the budget briefings, but I think this information will be welcomed by our uniformed personnel.

Ngayon ang tanong ko po ay iyong kaugnay at mahigpit na nakataling usapin ng pensiyon ng mga sundalo at pulis at iba pang uniformed personnel. Magkano po ito? Alam naman po natin na wala pong gumaganang pension system ang uniformed personnel, whether AFP, PNP or other uniformed personnel. They have no functioning pension system, and they are totally reliant on the General Appropriations. Ang nagpopondo lang po ng kanilang mga benepisyo ay ang taumbayan, taxpayers at wala po silang sistemang tulad ng GSIS na mayroong personal contributions iyong sundalo or pulis, tapos mayroong counterpart iyong gobyerno, at iyong pondo na iyon ang ginagamit, pinalalago para mabayaran iyong retirement benefits ng uniformed personnel. Wala pong ganoon sila, no system of contributions and all of it is appropriated. For 2018, magkano po iyong total pension for uniformed personnel?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). For 2018, kung walang salary increases, ang estimate po natin is P75.7 billion.

REP. TINIO. Okay. So, P75.7 billion. Ito na po for all uniformed personnel.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo.

REP. TINIO. Tama po. Mayroon po ba kayong breakdown niyan? So, magkano po iyong sa AFP, sa PNP?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo, ang projected po sa AFP, P34.2 billion.

REP. TINIO. Yes.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Sa PNP, it is 27.2; Bureau of Fire, 2.2; BJMP, 1.1; PVAO, sa veterans, 10.1.

REP. TINIO. Okay.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). PCG, P802 million; and NAMRIA, P17 million.

REP. TINIO. Okay, thank you po. Ito pong P75.7 billion, ang sabi ninyo ay kung walang salary increase. Iyong tinutukoy ninyo po ba ay iyong doubling of salaries?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. In other words, kung magdoble po ang suweldo, ma-approve po iyong sinasabi ninyong order or joint resolution, obligado po na magpondo pa rin ng dagdag na pension. Tama po ba?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Tama po kaya nga po ...

REP. TINIO. So, magkano po? Kailangan din pong malaman natin. May probisyon din po ba sa proposed budget na ito?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Iyon na nga po. Ang problema din po natin, kapag dinodoble rin po iyong salary, nadi-distort na naman iyong pensiyon.

REP. TINIO. Yes, kaya nga po tinatanong natin.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo. That is why sa draft resolution na ibibigay sa atin mula sa Ehekutibo para sa ating approval, mayroon po silang proposed provision na i-suspend muna iyong application noong pension indexation...

REP. TINIO. Okay.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). ...para hindi ma-distort at hindi lumobo iyong kailangan nating pondohan.

REP. TINIO. So, in other words, ang mangyayari po, kasi po ang sistema ngayon sa EO 201, sa halip na i-suspend iyong indexation ay hindi binibigyan ng salary increases ang personnel kung hindi binibigay as an additional allowance.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Tama po.

REP. TINIO. So, ang gagawin po ngayon, tataas iyong basic pay pero isu-suspend ang indexation, ganoon po ba? In other words ...

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Iyon ang recommendation. Kung ito po ay i-approve ni President Duterte, iyon din po ang ibibigay sa atin for our approval.

REP. TINIO. Okay.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). For consideration and approval.

REP. TINIO. All right. Well, Mme. Speaker, maraming salamat po sa Sponsor sa paglilinaw sa mga mahalagang usapin na ito. Sa palagay ko ay magandang development po iyong pagtaas ng suweldo ng mga uniformed personnel insofar na nagbibigay po

ito ng pag-asa sa buong burukrasya, lalo na sa civilian bureaucracy, na sila rin ay mabigyan ng mas mataas na suweldo na higit pa doon sa inilalaan ng EO 201.

Ang sabi nga doon, kahit doon sa binasang justification para sa increase ng uniformed personnel ay kailangan daw i-consider iyong current economic realities at ang current economic realities ay hindi nakakasapat para sa isang dissenting antas ng pamumuhay ang kasalukuyang basic salary, Salary Grade 1, na nasa P10,000 a month, at maging ang nasa Salary Grade 11 na mga teacher, nurse at iba pang nasa gobyerno na nasa P19,000 a month.

So, with that, maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from Party-List GABRIELA, Rep. Arlene D. Brosas, for her interpellation.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Rep. Arlene D. Brosas from Party-List GABRIELA is recognized and the Presiding Officer would like to remind the Lady that we are on the topic of General Principles, and if you could frame your questions.

Please proceed, Congresswoman Brosas.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Yes, will the good Sponsor answer some of our questions regarding the policies, particularly on health lang po?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. NOGRALES (K.). May I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is suspended.

It was 1:38 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:42 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is resumed.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Despite the fact that health care is a basic social service that the government should be providing, the Duterte administration merely continued the neo-liberal framework in its health care policies. It expanded its efforts and increased its budgetary allocation towards

further privatization and commercialization of health care services instead of providing funds for direct health services. The bulk of the allocation went to PhilHealth, the national healthcare insurance provider. In this scheme, PhilHealth purchases health services on behalf of the patient. Problems such as over or underspending can be encountered in this kind of mechanism. There are also instances of information asymmetry and this, hinders the measurement of the service quality of the provider. Just like in the previous years, the National Health Insurance Program again gets a lion share from the health budget amounting to P57.1 billion and although large in figure, this Representation worries about the actual services that this budget can give to our poor constituents.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, much has been said about how health insurance cannot really address the need for accessible and quality health care despite the fact that all government hospitals are PhilHealth-accredited. What remains is that majority of the accredited health facilities are private hospitals. Kaya, G. Isponsor, wala lang po akong bilang pero halos 60 percent po sa total ay mula sa private hospitals. Kaya kung ini-insurance po natin ang ating mga kababayan at sila ay pupunta sa mga pribadong ospital o institusyon para doon ay gumastos, hindi po napupunta rin sa atin, sa buong taumbayan, iyong pera na ginagamit kundi sa mga pribado ito napupunta. G. Isponsor, magkano ang nage-generate na guaranteed profit ng mga pribadong ospital mula sa PhilHealth funds for the past five years?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Ano iyong question? Magkano?

REP. BROSAS. Magkano?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mr. Speaker, wala naman po tayong kino-compute na guaranteed income ng private hospitals mula sa PhilHealth payments. Inilaan natin ang pondo natin para sa PhilHealth dahil po, with this budget, we are assuring that there will be 15.4 million families who will be covered by PhilHealth insurance. Mayroon po tayong 5.4 million na senior citizens na mabibigyan ng libreng PhilHealth. Mayroon din po tayong 22,514 families under the PAMANA Program na magkakaroon ng libreng PhilHealth card, at 22,709 beneficiaries under the Bangsamoro Program ang mayroong makukuhang libreng PhilHealth card dahil sponsored po ito ng gobyerno, kaya po tayo naglaan ng pondo para diyan.

Kung titingnan mo iyong Health budget po natin, hindi lang naman puros PhilHealth ang binibigyan natin ng budget. Mayroon din po tayong P29 billion na nakalaan para sa Health Facilities Enhancement Program natin. Ang pondo pong ito, ang paggagamitan

po nito ay iyong construction ng ating barangay health stations, 1,497, improvement ng facilities ng 353 government hospitals natin and construction of 177 rural health units; and by the end of 2018, we will have 3,320 rural health units and 28,188 barangay health stations na magiging kompleto na at equipped na po. So, ito po iyong focus ng ating programa para sa kalusugan.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker, nauunawaan po ng Kinatawan na ito iyong allocations sa bawat isa pero partikular po, ang gusto sana nating malaman ay iyong kaugnay doon sa PhilHealth funds.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo.

REP. BROSAS. Kung magkano po iyong guaranteed profit ng mga pribadong ospital mula dito. Kung wala po tayong total na bilang, naiintindihan ko po pero sana ay magkaroon tayo ng bilang nito para malaman natin kung magkano talaga iyong nailalaan natin para sa mga pribadong ospital upang makatulong sa atin na masuri kung nakatutulong po ba talaga na ini-insurance natin ang ating mga kababayan at sila po ba talaga ay nakatatanggap ng mga health services na kailangan nila.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo.

REP. BROSAS. Dito po sa pondo na ito, kung malalaman sana natin ang tinutubo, profit, ng mga pribadong ospital, maaari na itong makapagpatayo pa ng mga bagong pampublikong ospital o matatantiya natin kung ito ay kayang makapagpatayo ng mga bagong ospital, Mme. Speaker. Alam naman natin ang kalagayan ng ating mga kababayan sa government hospitals natin na ang mga ito ay kapos na kapos sa bed capacities. Sa halip na matugunan nito iyong mga kababayan natin, napipilitan silang pumunta sa pribadong health facilities at na-o-obliga silang mag-out-of-the-pocket spending. Kanina po ay sinabi ninyo na halos one-third ng ating allocation sa health ay nasa insurance kaya po mahalagang-mahalaga na makita natin kung ang nagpo-profit nga ba dito ay ang mga pribado at hindi naman ito naibabalik sa publiko.

Iyon po iyong gusto nating malaman.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Ang datos na mayroon po tayo dito, Mme. Speaker, ay iyong kabuuan ng collections pati iyong benefit payment ng PhilHealth. So, noong January to December of 2016, iyong collections ng PhilHealth po ay nag-total ng P103.7 billion. Ang benefit payment ng PhilHealth ay nagkakahalaga ng P101.7 billion. Hindi lang namin ma-disaggregate iyong P101.7 billion na benefit payments kung alin po dito iyong para sa private, alin po dito iyong para sa government but kung gustong malaman ng ating

Kinatawan ng GABRIELA iyong collections from the formal economy, nagkahalaga po ng P47.9 billion at ang benefit payment is P24.9 billion. Sa informal economy, ang collections ay P4.9 billion at ang benefit payment ay P20.7 billion. Sa indigent at sponsored na sector, ang collection is P37.8 billion at ang benefit payment is P30.9 billion; tapos, sa senior citizens, ang collections ay P13 billion—trese—tapos, parehas na ang senior citizens at pati lifetime members ng PhilHealth, ang benefit payment is P25.1 billion.

So, ito po iyong datos na mayroon po sa atin ngayon.

REP. BROSAS. Okay, thank you, Mme. Speaker, for the data. Maaari po bang makakuha kami ng kopya para mapag-aralan din namin iyon pero so far po ay nagre-react po ako kaugnay doon sa mga datos dahil maliit po, ano, P20.7 billion lang, and even ang collection ay maliit din, P37.8 billion, even sa indigent, ang benefit ay P30.9 billion lamang.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo.

REP. BROSAS. So, wala ngang 50 percent, walang mas mataas pa, walang ano, walang 50 percent pataas pa ang ating...

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Benefit payment?

REP. BROSAS. Yes.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Trese, trenta—P30.9 billion ang benefit payment.

REP. BROSAS. Anyway, in the recent PIDS study, Mme. Speaker, it was found that the amounts reimbursed by the PhilHealth through the CBP or Case-Based Payment scheme from the case rates were not sufficient to cover hospital expenses. Although there is a “No Balance Billing,” iyong NBB po sa mga hospital payment scheme, it is limited to certain classifications of patients. This does not include members from the formal and informal economy who are mainly minimum-wage earners. Sinabi ko na rin po ito sa interpelasyon pa lang sa DOH dahil nababahala po ang Kinatawan ito. Ibig sabihin po nito, Mme. Speaker, ang mga kababayan natin na minimum-wage earners ay hindi na puwedeng magkasakit or kailangan classified ang kanilang pagkakasakit para matanggap sila sa mga ospital ng gobyerno. Malaking problema po ito kasi iilan lang iyong kakayanin talagang makapagpa-ospital kung ikaw ay minimum-wage earner.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Anong tanong?

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, ang tanong ko po ay iyong mga minimum-wage earners natin, iyong

CBP, kasi case-based payment. Iyong paraan po na ito, sa tingin namin ay hindi nakatutulong para sa mga kababayan natin. Ngayon, ano po ang tingin ng ating good Sponsor kaugnay dito sa case-based payment at sa NBB, No Billing Balance payment, na ginagawa ng gobyerno?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mme. Speaker, nandito po iyong DOH noong isang budget hearing natin pati na rin ang PhilHealth. Ang alam ko kasi, ito ay polisiya ng PhilHealth at ng Department of Health na magkaroon ng ganitong klaseng programa. So, iyon po iyong kasalukuhang polisiya na sinusunod naman po natin, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker. Gusto ko lang siguro, para mas precise iyong tanong, another thing about this NBB is that the implementation is voluntary in private health care units. Congested po iyong public hospitals natin at relatibong mas maraming mga pribado. Tatanggapin na lang ba ito ng mga kababayan natin na minimum-wage earners, kaunti lang ang suweldo nila hindi nila kayang makapagpagamot at all, kaya paano po natin i-a-address ang concern na ito, kung iyong NBB nga, sinasabi natin, ay voluntary lang sa private health care units, at kulang ang public hospitals natin? So, kung hindi po siya nakasasagot, iyong No Balance Billing payment o NBB, ano po ang magandang polisiya ng gobyerno dito para sa lahat, lalung-lalo na sa mga minimum-wage earner?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Sa palagay ko naman, ang ginagawa ng gobyerno ngayon, makikita natin sa budget dito sa Health Facilities Enhancement Program, iyong first line of public health services natin ay tinutuunan ng pansin ng ating gobyerno, at kaya nga malaking budget ang naka-allot para sa mga barangay health stations kasi ito iyong first line of health care service natin sa mga barangay. Mayroon din tayong nakalaan na pondo para sa construction and improvement ng ating rural health units. So, mula sa barangay, inaayos na po natin iyong health care services natin sa barangay. Doon sa rural areas po natin, mayroon din tayong ginagawang rural health units at hindi pa po tayo nagtatapos diyan dahil pati na rin iyong mga public hospitals natin ay tuluyan po nating ini-improve iyong facilities nila, ini-improve natin ang ating mga public hospitals.

Ngayon, tanggap naman po natin na maliban sa public hospitals, mayroon din po tayong private hospitals. Kaya nga po pinasukan din natin ng pondo ang PhilHealth para po iyong pasyente, iyong pamilya, lalung-lalo na iyong mga mahihirap na pamilya na gusto nating tulungan, kapag binigyan lang po natin ng libreng PhilHealth card iyan, whether pupunta man sila sa public hospital or sa private hospital, makakabenepisyo

silang doon sa ibinibigay ng PhilHealth. Tapos, in case of deficiency, puwede rin po tayong humingi sa PCSO. Tapos, kapag nasa government hospital din naman iyong pasyente, in case of deficiency, mayroon din tayong Medical Assistance Program mula sa Department of Health. So, ito po iyong mga options, ito po iyong mga avenues, ito po iyong mga pamamaraan natin kung paano natin matulungan ang ating mga indigent patients, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Kaugnay po sa public health, sa mga barangay health stations po, totoo po na mayroong ganitong programa iyong ating DOH, pero ito rin po iyong gusto sana natin i-address, na actually ay binawasan iyong budget para sa primary health care sa ating pondo sa health. Kaya po isang malaking kuwestiyon din sa amin ito, kasi gusto nga natin na down to the barangay iyong pagbibigay ng tulong, pero iyong para primary health care po, binawasan iyong pondo. Iyong mga barangay health stations po, kaugnay dito, iyong mga medisina na dapat ay naibibigay hanggang doon sa level na iyon, ay alam naman po natin iyong nangyayari, na minsan, hindi po umaabot sa mga barangay ang medicines na kailangan ng ating mga kababayan. Kung kaya malaki po iyong problema natin even sa public health care, lalo pa po kung ang usapin ay ilalagay natin ang malaking pondo natin sa kalusugan sa insurance.

Ang problema po sa insurance-based policy, ay, in the event when the insurance is taken out of the control of the patient, when the private hospital dictates what examinations are to be done. Maaari din nilang i-deny iyong insurance kaya mas mahihirapan iyong mga kababayan natin. Gustohin man nilang dalhin pa sila sa pampublikong ospital, kung galing na sa private hospital, hindi na po sila matatanggap, hindi na sila maa-accommodate, kasi paano po kung wala talagang budget, hindi ba? Plus, ang fact po ay taontaon ay nagka-cut tayo ng MOOE ng public hospitals at ngayong taon na naman, gagawin na naman po natin iyon. Hindi maintindihan ng Kinatawan na ito na, kulang tayo sa public healthcare, sa pangangalaga ng kalusugan ng mga kababayan natin, ang insurance policy o sa PhilHealth Insurance natin ilalagay ang sangkatlo ng ating pondo, tapos, ganito po iyong policies ng gobyerno natin, paano na po ang mga maliliit nating mamamayan o iyong mga mahihirap nating mamamayan na hindi kakayanin na mag-avail ng ganito? Alam po natin na ang PhilHealth ay hindi rin umaabot sa pinaka-rural o pinakamalalayong lugar sa ating bayan. Hindi po lahat ay nakaka-avail ng PhilHealth insurance.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mme. Speaker, ang polisiya naman ng ating pamahalaan ay binabalanse po natin. Kung titingnan natin iyong ating budget para

sa Department of Health, balanse naman po—mayroon naman po tayong nakalaan na pondo para sa barangay health stations, rural health units, pati na rin sa ating public hospitals. On the other side, mayroon din po tayong pondong nakalaan para sa libreng PhilHealth para sa mga mahihirap. Ginagawa po natin, binabalanse po natin wng dalawang aspeto na iyan dahil naiintindihan naman po natin na hindi naman din lahat pupunta sa public hospitals. Gayunpaman, tinutulungan din natin iyong mga public hospitals. Mayroon tayong subsidy na ibinibigay sa kanila, even if ang public hospitals natin ay mayroong sariling income, income generating din po sila. Bagamat income generating sila, binubuhusan pa rin natin po ng pondo ang mga hospitals natin at mayroon ngang, gaya ng sinabi ko, tayong Medical Assistance Program or MAP na ma-a-access din po ng mga mahihirap nating mga kababayan kung sila po ay pumasok sa mga pampublikong ospital.

On the other side, ang PhilHealth ay sinusupportahan din natin dahil ito pong subsidy natin sa PhilHealth ay para sa mga mahihirap nating mga kababayan. Mayroon po silang libreng PhilHealth card para mayroon din po silang access sa private hospitals kasi hindi naman lahat ng mga mahihirap ay—alam mo, kapag emergency naman po iyan, hindi naman makakapili ang mahirap na doon siya dalhin sa public hospital. Paminsan-minsan naman po, dahil emergency case ay napupunta siya sa private hospitals. So, ang proteksiyon na ibinibigay natin sa kanila ay iyong PhilHealth card, na saan man siya mapunta, dahil halos lahat ng ospital natin ay accredited na po sa PhilHealth, whether public or private, ay covered po siya ng health insurance.

So, I think maigi at maganda naman ang pagkabalanse ng pondo natin na napupunta parehas sa mga pampublikong ospital. Ito namang sa PhilHealth, hindi naman directly napupunta sa private hospital po iyan, napupunta po talaga iyan sa subsidy na binibigay natin sa libreng pang-PhilHealth natin sa mga mahihirap nating kababayan.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Gusto ko lang po i-reiterate na iyong sa public hospitals na MOOE na taon-taon nating tinatangal. Malaki pong bagay ito kasi between po sa pribado at saka sa pampubliko, alam nating direktang makikinabang tayo kung direkta ang services talaga sa public, ano po. Malaki po iyong difference noong pribado kasi naka-insurance lang at iyong pampublikong ospital na kailangan talaga nating paglaanan ng budget. Technically, obligasyon nating paglaanan ng budget ito, ano po, at hindi po sa pagkita ng mga ospital na ito iyong kailangang nilang unahin dahil iyong profit po na ina-avail o makukuha nila ay kukunin din nila sa mga ibabayad sa kanila ng mga mahihirap nating kababayan na pumupunta sa mga pampublikong ospital na ito. Alam po naman natin ang kalagayan ng mga kababayan

natin na mahihirap, na hindi po niyan kinakaya talaga na magbayad. Ang gagawin po ng mga pampublikong ospital ay mag-o-obliga din sila na magbayad ang mga benepisyaryo, magbayad ang mga pasyente, kung kaya po hindi sa lahat ng pagkakataon ay epektibo na ipinagbabayad natin sa mga pampublikong ospital ang ating mga pasyente. Ikalawa po, sa usapin ng MAP, sa tinagal-tagal po ng paggamit ng MAP na sinasabi natin na hanggang ngayon po, marami pa rin po tayong mga kababayan na hindi talaga nabibigyan ng sapat na direktang serbisyo sa kalusugan. Pangatlo po, sa HFEP na sinasabi natin, sa mga pangunahin na Health Facilities Enhancement Program, alam po natin ang kalagayan sa mga regional hospitals natin at hospital units ay kulang ang doktor, kulang ang gamot at kulang ang pasilidad, at iyan po ang totoong kalagayan sa mga bayan-bayan dito sa Pilipinas.

Kung kaya po ay malaking palaisipan po itong PhilHealth card ang ating uunahin na pagtuunan ng pansin o ibigay sa ating mga kababayan kasi, katulad po nang sinasabi natin, malaking problema talaga natin ang public health pero binawasan natin ang primary health care, binawasan natin ang MOOE ng public hospitals. Puro po iyon pagbawas sa pampublikong pangangailangan at pagdagdag iyan ibig sabihin sa pribado, kung kaya po, Mme. Speaker, we may have expanded the coverage of the PhilHealth but that does not guarantee the quality of health care of our Filipinos. I have hope in the proposed P9.7 billion budget for Deployment of Human Resource for Health Program which aims to hire 446 doctors—gusto po natin iyon— 20,527 nurses, 3,108 midwives and 324 dentist kasi alam po natin iyong maitutulong nito sa ating mga kababayan. However, Mme. Speaker, most of these jobs are either job orders or contracts of service. Why are we not investing in plantilla positions for our health care units when every year the DOH data shows the lack of medical personnel from national hospitals down to the rural health units, mga RHUs po natin. We have so many funds for insurance but we give dimes to service providers. Ano po ba ang gusto nating i-insure dito, Mme. Speaker, serbisyong pangkalusugan o serbisyong pagkakakitaan?

With that, I end my interpellation, Mme. Speaker. Maraming salamat po at sana po magawan ito ng paraan, ang public health policy talaga ng ating gobyerno.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Gusto ko lang pong idagdag na iyong pondo natin for Health is P172.9 billion, mas mataas kaysa nitong 2017 at may nakalaan po tayong P2.3 billion para sa MOOE sa regional hospitals natin at P1.396 billion para sa operations ng hospitals natin sa Metro Manila. Mayroon din po tayong P4.3 billion para sa Assistance to Indigent Patients, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, the next Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor is the Gentleman of the Lone District of Baguio City, the Hon. Mark O. Go. I move that we recognize him for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The honorable Rep. Mark Go from Baguio City is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. GO (M.). Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker. Will the honorable Sponsor yield to some questions from this Representation?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). One of the major resources of a country is its people. Our country today has a population of more than 100 million and we brag the fact that this is one of the important resources of our country. Do you believe that, Mr. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mme. Speaker, it is one of our greatest assets—our people.

REP. GO (M.). Having said that, I would like to find out the long-term and the short-term policy directions of our country in ensuring that we can utilize this resource optimally.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Well, we hope to accelerate human capital development through quality, accessible and relevant education and also, to create opportunities for labor and employment so that our people will be contributors to the growth and development of our economy. We must also ensure that they are healthy and that is why we also put a lot of our funds into health care.

REP. GO (M.). What about in terms of improving the productivity, especially of our government employees that, I would say, is very important in ensuring that in the short term, we can really address the development of the country. Is there any specific program that will improve the productivity of the people, particularly those who are working in the government?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Well, iyong sa productivity po natin, marami po tayong nakalaan na pondo para sa training through the TESDA, through the Department of Labor and Employment. For employment, mayroon din po tayong Livelihood or Kabuhayan Program; para sa mga estudyante, mayroon tayong Special Program for Employment of Students; mayroon din po

tayong Government Internship Program para sa mga kabataan; mayroon din po tayong Rural and Emergency Employment Program; mayroon din po tayong JobStart Philippines Program sa Department of Labor and Employment. Para sa teachers po natin, mayroon din tayong GASTPE Program. Iilan lamang iyan sa mga programa natin, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). Mr. Sponsor, as a follow-up question to that, mayroon po ba tayong matrix of key result areas so that we can really measure iyong kanilang productivity at the end of the year, such that we know exactly the contribution that they have made in terms of improving productivity?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Well, for the government, this is being tracked by the Civil Service Commission, at mayroon silang tinatawag na PCR which stands for Performance Commitment Review, Mme. Speaker. So, only for civil service or government employees.

REP. GO (M.). So, ito pong measurement na iyan, qualitative po ba ito o quantitative ang measurement? Kung qualitative, medyo hindi natin ma-figure out iyong talagang impact niyan maliban na lang kung quantitative iyong measurement natin.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). It is quantitative, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). Okay. Isa pong tanong related to that. We have an increase in the PS budget from P990 billion in 2017 to P1.074 trillion in 2018. How do we ensure that this increase in budget can bring about effective delivery and quality of service to our people in our country, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mme. Speaker, iyong increase sa Personnel Services is due to the implementation of the Salary Standardization Law and also the increase in the hiring of personnel. Nandiyan naman ang Civil Service na talagang tumututok sa mga kawani ng ating pamahalaan. In each and in every government office or agency, lahat naman ng government employees and government officials are being monitored and being assessed in terms of the jobs that they are doing. So, ito po iyong mga pamamaraan na ginagawa ng ating gobyerno to ensure that our government workers are really efficient and effective in their work, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). Doon po sa budget natin sa MOOE, it is about P1.3 trillion. Iyon pong job orders natin at iba pang mga empleyado na hindi kasama sa PS, ang budget po nila, as I understand it comes from the P1.3 trillion budget. Dito po sa P1.3 trillion, magkano po ang naka-allocate para sa job orders natin in 2018?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mme. Speaker, wala po tayong breakdown sa ganyan pero ang gusto ko lang sabihin is, halos wala na po tayong job orders dahil dini-discourage na po talaga ito. Kung mayroon man, ito ay mga contractuals but this is contract-based, based on contract only, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). So, dito po, ngayong 2017, ang sinasabi po ninyo ay wala na iyong job orders?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). For 2018, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). So, we expect that zero na ito, lalung-lalo na sa 2018?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Not naman necessarily zero pero talagang binabawasan na po natin at dini-discourage na po natin iyong pag-hire ng job orders. If ever mayroon man pagagamitan ang MOOE para sa mga ganito, it is only for contractual employees, based on contract only, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). Okay. Last na lang po. Naniniwala po ba kayo na ang development ng bansa ay dapat may balanse ang industry at saka iyong agrikultura? In other words, do you believe in a balanced growth in terms of the industrial sector and the agricultural sector?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Oo naman po, Mme. Speaker, kasi napaka-importante din para sa bansa natin ang food security. Hindi naman po tayo puwede ma-develop bilang isang bansa kung hindi naman natin pinangangalagaan ang ating agricultural sector na napaka-importante din po para sa growth ng ating mga bayan.

REP. GO (M.). In other words, mayroon po tayong strategy that iyong mga produkto natin sa agricultural sector ay gagamitin ng ating industrial sector para i-process ito, at iyong mga produkto natin sa industrial sector ay gagamitin sa agrikultura para ma-develop natin iyong buong dalawang sektor na iyan at ito ang magiging stratehiya natin para magkaroon ng development ang ating bansa. Sa ngayon po kasi, ang ating practice ay panay ine-export natin iyong mga raw materials natin na galing sa agrikultura, at iyong ating industrial growth ay hindi tumutulong para yumabong ang ating agrikultura.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Tama po, Mme. Speaker. Polisiya ng ating gobyerno na hindi lamang pag-export ng raw materials or raw agricultural products ang pina-prioritize natin, dapat mas malaking value-added para sa bansa kung pati na rin ang pag-process ng agricultural products ay mananatili sa ating bansa.

REP. GO (M.). Huling tanong po. Sa 2018, nakapaloob dito na magkakaroon tayo ng mga pagbabago sa ating ekonomiya ng bansa para mabawasan natin ang inequality sa ating budget for 2018. Ano po ba ang innovative approaches natin maliban sa mga dating ginagawa natin noong 2006 o 2017 para maging basehan upang ma-equalize o ma-resolve natin ang problema sa inequality, ang gagawin natin ngayong 2018 na innovative approaches to address the problem of inequality in our society? Ang nangyayari po kasi ngayon para ma-resolve natin iyan, we get a certain amount from one basket and we just transfer it to another basket. Iyon ang ginagawa natin. Binibigyan natin ng maraming exemption ang mga mahihirap sa taxes at nangongolekta tayo ng maraming taxes sa mga may pera. Mayroon po ba tayong other innovative approaches na mapalaki natin ang pie at i-share sa buong stakeholders ng ating bayan, instead na linilipat lang natin ang isang income pupunta sa ibang basket?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Kung innovative initiatives ang ating pinag-uusapan, mayroon po tayong gustong gawin na palaguin natin at i-develop ang ating micro, small and medium enterprises or MSMEs. Dito sa pag-develop ng MSMEs, mayroon tayong tinatawag na shared service facilities. Mayroon din po tayong “Pondo sa Pagbabago at Pag-asenso” Program kung saan binibigyan natin ang MSMEs ng alternative sources of financing. Mayroon din tayong mga pag-expand ng ating Negosyo Centers at gusto natin mag-establish ng 150 new Negosyo Centers and maintain the other existing 597 centers. Gusto din natin na suportahan ang ating One Town, One Product Next Generation Project kung saan binu-boost natin ang competence in the marketing of our native products through effective design, packaging and utilization of online tools. Mayroon din po tayong tinatawag na Comprehensive Automotive Resurgence Strategy or CARS kung saan gusto natin palaguin ang automotive manufacturing industry ng ating bansa.

So, iilan lamang ito sa innovative projects or programs or initiatives na ginagawa natin, maliban po doon sa mga ginagawa natin na inequality-reducing programs like health care, education and training at nabanggit na po natin ang mga ito mula sa Department of Labor and Employment, sa Department of Education, sa CHED, sa TESDA, at pati na rin sa health care sa DOH, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GO (M.). Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

Hanggang dito na lang po ako, thank you at magandang hapon.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Salamat din po, Mme. Speaker,

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD from COOP-NATCCO for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Anthony Bravo is recognized.

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

Good afternoon to everyone. Will the distinguished Sponsor yield to some interpellation from this Representation?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, in the preparation of our national budget, there are processes that we observe. It could be recalled that these processes, in fact, emanate from the DBCC. Am I correct?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). That is correct, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). In the preparation of our annual budget, it starts from the determination of the overall economic targets, expenditure levels, revenue projection and the financing plan of the DBCC.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). May I request for a suspension of the session, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Floor Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move for a suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is suspended.

It was 2:26 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 2:27 p.m. the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is resumed.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Allow me to present this, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, so that we will be able to refresh our minds on the procedure of our national budgeting.

The DBCC I am referring to, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, is the Development Budget Coordinating Committee created under Executive Order No. 232 dated May 14, 1970, and this is an interagency tasked to formulate the national government's fiscal program. Responsible for the annual and multiyear budget planning, it is considered the highest level body responsible for policy and decision-making on all fiscal matters.

I am using this as a foundation in my presentation, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, because if there will be any lapses or, as we say, slow spending in the national government or other agencies, it can be traced back to how our economic managers, especially the DBCC, planned the expenditure program of the national government. The DBCC is comprised of the following: the DBM as the chair, the NEDA as the co-chair, the DOF, the OP and the BSP as members. I will not be dwelling much on the roles of our DBCC members. I will proceed immediately, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, to the budget deliberation which addresses the major concerns—the budget proposal of departments, sources of financing, expenditure levels and review of priorities and performance.

May I proceed now with the review of priorities, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Let me start with the General Appropriations Act and the Unprogrammed Appropriation. Today, 2017, what we are deliberating on is our 2018 proposed budget. Therefore, to shorten our discussion, allow me to use our 2016 GAA as our prior year's performance. It could be gleaned that under General Appropriations Act 2016, there was an approved appropriation of P3,001,800,000,000, with a breakdown according to the following expense class: Personnel Services, MOOE, Financial Expenses and Capital Outlays. It could be gleaned that if we add all of these, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, it would total to P3,069,300,000,000. Is this correct?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, I believe that is based on our past GAA, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). What was approved was P3,001, 800,000,000, but when we totaled it, it is equivalent to P3,069,000,000,000. Why is this so?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mme. Speaker, let me clarify that what was approved in the 2016 GAA is P3,001,800,000,000. Ito ang na-approve natin. Hindi ko po alam iyong figure na P3,069,300,000,000.

REP. BRAVO (A.). It could be gleaned from the report, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor,

that when the breakdown was reported, the total was P3,069,300,000,000. I just want to show, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, this is how tricky the preparation of our budget is. I was speaking a while ago that I will be asking about the General Appropriations and the Unprogrammed Funds. This is where our Unprogrammed Fund would come in. In fact, P67,500,000,000 is subtracted from the New Appropriations as part of the Unprogrammed Funds. I think this is the reason the approved appropriations becomes P3,001,800,000,000.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mme. Speaker, I am not ready to say that the P67,500,000,000 is from the Unprogrammed Funds. In fact, hindi namin malaman kung paano lumabas ang P3.069 billion.

REP. BRAVO (A.). I can show, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, the source because it is clear in the report that in 2018, it reflects the Unprogrammed Fund amounting to P67 billion which was approved by this august Chamber. In the 2016 GAA, we can see that this Body approved the amount of P67,500,000,000.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Iyong P67.5 billion, totoo po iyan na mayroon tayong Unprogrammed Fund in 2016 pero kasama na ito sa P3 trillion o sa P3.001 trillion. It is already included thereat. Actually, hindi lang po magkatugma ang figures natin, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Yes. What I am just driving at, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, is how tricky our preparation of the budget is. In the course of preparation, we subtracted the Unprogrammed Fund, giving us P3 trillion and then later on, we will see that, if I will be allowed to proceed.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Okay.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, while it was subtracted—on that particular presentation, we will see in a later presentation that it will still be added or included in the expenditure.

May I proceed, Mme. Speaker?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mme. Speaker, I am willing to watch the presentation.

REP. BRAVO (A.). As we can see, there is now the actual National Expenditure Program for 2018 and under PS, there is P758 billion; MOOE, P1 trillion; Financial Expense, P306 billion; and Capital Outlays, P605 billion or a total of P2,682,814,855,000. Again, if you will see, there is a difference, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. In fact, there is a difference

in PS, P54 billion; in MOOE, 100 billion; Financial Expense, P88 billion; and P143 billion on Capital Outlays. So, if we add these, there is a difference of P386 billion.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mme. Speaker. Unutilized Funds, Unobligated Funds—kasama na po lahat iyan and so, mayroon talagang underutilization.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, the difference, in fact, if you will see, P67,500,100,000 is again added. If we add this, it will give us P3,069,300,000. That is where our Unprogrammed Fund comes in. Was this Unprogrammed Fund utilized in that particular year of expenditure?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Ang report sa status of Unprogrammed Fund for 2016 ay may nagamit po na releases ng Unprogrammed Fund na umabot sa P25.3 billion.

REP. BRAVO (A.). It is P25,341,004,000. That is the exact figure.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). So, P25,341 billion.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. We are now on the same page. So, out of P67.5 billion under the Unprogrammed Fund, there were funds that were utilized under this appropriations.

The question is, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, out of that amount of P67 billion, which were the priority agencies that received an allocation for those funds?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mme. Speaker, to cover payment of the applicable taxes and other charges on titling and transfer of Central Bank—Board of Liquidators, P1.2 billion; to cover loan proceeds in connection with the Bureau of Fire Protection Capability Building Program, Phase II requirement, P67 million; to cover— sorry, rewind, rewind.

It was used for the following: to cover the payment of applicable taxes and other charges on titling and transfer of Central Bank-Board of Liquidators, P3 million; to cover loan proceeds in connection with BFP Capability Building Program, Phase II, P1.2 billion; to cover purchases of equipment, motor vehicle and maintenance expenses of the DOJ, P67 million; to cover total just compensation payable to PIATCo for NAIA Passenger Terminal 3, P20 billion; to cover the 70 percent share of the ARMM and LGUs in the ARMM, P765 million; and to cover release of National Government Equity Investment for the Land Bank of the Philippines Loan Portfolio, P2.8 billion, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague. To fast-track my presentation, so, these are the expenditures as made mentioned by distinguished colleague.

Next slide, please. I just want to express, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, that as per priority from the Unprogrammed Fund, we missed to implement, specifically, a particular expenditure as approved by this Congress, the item of expenditure under the AFP Modernization Program, amounting to P10 billion. It was not utilized, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, am I correct distinguished Sponsor? It was not released to the AFP, P10 billion as part of P67 million.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). AFP Modernization? I do not see it. So, it was,,,

REP. BRAVO (A.). Next slide, please, the succeeding pages.

Next, please. These were the releases.

Next, please. Next. Next. Next. These were the funds that were not utilized out of P67 million. As mentioned by distinguished Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, out of P67 million, P500 million—only a portion of it was utilized on that particular year of expenditure, leaving behind an item of expenditure that was not released. It appears, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, that the appropriation that was released, the allocation for the DILG was even more important compared to the AFP Modernization Program. To my mind, if this amount was released to the AFP then, maybe, the AFP would have been better equipped as far as in confronting the issue in Mindanao

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Mme. Speaker, sa AFP Modernization Program, sa regular budget, mayroon naman po sila. Itong nandito sa Unprogrammed Fund, augmentation lang po that will only be used—we will only tap this kapag mayroon tayong additional revenues. Alam naman po ng ating distinguished Gentleman from COOP-NATCCO na iyong Unprogrammed Fund can only be utilized kapag mayroon tayong new revenues na paggagamitan.

So, itong nandiyan po sa AFP Modernization Program under the Unprogrammed Fund, that is just an augmentation if need be but separately, doon sa DND, mayroon din po silang AFP Modernization Program na nakalaan sa pondo ng DND noong 2016. So, hindi naman po ibig sabihin na hindi natin na-modernize iyong AFP natin, may ginamit tayong pondo pero hindi itong Unprogrammed Fund ang pinaggamitan natin.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you for that explanation. What I am driving at, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, is in terms of prioritization, because as you mentioned, this is just an augmentation. Then, as a

priority, we prioritized to use that augmentation for purchase of fire trucks when, in fact, it was—I think we know what happened to the use of that fund. So, while the Unprogrammed Fund is for augmentation, there were actually expenditures incurred and as such, to my mind, these agencies that utilized the funds from the Unprogrammed Fund were the priorities instead of this agency.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Well, it was a policy decision—this is 2016 and so, half of it was used in the previous administration and half of it was used by the present administration. Policy decision po ito ng Ehekutibo.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Anyway, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, we are not aware that something will happen in Mindanao, but as I said, if only this fund was released to the AFP, maybe the AFP would have been better equipped in confronting the issue in Mindanao. Hindi naman natin alam na mangyayari iyon.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo.

REP. BRAVO (A.). May I proceed. Next slide, please. Let me go back now to the appropriation obligation to show us the performance of our national government on the expenditure of 2016.

Please, next slide. So, these are the figures. As we can see, we have huge Unused Appropriations, and we have P185 billion Unreleased Appropriations and Obligated Appropriations of P410 billion.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). This is for 2016.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Yes, 2016, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague.
Next slide, please.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). So, historically, we can see that this is not a new case, that this a recurring issue, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

Next slide, please. So these are the Continuing Appropriations. To give you an example for 2016, there are Continuing Appropriations for the DPWH amounting to P82 billion, DepEd – P31 billion; and for the Department of Transportation, DSWD, DND and DOH, also huge amounts, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, kaya nga we are doing away with the two-year validity kasi ito po iyong nakikita natin naging effect, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). So, in doing away with the two-year validity, I hope will be able really to address the slow spending of our agency.

Next slide, please. Next. Next. Next. Next. So, this is how our national government, to show you a few, has been slow in spending, as far as these agencies of the government are concerned, in utilizing the funds as appropriated by this Body.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Next slide, please.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Sa 2016, buhay pa po ito, and they have until December 31 of this year to utilize those Unused Appropriations.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Does it include, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, dahil sinasabi mo na buhay pa ito, does it include the Unreleased Appropriations?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, kasi for the Capital Outlays and MOOE, the validity period is up to December 31, 2017.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Meaning, the Unreleased Appropriations for 2016 is still funded as such and can be utilized until December 31, 2017. Am I correct?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). That is correct, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you for that reply, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

Next slide, please. Next. So this is the breakdown.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Next slide, please. Next. So, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, in the interest of time, allow me just to show, historically, the 2015, 2016 and 2017 NEP and the 2018 NEP, and the budget that we are going to allocate or appropriate to this agency as compared to the previous year wherein huge Unused Appropriations and Unreleased Appropriations were incurred and in fact contributed to the slow spending. It should be—it could be, if I will mention, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, that for every single centavo we failed to utilize, we also failed to deliver services to our people.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes. Well, as I said, our economy is growing and so we are or we should be happy to see an increased budget and with the increased budget, naturally, the selected top agencies will also receive their increased budgets. This is not strange,

Mme. Speaker. Ang kailangan lang nating tutukan dito is gagamitin iyong perang nakalaan po para sa kanila.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Next slide, please.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. With the kind indulgence of the Gentlemen on the floor, may I move that we suspend in the meantime the debate on the General Principles and Provisions.

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

METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

REP. FARIÑAS. That motion was made, Mme. Speaker and colleagues, because we will first insert and consider the budget of the MMDA. They have been here all day and Metro Manila is now flooded. May we consider their budget first? Then, we can resume the others.

Now, I move that we consider the debate on the budget of the Metro Manila Development Authority and that the Sponsor, the Hon. Alfred D. Vargas, be recognized, Mme. Speaker, and for the interpellation, the Sr. Dep. Minority Leader, the Hon. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr. of BUHAY Party-List be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The honorable Sponsor is recognized and to interpellate, the Honorable Atienza. Kindly proceed.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. With the kind indulgence of the distinguished Sponsor, I would like to ask one question only—one question on the Metro Manila Development Authority.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. I will not engage anymore in pesos and centavos, but I would like to have a direct answer from the leadership of the MMDA today.

REP. VARGAS. Gladly, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Alam ninyo, kaninang madaling araw, umulan nang malakas subalit patuloy ang tungkulin natin dito sa Kongreso at sinuong natin ang

ulan para makaabot tayo rito. Pagdating natin ng EDSA, tumigil ang traffic, three hours po nakatigil at hindi tayo makadaan. Alam ninyo kung bakit? Bumaha ng kaunti doon sa Cubao underpass. So, I am asking one simple question, why does this kind of problem even occur to really displace our daily economic activities, the businesses of the day. Even the congressional attendance, I am sure, was affected simply because the MMDA did not deliver, given the problem of a heavy rain. Hindi po dapat nangyayari iyan kung sila ay nagtatrabaho. Daily, we have to grind and go through the gauntlet of a serious traffic situation in Metro Manila. Hindi ko na po kukwestiyunin why the MRT breaks down everyday. Hindi ko na po kukwestiyunin why alternate roads are not even cleaned up. Even Waze makes a mistake. Papupuntahin tayo sa isang alternate road pero hindi madadaan dahil ang dami palang illegal structures doon sa kalyeng iyon.

So, I am addressing myself now to the leadership of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority, bakit po pinabayaan bumaha sa ilalim ng underpass dito po sa Cubao? Can I get an answer so that the outrage may also be given an answer dahil iyan ang tanong nating lahat—bakit ganyan ang gobyerno? Hindi naman po lahat ng sangay ng gobyerno pero ang aking nakikita lang ay ang MMDA, Metropolitan Manila Development Authority. Ano pong pagbabago ang nagawa ng MMDA na masasabi nating development-oriented sila? So, I am asking this question and I am waiting for an answer.

REP. VARGAS. Mme. Speaker, the MMDA recognizes that flooding is really a very, very big problem in urban management. To answer directly the question of the Honorable Atienza, Mme. Speaker, nagbaha po doon sa area na iyon dahil the pumping station in that exact place ay nasira po dahil sa basura. It cannot pump continuously because of the trash, at dahil po sa basura kaya po nagkaganoon. Araw-araw po ay nililinis po iyan ng MMDA just to be able to address it as swiftly as possible. Now, with the new budget, the MMDA has allotted funds to address this.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, hindi po iyan ang sagot na aking hinihintay sapagkat dinaanan ko rin po ang problemang iyan. Iyon pong Lagusnilad sa harap ng Manila City Hall, iyan po ay palaging binabaha. Kung minsan, napupuno ng tubig kaya pati truck ay hindi makakadaan diyan, at nalulunod ang truck, sabi nga nila. Subalit nabigyan namin ng solusyon iyan. Simple—nasisira iyong pump, bumili kami ng tatlong pump. Natatambak ang basura, hinuhuli namin ang nagtatapon ng basura sa paligid-ligid.

Therefore, it takes just a simple, common sense solution. You do not need a magician; you do not need a master technician; you do not need an expert management person; and all you need is sensitivity—

dapat sensitive sila. Gumamit tayo ng common sense. Pump—bakit isa lang ang pump? Sa Maynila, bumili kami ng tatlong pump, at hinding- hindi na po nagbreakdown ang pump. Iyong basurang sinasabi ninyo, hulihin lahat ng nagtatapon ng basura within a radius of that very important, vital installation.

Nagtayo ng underpass ang gobyerno para maging problema po ng motorista at ng mga mamamayan? Sa palagay ko po naman, hindi natin madya-justify iyan. You cannot tell the people, “Sorry, hindi po natin magamit sapagkat nag-breakdown po iyong pump.” Alam ninyo kung ano ang sinabi ko roon sa in-charge, “Kapag itong tatlong pump ay hindi nagtrabaho at bumaha sa Lagusnilad, huwag ka ng mag-report kinabukasan. No excuses will be accepted. You are fired before it even happens.”

Ganoon sana ang maririnig ko kay Chairman Lim. He is a military man, he is a disciplinarian, so I am sure that he is a disciplined man. Fire him kung hindi po niya mapatakbo ang pump pero tulungan ninyo. Hindi lang isa, hindi lang dalawa, pero ibili ninyo ng tatlong pump bawat underpass at hindi na po babaha iyan. You must take the bull by its horns, sabi nga nila. You must address the problem, Chairman Lim, at akin pong hihintayin sapagkat sobra-sobra na ang hirap namin para makarating sa Kongreso po dahil inaabot ng dalawang oras kami araw-araw. Nagbibilang po akong enforcers sa kalye at kung minsan may mga biyahe kami, wala po ni isang enforcer ako na makita. Bilangin ninyo mga enforcer ninyo, alamin kung ano ang ginagawa nila at baka nagkakamot po ng tiyan. Ang nakakagalit, dahil nakikita po natin sa ilalim ng underpass at doon naka-istambay, anim o walo sila. So, you have to have a full accounting of your men, your machines and your money. Today, we are talking about money, but even given all the money you need, if you do not take your men seriously, we will not improve our services.

Maghihintay po tayo. My dear colleague, I expect you to be on our side. Be on the side of the people and not on the side of incompetence.

Thank you.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Danilo “Danny” E. Suarez, the Minority Leader, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Honorable Suarez is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Will the distinguished Sponsor yield to some questions?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. I have very few questions on the proposed budget of the MMDA but first, I would like to congratulate and say hello to my good friend, Danny. Alam po ninyo, noong pinasok po ng mga RAM ang Makati, doon po iyan pumunta sa unit ko sa Twin Towers.

He was very polite, and that was the first time I met him. Ang sabi niya, “Mr. Suarez, gagamitin lang po namin iyong inyong veranda pero huwag po kayong mag-alala, wala pong mangyayari dito, wala pong mawawala.” True to that, they stayed for a few days, maayos po naman, kaya maayos po iyong grupo nila Danny Lim noong time ng RAM.

Mme. Speaker, ang akin pong proposal is simple. Kung maaari, dahil sa wala pa ho at nasa drawing board pa po iyong ating mass transit that is supposed to be elevated, in the underground and ground levels, para ma-solve po itong mass transit habang ginagawa po natin iyong connection ng SLEX at NLEX which might take a while, iyong sa akin po is to condition the mind of the residents of Metro Manila that traffic is inevitable. Ngayon, kung hindi ho natin babawasan ang sasakyan sa kalsada, it will be a nightmare and EDSA will be a huge parking space. Right now, mayroon po tayong ginagawang 1, 2, 3, 4, hindi po ba? Ngayon, ang pakiusap ko po, until such time na maayos po ang mass transit, baka ho puwedeng gawin nating three ending digits ang ating pagbabawal to eliminate 30 percent of moving vehicles in the major thoroughfares of the National Capital Region. That is one of my appeals—magsakripisyo po tayong lahat. A 30-percent reduction in the number of vehicles will improve the speed by about 2.7 to three kilometers an hour. Malaki pong tulong iyan sa ating mga motorisata.

May I know the position of the Chairman.

REP. VARGAS. Mme. Speaker, regarding the suggestion of the honorable Minority Floor Leader, the MMDA is very much open to the idea precisely because we are talking about volume reduction of vehicles which is one of the solutions to our traffic problem.

REP. SUAREZ. So, puwede pong pag-aralan na po natin iyong numerical distribution ng 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker. The way to go about it, Mme. Speaker, is at the next council meeting, the Metro Manila Council composed of the mayors, they will be taking this up in their agenda.

REP. SUAREZ. Ito hong corner ng McKinley at saka EDSA, ang bus station po diyan doon sa ilalim noong station ng MRT.

REP. VARGAS. MRT.

REP. SUAREZ. Ngayon, baka naman puwedeng gawan natin ng paraan sapagkat cleansing the system will be a herculean task. Hindi ho naman overnight magagawa ni General Lim na iyong scalawags at saka iyong mga kotong cops ay maaalis kaagad. Iyan po kasi ay makikita mo—naka-pileup ang bus at naghihintay na mapuno ang mga bus bago paandarin. In the meantime, nagpapa-pile po tayo at iyon pong sinasabi natin na “zebra principle” na pagdating po ng green light, dapat walang maiiwang sasakyan sa square ng Ayala, square ng EDSA going both north and south pero ito ay hindi nangyayari. Ang nangyayari, kung green light ka, may nakabarang mga sasakyan sa kalsada at ang dahilan niyan ay, gaya ng sinasabi ko, mayroon po tayong medyo ma-abilidad na mga pulis na may mga pinoprotektahang mga bus na hindi po umaalis hanggang hindi napupuno. We can consider that McKinley Street is a showcase dahil nandiyan po lahat ng mga investor, nandiyan po sila nakatira, nandiyan ang mga embassy, pero that reflects the discipline in our country. Kaya kung puwede ho ay bigyan ng attention iyong problema roon.

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Na-take up na po ni Congressman Atienza iyong sa sand pump kasi ganyan din po iyong nangyari sa akin kanina. Nakita ko na kaya nagbara po dito sa may Cubao underpass ay, iyon na nga ho, nagbaha. Tinigilan ko at tinanong, “O, may sand pump kayo, bakit hindi ninyo gamitin?” Ang sabi nga sa akin, “Sir, kapag ho pumasok ang basura, nasisira po ang impeller ng bomba, at wala talaga tayong magagawa roon.” Kaya kung maaari, it is an issue of the leadership of Metro Manila mayors na higpitan naman iyong pagtatapon ng basura. Kaya may itatanong lang ako, sino po ang mas may authority, iyong pong MMDA o iyong mga Metro Manila mayors?

REP. VARGAS. Pagdating po diyan sa paghakot po, it is the LGU which has the responsibility.

REP. SUAREZ. So, the LGU prevails?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. So, kahit na ho magbigay ng instructions ang MMDA, si General Lim, puwede ho siyang hindi sundin ng Metro Manila mayors?

REP. VARGAS. The collection and transport ng basura ay responsibility po talaga ng LGU and so, we just hope for their cooperation pagdating po dito.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, the good GM, the good General Lim might just direct a letter to our Metro Manila mayors that nagkaka-problema tayo sa paglilinis because ...

REP. VARGAS. The Chairman of the MMDA can include this in the agenda during the Metro Manila Council meeting.

REP. SUAREZ. So, when can we—puwede po naming kasing sabihin na achievement ng Plenary ito dahil kami po ay magbabakasyon na. Puwede na po ba nating i-announce na mag-i-increase tayo ng one ending digit sa mga sasakayan, or do you need the approval of the Metro Manila mayors before you can implement that?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, through the MMC, Metro Manila Council.

REP. SUAREZ. What if they do not agree?

REP. VARGAS. Wala pong magagawa tayo dahil sa kanila po talaga nakasalalay ang aksiyon doon po sa kanilang specific na LGU.

REP. SUAREZ. Maybe, I have to ask the leadership of the House kasi lahat ho naman tayo are IRA-dependent except, maybe, Quezon City. Baka puwede nating pakiusapan na tumulong naman.

REP. VARGAS. Mme. Speaker, there is a pending bill now under the Committee on Metro Manila Development.

REP. SUAREZ. Pakisabi lang na magbigay na ng advance notice sa kanila na this is the appeal of the House to somehow give a remedial solution to this nightmare of a traffic.

REP. VARGAS. Certainly, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, I thank the Gentleman for his answer. I am satisfied. In behalf of the Minority we do not have any more questions to raise on the proposed budget of the MMDA.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, in behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in terminating the period of sponsorship and debate on the budget of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate on the budget of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority is hereby approved.

REP. VARGAS. Thank You, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Floor Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is suspended.

It was 3:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:11 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Speaker, before we continue or resume the deliberations on the General Appropriations Bill, may I read a letter from the President, addressed to Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez:

Mr. Speaker,

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 26, Subparagraph (2) of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of House Bill No. 6215, entitled: AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES in order to address the need to maintain continuous government operations following the end of the fiscal year to expedite the funding of various programs, projects and activities for FY 2018 and to ensure budgetary preparedness that will enable the government to effectively perform its constitutional mandate.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

(Sgd.) RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE
President of the Philippines

Copy furnished:

Senator Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III
Senate President

So, this Bill has been certified as urgent by the President pursuant to the Constitution.

I now move that we resume the debate and interpellation on the General Principles of the Budget and that the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the Hon. Karlo Alexei B. Nograles of Davao City, be recognized to continue with the sponsorship, and the Gentleman, the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD to continue with his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Chairman Nograles and Congressman Bravo are hereby recognized. Kindly proceed.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague. To wrap up, distinguished Sponsor, these are just two slides.

Distinguished Sponsor, may I proceed now to our Revenue Program on the National Government’s Financing and Borrowing, as reflected under our Budget of Expenditures and Sources of Financing 2018. It could be gleaned from our comparative study—next slide, please—Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, that the difference between the Total Obligations and Revenue Program, as shown in this table with the title “Comparative Study,” is made up of the national government’s financing and borrowing. Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, Mr. Sponsor, is this figure correct?

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, may I proceed further, in the interest of time, that there is a difference between Obligations and Revenue Program, that is why we have a deficit. Lastly, in the next slide, my ultimate concern is our continuously increasing deficit in the national debt. As projected in 2017, there will be about P482-billion deficit and for 2018, there will be a P523-billion deficit which, in turn, will lead us to a projected national debt of P6.47 trillion for 2017 and P6.9 trillion in 2018.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Well, ang ...

REP. BRAVO (A.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, the question in my mind, what will make the difference between this administration and the past administration as far as the deficit in the national budget is concerned?

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, members of the DBCC, Members of this august Chamber, I leave this issue as a challenge to all of us. I hope we will not be creating another blunder with this 2018 National Budget.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mme. Speaker, we are being very responsible naman sa ating borrowings. Ang importante, kung iko-compare po iyong ating budget deficit, we maintain it at three percent. Ang importante, iyong borrowings natin will go to the right projects and programs na tuluyang magpapalago ng ating ekonomiya at magpapataas ng ating GDP. Importante din po na matingnan natin na iyong outstanding national debt natin versus the GDP—paliit po ng paliit iyong percentage ng ating outstanding national debt kumpara sa GDP. Ibig pong sabihin nito, na-outpace po ng ating economic growth ang ating national debt, so, as a percentage sa GDP, bumababa po iyong ating national debt. So, it looks like, you know, we still have a very healthy economy because, bagamat tayo po ay humihiram, napupunta naman ito sa mga programa na tuluyang makakatulong sa ating ekonomiya na lalo pa siyang tumaas. Nakikinabang din naman po ang ating taumbayan.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you for that answer, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

Lastly, I would like to appeal to our distinguished Sponsor to reinstate the deleted provision—General Provisions Section 47 in 2017—relative to authorized deductions because we have the legal basis, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, in the “order of preference” to include the mutual fund. Can I have an answer?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). The Gentleman can go ahead but rest assured na we have already taken it into consideration po.

REP. BRAVO (A.). With that assurance, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, I thank the distinguished Sponsor for the assurance that the issue that I am raising about the reinstatement of the authorized deductions in the order of preference as reflected in 2017 will be reinstated in 2018.

Thank you very much.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Our people in the cooperative and the mutual fund will be very, very thankful.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). We will coordinate very closely with the Representative from Coop-NATCCO in addressing his concern.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you very much.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize our Minority Leader, the esteemed Gentleman from Quezon, the Hon. Danny Suarez.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Danilo Suarez is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, this is a reflection of policy in the proposed 2018 budget which we consider as the first true budget of the Duterte administration, where it is 12.4 percent or P470 billion higher than the 2017 budget, in a practical view that the true priorities of any organization are reflected in where it puts its money.

What will be the role of this budget on the war against illegal drugs?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Doon po sa budget natin, very clear po na ang budget na ito ay sinusuportahan ang kampanya ng ating mahal na Pangulo kontra sa iligal na droga. Nandiyan po iyong budget natin para sa pag-support natin sa Philippine National Police, nandoon po iyong pag-support natin para sa efficient and swift administration of justice.

Nandoon din po iyong para sa rehabilitation ng ating mga drug dependent, at nandiyan din po iyong para sa detention, na iyong jail facilities and detention facilities ay dadamihin natin at i-improve pa natin ang mga ito.

REP. SUAREZ. Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, in the 2018 budget, the DPWH, the DepEd, and the ALGUs are the top three agencies with a budget increase. We are expecting the golden age of infrastructure through the DPWH, although it is constitutionally mandated that the DepEd should have the highest budget allocation. May I know the reason for the increase in the budget of the ALGUs, IRA, distinguished Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Saan po? Sa LGU and IRA?

REP. SUAREZ. Under the Constitution ho, dapat po DepEd.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Ang education.

REP. SUAREZ. Pero dito po sa ating ginagawang pag-spread out ng ating cash ceiling gawa noong inyo

pong golden age of infra, it would appear that their budget will be bigger than the DepEd.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Kapag tiningnan ninyo po iyong constitutional provision stating that priority should be given to education in terms of budgeting, kailangan po nating tingnan iyong education sector. Kasama na po diyan iyong DepEd, CHED, TESDA at lahat ng mga ahensiya na tumututok sa edukasyon mula sa basic education to higher education to technical-vocational education. So, kung isuma total po natin ang lahat iyan, makikita natin na priority pa rin ang education sector po, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, my concern on food security, considering that ito—as I had said, napakahalaga po ng isda sa bawat pamilyang Pilipino, but this was somewhat addressed yesterday.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes.

REP. SUAREZ. If you notice, they have committed that they will restore the budget of the BFAR.

Gusto ko lang malaman, dahil na-cut din po natin ang budget ng PAGASA, at a time like this wherein we need accurate and 100 percent reporting on weather, why are we cutting the budget of PAGASA, distinguished Sponsor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). The reason, Mme. Speaker, is that the projects had already been completed. Kumpleto na po iyong projects. Hindi na po natin binigyan ng additional budget dahil completed na po iyong mga project ng PAGASA. Nagmumukhang na-cut o tinapayan natin ang budget ng PAGASA pero ang totoo po diyan is nagkaroon na po ng completion ang kanila pong mga project kaya hindi na natin pinondohan po muli nitong 2018.

REP. SUAREZ. Can we give that a serious concern, distinguished Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, on the final deliberation or even during the bicam na tingnan po natin uli ang issue na ito?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Opo.

REP. SUAREZ. Mahalaga ito hindi lang po sa weather forecasting pero napakahalaga rin po ito sa agriculture, sa fishery—sa lahat po ito.

I have a sizeable number of questions here but wala po ang DOF and so, maybe, I can just ask the Sponsor that the Secretary of Finance committed to us that in 2018 they will implement the attrition law. Can the Minority be assured by the leadership that henceforth the attrition law will be implemented by 2018?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, that was the commitment of the Department of Finance Secretary, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you. With that answer of the distinguished Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, the Minority interposes no more questions on the General Principles and Provisions. I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the same.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). There has been a motion from the Minority to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the General Principles and Provisions.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in closing the period of interpellation and debate on the General Principles and Provisions.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The period of interpellation and debate on the General Principles and Provisions is hereby terminated.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I move that we take up the budget of the Department of Trade and Industry, including attached agencies and corporations, and for this purpose, recognize its Sponsor, the Hon. Joey Salceda of the Second District of Albay.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Joey Salceda is hereby recognized.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo Suarez.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Danilo Suarez is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Congressman Salceda, are you willing to yield for some questions?

REP. SALCEDA. Willingly, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, the proposed 2018 Budget for the Board of Investments or BOI increased by a hefty 415 percent. Is that correct?

REP. SALCEDA. That is correct, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. This is correct?

REP. SALCEDA. That is correct.

REP. SUAREZ. What do you envision it for and why this hefty increase, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. It is for the CARS Program, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, where we give incentives to car manufacturers to have higher local value, higher local content.

REP. SUAREZ. Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, per finding of the COA, it has the highest number of non-implementation and non-submission of financial statements. This is the Office of the Secretary from 2012 to 2016. I do not find the incumbent Secretary at fault but can I have the assurance that, henceforth, this event will not happen again?

REP. SALCEDA. He has said "yes."

REP. SUAREZ. There is also a sizable amount of P442 million, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, on projects that, up to now, have not been liquidated. This may not be the proper forum because we are in a hurry to do other matters, but can we just put this on a note to the Department that the Minority will take this action in a separate matter about its compliance with the COA on this P400 million plus unliquidated amount, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SALCEDA. We will submit, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, a report on the status of the P442 million unliquidated projects.

REP. SUAREZ. Again, I noticed that there were some reversions to the Treasury on the account of LCCA, DTI Central, and 12 regional offices amounting to P131 million. I do not want to debate with the distinguished Sponsor and consult the DTI on this matter, but the Minority wants a reply on this. If it is satisfactory, then we will just leave it as is; but if it is not, then we will call for a formal investigation.

REP. SALCEDA. Thank you very much, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, and the short answer is, it was the COA that ordered the DTI to revert it to the National Treasury.

REP. SUAREZ. That is what I am saying. The COA will not just make those findings if they did not find any irregularity.

REP. SALCEDA. We will make a report, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, together with the P442 million.

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, thank you for your reply. The Minority interposes no more question on the proposed budget of the Department of Trade and Industry.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, we move to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Department of Trade and Industry, including its attached agencies and corporations.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Department of Trade and Industry is hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

PANGASINAN STATE UNIVERSITY

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider the budget of the Pangasinan State University, and for that purpose, recognize the Hon. Paolo Everardo S. Javier.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Paolo Javier is recognized.

REP. JAVIER. Magandang hapon, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. On behalf of the Minority, I move that we recognize the Hon. Alfredo “Pido” A. Garbin Jr.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Alfredo “Pido” Garbin is recognized.

REP. GARBIN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. On behalf of the Minority, there being no Member of the Minority who wishes to ask questions, I now move to

terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Pangasinan State University.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up the budget of the Sulu State College, and for this purpose, recognize the Hon. Paolo Javier.

On behalf of the Majority, I ask for your indulgence, Mme. Speaker, we move to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Pangasinan State University.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Pangasinan State University is hereby approved.

SULU STATE COLLEGE

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we begin the debate on the budget of the Sulu State College, and for this purpose, recognize the Hon. Paolo Javier.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Paolo Javier is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, on behalf of the Minority, I move that we recognize the Hon. Alfredo “Pido” A. Garbin Jr.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Alfredo Garbin is recognized.

REP. GARBIN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. On the part of the Minority, there being no Member who wishes to ask questions, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Sulu State College.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we join the Minority in moving for the closing of the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Sulu State College.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Sulu State College is hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we begin the consideration of the budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, and for this purpose, recognize the Hon. Oscar “Richard” S. Garin Jr. of the First District of Iloilo.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Oscar Garin Jr. is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, on behalf of the Minority, I move that we recognize the Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo Suarez.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Danilo Suarez is hereby recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Will the distinguished Sponsor yield for my interpellation?

Mme. Speaker, the new appropriations for the DSWD under the proposed 2018 Budget will increase by 14.6 percent or that will be P137 billion. Is this correct?

REP. GARIN (O.). Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. However, we note that your average utilization rate is only 85.2, meaning, almost 15 percent of your yearly budget is not fully consumed. Then, how can your agency rationalize the huge increase in your appropriations, considering your low absorptive capacity?

REP. GARIN (O.). Mme. Speaker, it is 40 percent, and it is on track. We are still moving that budget until the end of this year.

REP. SUAREZ. If you notice, distinguished Sponsor, we have been in this debate for almost—this is the second week. The Minority is so sensitive and I think it should be the concern of the House, the absorbing capacity, kasi non-delivery is subject denied, kaya ho napaka-sensitive namin.

So, the 2018 budget of the Office of the Secretary is 14.6 higher than that of the previous year and this is P120 billion. Now, how can this significant increase be reconciled with the fact that the OSEC’s average Unused Appropriations is P15 billion, Mme. Speaker? How?

REP. GARIN (O.). Mme. Speaker, generally speaking, the DSWD spending for 2017 is right on track except for some programs, most notably the Sustainable Livelihood Program. The DSWD ExCom is on top of budget utilization and monitoring, taking to heart the DBM’s exhortation to utilize what had been appropriated, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Then I will take that action, that answer, distinguished Sponsor, that you are saying that 2017 is a different year. Iyan po ba ang gusto ninyong sabihin?

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GARIN (O.). Hindi ko ho marinig. May I ask for a one-minute suspension of the session, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is suspended.

It was 3:36 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:36 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The session is resumed

REP. SUAREZ. Your Honor, the proposed 2018 Budget, as well, has some, we call it, inadvertence in giving importance to the welfare of children. The proposed 2018 Budget for the implementation of the CCT program is P89.4 billion, a whopping 24-percent increase from its 2017 allocation. My question is, why is there a need to increase the budget for this program when the 2015 COA Report stated that a total number of 1.2 billion accounts of the CCT, or the equivalent of P2.5 million, were not withdrawn from 30 to 2,190 days upon payout?

REP. GARIN (O.). Mme. Speaker, the increase of P9.9 billion in cash grants was mainly due to the restoration of health grants allocation to all 4.4 million beneficiaries/households amounting to about P4.3 billion. In 2017, health grants to all beneficiaries/households were good only until May 2017. In addition, the actual requirement for all 4.4 million beneficiaries/

households is P28.5 billion; whereas, in 2017, it was only P23.4 billion and thus, an additional P5.1 billion is needed to fill the need in cash grants allocation for 2018, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, that is a somewhat hazy answer, but I will take your answer, Mr. Sponsor.

Mme. Speaker, one question before I raise my question. Do you believe in the CCT?

REP. GARIN (O.). In CCT, Mme. Speaker?

REP. SUAREZ. Are you convinced that it is a good program?

REP. GARIN (O.). It is a good program, Mme. Speaker. The CCT or 4Ps actually is not designed for poverty solution. It is designed primarily to promote the health and education programs of the government.

REP. SUAREZ. Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, the difference in this rating of poverty incidence, after all, has gone down, from 26.6 in 2006 to 21.6 in 2015. You must remember that, during the time of then Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, we were using Republic funds for the CCT, and during the time of the previous administration, we have to borrow money for that purpose. So, if you would look at the total amount deployed in this program, may five percent increase in the poverty level. Do you think it is worth it? Sa laki po ng perang inilalagay natin dito sa mga beneficiary, ang tinatanong ko lang kasi, puwede naman ho nating ilagay iyong pera sa ibang purpose. During that time, we also had problems of cash allocation.

Ngayon po, medyo liquid ang gobyerno, marami pong pera. So, ang sinasabi ko lang ho dito, bakit hindi ninyo pag-isipang mabuti kung kukuha pa ho tayo ng pera kung kailangang dagdagan sapagkat marami pong pera ang hindi naa-absorb ng ibang agency. Mag-transfer kayo dito kung naniniwala kayo sa programa na magkaka-increase po itong five percent over a period, malaki po ito, of 11 years.

REP. GARIN (O.). Mme. Speaker, as to the effects of Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program, we have an ongoing verification right now and it is the so-called Project Kumustahan.

Allow me to mention some facts mentioned by the World Bank. According to them, nine million children are currently benefiting from the program, 1.9 million of whom are in high school. The program has also achieved universal enrolment for elementary-age children of 4Ps households. The Social Protection Program, with the Pantawid Program included, has cushioned the poor from the adverse impact of various shocks the country experienced over the past six years. The study estimated

that the program has led to a poverty reduction of 1.4 percentage points per year or 1.5 million less poor Filipinos.

Some other facts mentioned by the World Bank are about health program. There is a reduction in severe stunting among beneficiary children and lower maternal mortality in the past five years because more mothers delivered babies in health facilities—a drastic decrease in allocation of 4Ps households. They also mentioned the educational program where 10.18 million children currently benefit from the CCT, 1.9 million of whom are in high school. There is a near universal school enrollment of elementary-age children for 4Ps households and it is 98 percent. There is a decrease in child labor days kasi nasa school na po sila—seven days less a month for 4Ps households.

I just mentioned a few facts with which the World Bank appreciates this program of the agency.

REP. SUAREZ. Are those data, distinguished Sponsor, accurate figures? Those are accurately implemented figures?

REP. GARIN (O.). Mme. Speaker, this is based on the records of the agency.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, among the attached agencies of the DSWD, the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council will receive the highest increase of 55 percent, from P85 million to P133 million in 2018. Is that correct, Your Honor? Does this reflect any shift in policy by the Duterte administration?

REP. GARIN (O.). The P48.2-million increase under the Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council Program represents 54.73 percent budget of the agency. That goes to the JJWC, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Speaker, my last question. Distinguished Sponsor, we are here in the lower House, we are not getting wet from the rain, but maybe, a few hundred meters away from this structure, mayroon pong giniginaw, basa ang loob ng bahay dahil may tulo ang bubong, at mayroon pong binabaha. Nangyari ho ito sa amin sa Quezon noong nagkaroon ng bagyo. My question is this: Iyong Quick Response Fund po ng DSWD na kapag ito ay kailangang tumulong sa mga nangangailangan, may nangyari po sa amin at tinatanong ko po sa kanila, “Nasaan iyong pera?” at ang sinabi, “Nilipat po sa National Disaster Coordinating Council.”

REP. GARIN (O.). For 2017, that QR Fund, Mme. Speaker, was already transferred to the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council. It is not anymore with the Department.

REP. SUAREZ. So, distinguished Sponsor, why the redundancy? Ano po ba iyong NDRRMC, samantalang naka-deploy na po iyong DSWD sa mga lalawigan at magde-deploy na lang ng mga relief aid? Why do you have to move funds from one agency to another?

REP. GARIN (O.). Mme. Speaker, that budget was advised by the DBM themselves to transfer the portion of Quick Response Fund to the NDRRMC.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, these are weaknesses and maybe, Congress can do something about what we call “Quick Response Action” in terms of disasters as what we are having right now. So, henceforth, maybe, along that line ...

REP. GARIN (O.). Actually, Mme. Speaker, the Department has also proposed, because it also affects the absorptive capacity of the Department and because it is still included in the agency’s budget, na sana ilipat na lang nang buo doon sa NDRRMC.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, it practically answers the question—redundancy again. Sa halip na gastusin, ililipat po and so, that is tantamount to delays. Can you imagine the paperwork on how to implement and release funds, waiting for voluminous signatures in different offices? So, I am leaving this interpellation with a big question mark, distinguished Sponsor, and because of material time, I will not raise any more questions but in the proper venue, I will raise, again, the issue on the DSWD.

Mme. Speaker, on behalf of the Minority, we interpose no more questions on the proposed budget of the DSWD.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we, in the Majority, join the Minority in moving to close the debate on the budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, including attached agencies. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and its attached agencies is hereby approved. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we begin the deliberations on the proposed budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform and for that purpose, I

move that we recognize the Hon. Michael John R. Duavit of the First District of Rizal. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Honorable Duavit is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move for the recognition of the Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez, of the Third District of Quezon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Danny Suarez is recognized.

REP. SUAREZ. Mme. Speaker, yesterday, I raised issues on the plurality and the concern of coconut farmers. I was given assurance that, henceforth, a comprehensive program will be implemented by the DAR on what we call “intercropping” to make our coconut farmers earn a little more. So, with that, I withdraw my objection to the proposed budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

On behalf of the Minority, we interpose no objection to the proposed budget of DAR.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we join the Minority in moving to close the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Department of Agrarian Reform is hereby approved. (*Applause*)

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

REP. BONDOC. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up the proposed budget of the National Electrification Administration and for this purpose, recognize its Sponsor, the Gentleman from the First District of Zamboanga City, the Hon. Celso L. Lobregat. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Celso Lobregat is recognized.

REP. LOBREGAT. Mr. Speaker, I am ready to sponsor the budget of the National Electrification Administration.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Alfredo “Pido” A. Garbin Jr. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Alfredo Garbin is recognized.

REP. GARBIN. Mme. Speaker, there being no member of the Minority who wishes to ask questions, I now move that the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the National Electrification Administration be terminated on the part of the Minority. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we join the Minority in moving to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the National Electrification Administration. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the National Electrification Administration is hereby closed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENTERPRISE ZONE AUTHORITY

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we begin the debate on the proposed budget of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and for this purpose, recognize its Sponsor, the Hon. Michael John R. Duavit of the First District of Rizal. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Michael John Duavit is recognized.

REP. DUAVIT. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Party-List AKO BICOL, the Hon. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Alfredo Garbin is recognized.

REP. GARBIN. Mme. Speaker, there being no member of the Minority who wishes to ask questions, I now move that the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the TIEZA be terminated. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we join the Minority in moving to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority is closed.

REP. DUAVIT. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we begin the debate on the proposed budget of the National Housing Authority and for this purpose, recognize its Sponsor, the Hon. Alfred D. Vargas. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Alfred D. Vargas is recognized.

REP. VARGAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. This Representation is ready to answer questions from distinguished Members of this Chamber.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Party-List AKO BICOL, the Hon. Alfredo Garbin. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Alfredo Garbin is recognized.

REP. GARBIN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. There being no member of the Minority who wishes to ask questions, I now move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the National Housing Authority. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we join the Minority in moving to close the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the National Housing Authority. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the National Housing Authority is hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NATIONAL HOME MORTGAGE FINANCE CORPORATION

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we begin the debate on the proposed budget of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation and for this purpose, recognize its Sponsor, the Hon. Alfred D. Vargas of the Fifth District of Quezon City. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Alfred Vargas is recognized.

REP. VARGAS. Mme. Speaker, this Representation is ready to answer questions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Party-List AKO BICOL, the Hon. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Alfredo Garbin is recognized.

REP. GARBIN. Mme. Speaker, there being no member of the Minority who wishes to ask questions, I now move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we join the Minority in moving to close the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hear none; the motion to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation is hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SOCIAL HOUSING FINANCE CORPORATION

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we begin the debate on the proposed budget of the Social Housing Finance Corporation and for this purpose, recognize its Sponsor, the honorable Gentleman from the Fifth District of Quezon City, the Hon. Alfred D. Vargas. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Alfred Vargas is recognized.

REP. VARGAS. Mme. Speaker, this Representation is ready to answer questions from Members of this Chamber.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Party-List KABAYAN, the Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Harry Roque is recognized.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mme. Speaker, there being no one from the Minority wishing to interpellate, we move to close the deliberations on the budget of the Social Housing Finance Corporation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we join the Minority in moving to close the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Social Housing Finance Corporation. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Social Housing Finance Corporation is hereby approved.

HOME GUARANTY CORPORATION

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we begin the deliberations on the proposed budget of the Home Guaranty Corporation and for this purpose, recognize its Sponsor, the Gentleman from the Fifth District of Quezon City, the Hon. Alfred D. Vargas. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Alfred Vargas is recognized.

REP. VARGAS. This Representation is ready to answer questions, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Party-List KABAYAN, the Hon. H. Harry L. Roque Jr. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Harry Roque is recognized.

REP. ROQUE (H.). Mme. Speaker, there being no one from the Minority wishing to interpellate, we move to close the budget deliberations on the Home Guaranty Corporation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we join the Minority in moving to close the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Home Guaranty Corporation. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Home Guaranty Corporation is hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATING COUNCIL

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we begin the debate on the proposed budget of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and for this purpose, recognize the Gentleman from the Fifth District of Quezon City, the Hon. Alfred D. Vargas, to sponsor the budget. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Alfred Vargas is recognized.

REP. VARGAS. This Representation is ready to answer questions, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez from the Party-List BUTIL. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Cecilia Chavez is recognized.

REP. CHAVEZ. Mme. Speaker, on the part of the Minority, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate, I move that we close the budget deliberations on the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we join the Minority in moving to close the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to close the period of sponsorship and debate on the budget of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council is hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

HOUSING AND LAND USE REGULATORY BOARD

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up the budget of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board and for this purpose, recognize the Gentleman from the Fifth District of Quezon City, the Hon. Alfred D. Vargas. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Alfred Vargas is recognized.

REP. VARGAS. Mme. Speaker, this Representation is ready to answer questions.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Cecilia Leonila V. Chavez from the Party-List BUTIL. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Hon. Cecilia Chavez is recognized.

REP. CHAVEZ. Mme. Speaker, on the part of the Minority, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate, I move that we close the budget deliberations on the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we join the Minority in moving to close the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board is hereby approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H. B. NO. 6215

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the deliberations on House Bill No. 6215. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia-Albano). 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. 23, dated September 12, 2017:

PRESENT

Abellanosa
Abu
Abueg
Acharon
Acop
Acosta
Acosta-Alba
Advincula
Aggabao
Albano
Alejano
Almario
Almonte
Alonte
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (P.)

Amatong
Aquino-Magsaysay
Aragones
Arcillas
Arenas
Atienza
Aumentado
Bag-ao
Bagatsing
Baguilat
Banal
Barbers
Bataoil
Batocabe
Bautista-Bandigan
Belaro

Belmonte (F.)
Belmonte (J.C.)
Belmonte (R.)
Bernos
Bertiz
Biazon
Billones
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bordado
Bravo (A.)
Bravo (M.V.)
Brosas
Calderon
Calixto-Rubiano
Caminero
Campos
Canama
Cari
Casilao
Castelo
Castro (F.L.)
Castro (F.H.)
Cerafica
Chavez
Chipeco
Cojuangco
Cortuna
Cosalan
Crisologo
Cua
Cuaresma
Cueva
Dalipe
Datul
Daza
De Jesus
De Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Del Rosario
Deloso-Montalla
Dimaporo (A.)
Dimaporo (M.K.)
Duavit
Durano
Dy
Elago
Enverga
Erice
Ermita-Buhain
Escudero
Espina
Espino
Estrella

Evardone
Fariñas
Fernando
Ferrer (J.)
Ferriol-Pascual
Floirendo
Fortun
Fortuno
Garbin
Garcia (G.)
Garcia (J.E.)
Garcia-Albano
Garin (R.)
Garin (S.)
Gasataya
Gatchalian
Go (A.C.)
Go (M.)
Gomez
Gonzaga
Gonzales (A.P.)
Gonzales (A.D.)
Gonzalez
Gullas
Herrera-Dy
Hofer
Jalosjos
Javier
Kho
Khonghun
Lacson
Lagman
Lanete
Laogan
Lazatin
Leachon
Lee
Limkaichong
Lobregat
Lopez (B.)
Lopez (C.)
Lopez (M.L.)
Loyola
Macapagal-Arroyo
Maceda
Madrona
Malapitan
Manalo
Mangaoang
Marcoleta
Marquez
Martinez
Matugas
Mellana
Mending
Mercado

Mirasol	Sema
Montoro	Siao
Nava	Singson
Nieto	Suansing (E.)
Noel	Suansing (H.)
Nograles (J.J.)	Suarez
Nograles (K.A.)	Tambunting
Nolasco	Tan (A.)
Oaminal	Tan (M.)
Ocampo	Tejada
Olivarez	Teves
Ong (E.)	Tiangco
Ortega (P.)	Ting
Ortega (V.N.)	Tinio
Paduano	Tolentino
Palma	Treñas
Pancho	Tugna
Panganiban	Tupas
Panotes	Ty
Papandayan	Umali
Pimentel	Unabia
Pineda	Ungab
Plaza	Unico
Primicias-Agabas	Uy (J.)
Radaza	Uy (R.)
Relampagos	Uybarreta
Revilla	Vargas
Roa-Puno	Vargas-Alfonso
Robes	Velarde
Rocamora	Velasco
Romualdez	Velasco-Catera
Romualdo	Veloso
Roque (H.)	Vergara
Roque (R.)	Villanueva
Sacdalan	Villaraza-Suarez
Sagarbarria	Villarica
Sahali	Villarin
Salceda	Violago
Salimbangon	Yap (A.)
Salo	Yap (M.)
Salon	Yap (V.)
Sambar	Yu
Sandoval	Zamora (M.C.)
Sarmiento (C.)	Zamora (R.)
Sarmiento (E.M.)	Zarate
Savellano	Zubiri

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Mylene J. Garcia-Albano relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Eric D. Singson.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 236 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). With 236 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6215

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6215, and for that purpose, direct the Secretary General to read only the title of the measure.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6215, entitled: AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

PASIG RIVER REHABILITATION COMMISSION

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we begin the consideration of the proposed budget of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission, and for this purpose, recognize its Sponsor, the Hon. Alfred D. Vargas of the Fifth District of Quezon City.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Alfred D. Vargas is recognized to sponsor the proposed budget of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

REP. VARGAS. Mr. Speaker, this Representation is ready to answer questions from Members of this Chamber.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize our esteemed Minority Leader, the Gentleman from the Third District of Quezon, the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Danilo Suarez is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Will the distinguished Sponsor yield the floor?

REP. VARGAS. Gladly, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. SUAREZ. During the last discussion on the proposed budget of Pasig Rehab, I did raise the question, Your Honor, on the present average depth of Pasig River and the answer then was three meters. Is that correct?

REP. VARGAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. SUAREZ. That is a dangerous level, considering, Your Honor, that is the gateway. If there is a spillover, considering that there are 17 tributaries to Laguna Lake, a range like this will definitely flood the area. Because, kapag mababa po iyong outlet ng Pasig River, hindi ho makalalabas sa Manila Bay, lalung-lalo na kung high tide. So, ano ho ang hakbang ng Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission na ibabalik po nila iyong dredging activities para ho mapalalim ulit ang Pasig River?

REP. VARGAS. The PRRC, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, will be doing the dredging of Pasig River to address this concern.

REP. SUAREZ. Your Honor, sa nakita ko pong line-up noong kanilang inventory ng mga dredging equipment, plus their concern on esteros, I do not think it is enough.

REP. VARGAS. That is correct, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, so the PRRC will be compelled to look for other budget sources such as foreign sources and PPPs, and that is how the PRRC plans.

REP. SUAREZ. During the time of former President GMA, they managed to get what we called “prepared grants or loan.” Baka ho may magagawa kayong ganoon, na makakuha ho ulit ang leadership ng Commission sapagkat napakaselan po ng ilog na ito, plus the fact that—hindi ko ho naman sinasabing security risk, kasi iyan po ang naging eye-opener noong time po na nagkaroon ng kaunting gulo sa Palasyo, iyon pong response troops ng PSG na hindi po makacross ng Pasig River papuntang Palace because ang dami pong mga derelict, iyong mga lumubog na mga dating maliliit na barge, kaya sumasayad po iyong mga bangka ng PSG.

So noong nilaliman nila iyon, nagdesisyon po ang Pangulong Gloria na laliman na ang buong Pasig River. Pero that was seven years ago, so it is high time that we do another dredging operation, Your Honor.

REP. VARGAS. The PRRC agrees with the Minority Leader, Your Honor.

REP. SUAREZ. Well, with that assurance, Mr. Speaker, the Minority interposes no more questions on the proposed budget of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we move to join the Minority in closing the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Pasig River Rehabilitation Commission.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

NATIONAL COMMISSION ON INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we begin the consideration of the proposed budget of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and for this purpose, recognize its Sponsor, the Hon. Mark Aeron H. Sambar, from the Party-List PBA.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Mark Aeron H. Sambar is recognized to sponsor the budget of the NCIP.

REP. SAMBAR. Good morning, Mr. Speaker.

This Representation is ready to defend the budget of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Party-List BAYAN MUNA, the Hon. Carlos Isagani “Kaloi” T. Zarate.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Zarate is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

With the kind indulgence of our Sponsor, talaga hong inantay ng Makabayan bloc na ma-interpellate ang budget ng NCIP sa iilang pagkakataon, pero dahil ho sa limitadong oras. Gusto ko lang hong irehistro rito na ang usapin po ng issue ng ating mga katutubo ay isang

riyalidad na dapat harapin ng National Commission on Indigenous Peoples lalo na ho sa usapin ng pagpatay ng mga miyembro ng mga katutubo o ng mga indigenous peoples.

Two years ago, pinatay ang tatlong lider ng mga Lumad sa Surigao del Sur at ang mga itinuturong responsible sa kamatayan ni Emerito “Sir Emok” Samarca at ng kanyang dalawa pang kasamahan ay hindi pa rin nahuhuli hanggang ngayon. Sa katunayan, sa nagdaang administrasyon, halos 60 mga lider ng katutubo ang pinaslang sa loob ng isang taon lamang. Sa kasalukuyang administrasyon, halos 30 mga katutubong lider ang pinatay sa iba’t ibang bahagi ng bansa lalo na sa Mindanao.

Taun-taon, binibigyan natin ng malaking budget ang NCIP, pero, G. Speaker, mukhang hindi hadlang ang NCIP sa mga nangyayaring kaguluhang ito sa ating mga komunidad na mga katutubo, ng mga pambansang minorya, at lalung-lalo na sa usapin ng pagpatay at paglabag sa kanilang karapatang pantao. Kaya’t ito ay nakababahala, halimbawa, sa usapin rin ng nangyayaring ngayong red tagging ng mga paaralang Lumad lalung-lalo na sa Mindanao, G. Speaker. Alam naman natin ang mga katutubo, marginalized na nga, nasa kadulu-duluhan pa at makasaysayan ang pagpapabaya sa kanila na nagresulta sa kawalan ng mga batayang serbisyong panlipunan tulad na lamang ng edukasyon. Pero sa kasalukuyan, ang mga paaralang Lumad ng mga pambansang minorya, na sila mismo ang nagtatag katulong ang ilang pribadong organisasyon, ay naipasara dahil ito ay—hindi man pinangalanang mga paaralan ng mga rebelled—ito ay tahasang pinamugaran ng paramilitar.

G. Speaker, marami pa pong kalunus-lunos na situwasyon ang hinaharap ngayon ng ating mga katutubo na mga Lumad, ng mga pambansang minorya at kahit na ng ating mga kapatid na Moro. Sa katunayan, mahigit 2,000 sa kanila ang narito ngayon sa Metro Manila, nag-Lakbayan para dalhin ang kanilang mga issue na noon pa man at hanggang ngayon ay kanilang hinaharap. Ang usapin halimbawa, para sa kanilang karapatan sa lupa, para sa karapatan sa kanilang lupang ninuno, para sa karapatan ng kanilang sariling pagpapasya, sa matinding paglabag sa kanilang karapatang pantao bilang mga pambansang minorya, bilang pambansang mga katutubo at bilang mga mamayang Moro na sa halip na ito ay kalingain ng isang ahensyang katulad ng NCIP ay ito pa nga, sa ilang pagkakataon, ang nagiging parang dahilan na mas lalong malabag ang kanilang karapatan. Nagiging bulag, pipi, at bingi sa daing ng mga katutubong mamamayan ang NCIP, at sa halip, sa maraming pagkakataon naging kasangkapan pa ito upang linlangin at lalo pang labagin ang karapatan ng mga katutubo. Ito po ang aming nakikita at tindig dito sa usapin ng pambansang minorya at karapatan ng mga katutubo.

Kaya, G. Ispiker, with the kind indulgence of our distinguished Sponsor, kami po sa Makabayan bloc ay nagsusulong na kung hindi pa man nabubuwag itong NCIP sa kasalukuyan, sa budget ng susunod na taon ay bigyan na lamang ito ng P1,000 budget upang ang Kongresong ito ay magbigay ng isang seryosong mensahe na kailangang tugunan ng NCIP ang mga tunay at mga pangyayaring nagaganap ngayon at sa hinaharap ng ating mga katutubo.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, sana po ay samahan ng ating Mababang Kapulungan ang aming panukala na bigyan lamang ng P1,000 budget ang NCIP.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SAMBAR. Mr. Speaker, the Commission understands the frustration of the Representative from BAYAN MUNA Party-List, and would hope that the honorable Representative understands that ...

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, ...

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

REP. ATIENZA. ... we object to the motion.

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

It was 4:21 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:22 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, there is a motion by the Honorable Zarate. It has been opposed by the Honorable Atienza. I move that we divide the House.

REP. ATIENZA. Let me explain, Mr. Speaker.

Before we even go to a vote, could we be given two minutes to explain why we are objecting?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Okay. The Honorable Atienza has two minutes.

REP. ATIENZA. Alam po nating lahat ang dami ng mga problema ngayon—pinapatay na katutubo, pinapatay na mga magbubukid, pinapatay na mga

kabataan nang walang kalaban-laban. Dito sa Maynila, gabi-gabi ay may patayan.

Ang katangi-tanging ahensya na lamang na maaasahan ng taumbayan ay ang Commission on Human Rights, and we would like to abolish it. Is my understanding correct, Mr. Speaker? Bibigyan ninyo ng isang libong piso. Bigyan natin ng P10 bilyon para makapagtrabaho nang maayos. But removing the budget of the Commission on Human Rights is a direct threat to our democratic way of life.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). I think we are talking about the budget of the NCIP.

REP. ATIENZA. At this point, it being clarified, what is being reduced is the budget of the NCIP. Am I correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BONDOC. It is the budget of the NCIP, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, the Dep. Majority Leader whispered to me that it is the budget of the Human Rights Commission that is being ...

REP. BONDOC. No, Mr. Speaker, the Gentleman is wrong. We are discussing the budget of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

REP. ATIENZA. Then I am withdrawing my objection. I will wait for the motion to abolish the Human Rights Commission.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD, from the COOP-NATCCO Party-List.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Bravo is recognized.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There being no Member from the Minority who wishes to ask questions on the budget of the NCIP, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the said budget, Mr. Speaker.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we join the Minority in closing the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

AUTONOMOUS REGION IN MUSLIM MINDANAO

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we move to take up the proposed budget of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, and for that purpose, may we recognize the Gentleman from the First District of Lanao del Norte, the Hon. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo, to sponsor its budget.

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

The Hon. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo is recognized to sponsor the budget of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). Mr. Speaker, I am here to sponsor the budget of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in the amount of P33,469,000,904 for the Fiscal Year 2018.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Tony Bravo is recognized.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

There being no Member from the Minority who wishes to ask questions, I move to terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. TAN (S.). Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, we join the Minority in closing the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TAN (S.). Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Is there any objection to the motion?

REP. TAN (S.). Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Chair hears none; ...

REP. TAN (S.). Objection, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). ... the motion is approved.

REP. TAN (S.). We are objecting, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Where is that?

REP. TAN (S.). Over here, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, our parliamentary status is that the Minority made a motion which was joined by the Majority. It is now being objected to by the Lady from KUSUG TAUSUG Party-List. We move to vote on the motion.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). As many as are in favor of the motion, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). As many as are against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*) The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we begin the consideration of the proposed budget of the Department of Budget and Management, and for this purpose, may we recognize the esteemed Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the Hon. Karlo Alexei B. Nograles.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Karlo Alexei Nograles is recognized to sponsor the budget of the DBM.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. This Representation is ready to answer questions.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

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

It was 4:27 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:28 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the esteemed Minority Leader, the Gentleman from the Third District of Quezon, the Hon. Danilo Suarez, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo Suarez, is recognized for his interpellation.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Would the Sponsor yield to some minor questions, Mr. Speaker?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, I will be a little bit not hysterical, but historical. Noong araw po, ang budget ay napakahigpit sapagkat kulang ang pera. If you will notice, noong panahon ng dating Pangulong Marcos, wala pang DBM. May isa lang sangay ng opisina at ang DBM ay nagkaroon lang ng recognition noong panahon ng dating Pang. Cory Aquino. Hindi siguro natatandaan ito ng ating distinguished Sponsor kasi nasa elementary pa lang siya noon, Mr. Speaker. Ngayon, it is not a question but somewhat an assurance, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, that the relevant duty of the Budget Secretary is to control and make sure that there is cash ceiling. Kapag nag-release ng pera ang DBM, may ready na cash ceiling. Tama po ba ako doon sa aking observation?

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, mayroon ngang cash program—cash disbursement program.

REP. SUAREZ. Sa akin lang po, puwede bang ma-assure natin ang ating mga kasamahan dito sapagkat hindi na nga po problema ang cash. As a matter of fact, this administration is oozing with cash. Hindi na nga po natin nagagastos. I was given an assurance by the DBM that, henceforth, they will play a major role in the utilization and expenditure of funds. The DBM Secretary gave me that assurance. But binabaha po sila sa kasalukuyan that is why they are not here.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. I am not saying, Mr. Speaker, that 2018 is a budget year for the next election. But some of these will be very sensitive to us, especially on what we call timely releases for specific projects. That is what we call parochial to our concern.

Kaya ang pakiusap lang po ng Minority, maybe I can speak on behalf of my colleagues, that henceforth, medyo ayusin, gaanan at maging praktikal na maintindihan ng DBM ang kahalagahan ng timely release ng funds sa ating projects which we say are close to our hearts, Mr. Speaker.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mr. Speaker. Makakaasa po tayong lahat na tututukan ng DBM ang expenditures at ang timely release ng pondo para sa pag-implement ng mga programa at mga proyekto ng gobyerno, Mr. Speaker.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. SUAREZ. May I ask for a suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. We move for a suspension of the session, Mr. Speaker.

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

It was 4:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:32 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, the Minority Leader has the floor.

REP. SUAREZ. It was a very short interpellation, Mr. Speaker, but meaningful. We hope the leadership

will come through with our request considering that 2019 will be a very significant year for most of us, if not all of us, Mr. Speaker.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. With that, the Minority interposes no more question on the proposed budget of the Department of Budget and Management, and move for the termination of the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the DBM.

Thank you very much.

REP. NOGRALES (K.). Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we join the Minority in moving to close the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Department of Budget and Management.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). There is a motion to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the DBM.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

LUMP SUM FUNDS

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we begin the discussion on the Lump Sum Funds.

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

We now discuss the Lump Sum Funds.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, the Hon. Karlo Alexei B. Nograles, to sponsor the Lump Sum Funds.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Karlo Alexei Nograles is recognized to sponsor the said budget proposal.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 4:34 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:37 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the distinguished Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo Suarez, for his interpellation.

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

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, the Minority is alien to these Lump Sum Funds. I did approach the Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and raised some questions. I am somewhat contented with how the funds will be spread out. Being so, the Minority interposes no more questions on the proposed Lump Sum Funds, and move that we terminate the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed funds.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we join the Minority in closing the period of interpellation and debate on the Lump Sum Funds.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). There is a motion to close the period of interpellation and debate on the Lump Sum Funds. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the period of interpellation and debate on the proposed budget of the Commission on Human Rights, and for this purpose, may we recognize the Hon. Raul V. Del Mar from the First District of Cebu City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Raul Del Mar is recognized to sponsor the budget of the Commission on Human Rights.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Party-List SAGIP, the Hon. Rodante Marcoleta for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Marcoleta is recognized to interpellate the Sponsor.

REP. MARCOLETA. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker, and the kind indulgence of the distinguished Sponsor.

Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, how much is the budget of the Commission on Human Rights?

REP. DEL MAR. Mr. Speaker, the CHR has proposed a budget of P1.723 billion, but the DBM reduced it by 60 percent. So, we are now discussing a net amount of P678,049 million.

REP. MARCOLETA. Thank you. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. Article XIII, Section 18, subparagraph (1) of the Constitution states that one of the intended functions of the CHR is to “investigate, on its own or on complaint by any party, all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights.” Is that correct, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. DEL MAR. Very accurate, Your Honor. That is in Section 18 (1).

REP. MARCOLETA. This means that any group of people who violate the Constitution is subject to the investigation of the CHR *motu proprio*?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, that is correct, Your Honor.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the Mamasapano massacre is, perhaps, the most tragic, the most virulent, the most revolting, and the most brutal face of human cruelty that blackened the image of our country in recent history. Have you seen, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, how the 44 members of the Special Action Force, the SAF, have been ignominiously inhumanely mutilated and mercilessly killed?

REP. DEL MAR. Is that it, Your Honor? Your question is, what did the CHR do about it?

REP. MARCOLETA. No, my question first, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, is, have you, at least, seen or have you observed how the 44 members of the SAF have been ignominiously, inhumanely mutilated and mercilessly killed?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, I saw it on the papers, Your Honor, and I read about it.

REP. MARCOLETA. Thank you. Does the CHR believe that the members of the SAF 44 have human rights?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, of course, Your Honor.

REP. MARCOLETA. Is the CHR sincere in getting to the bottom of the botched operation to determine, once and for all, those who are criminally liable?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes. As a matter of fact, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, the CHR has already conducted their investigations on this matter and they found that both sides—there were human rights and humanitarian law violations on the part of the soldiers and the police that were killed, as well as the civilians, Your Honor.

REP. MARCOLETA. Who were the persons identified to be liable, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor? The soldiers?

REP. DEL MAR. Especially the—specifically, Your Honor, the rebel who killed in cold blood the soldiers that were already wounded.

REP. MARCOLETA. How about the persons or the group of persons who planned the operations? Did the CHR find anything or anybody liable?

REP. DEL MAR. The investigation did not go too far, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker. It only delved on the incident itself.

REP. MARCOLETA. It did not go too far. That is your answer.

REP. DEL MAR. What were in focus, Your Honor, were the violations of human rights at the level of the event itself and on the aspect only of human rights.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. DEL MAR. So, that means, Your Honor, as to who planned it and other details are left to other investigative bodies.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, under Article XIII, Section 18, paragraph 8, the Constitution is very clear. If the CHR is indeed interested in determining who are criminally responsible in the massacre of the SAF 44, the CHR should, at least, grant immunity from prosecution to any person whose testimony or whose possession of documents or other evidence is necessary or convenient to determine the truth. Is it not correct to assume, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, that it is the obligation of the CHR to determine the truth behind this operation?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, Your Honor. The purpose and objective of their investigation is to ferret out the truth on the matter. And you are correct in saying that under sub-paragraph 8, they are authorized to “Grant immunity from prosecution to any person whose testimony or whose possession of documents or other evidence is necessary or convenient to determine the truth in any investigation conducted by it or under its authority.” But in this particular case, Your Honor, no person asked the CHR to be granted immunity.

REP. MARCOLETA. Then, the CHR is not serious in its job, Mr. Speaker, because in finding the truth, it should not leave any stone unturned, more particularly, on the part of those persons who planned the entire operation. If you would say that you did investigate but did not go far in determining the very truth about this, then the CHR is not doing its job.

Next question, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. The human dimension of the atrocities generated by the rebellion in the city of Marawi is both detestable and abominable. Did the CHR, on its own, investigate the extent of human rights violation of the Maute Group on the affected civilian population?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, Your Honor, in coordination with the Regional Human Rights Commission of the ARMM.

REP. MARCOLETA. So what is the report? What was disclosed in the report? Who violated whom? What is the extent of the violation of human rights? Did they go to Marawi City and investigate with the members of the Maute Group?

REP. DEL MAR. The CHR, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, condemned in the strictest terms the action of the Maute Group. And there are ongoing investigations conducted, not only by the CHR, but of other investigative bodies. That is where we are, Your Honor. This has not yet been completed as of the moment.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the Constitution does not say that the CHR should condemn whatever the group is doing or whatever has been done in violation of human rights. The Constitution is very explicit. There is a necessity to determine the truth based on Article XIII, Section 18, paragraph 8 of the Constitution.

Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the Abu Sayyaf Group that had for long made kidnapping for ransom an industry and source of livelihood, beheading the hostages who are unable to pay off their demand for payment and, to add insult to injury, the infamy is publicly announced in open defiance and ridicule of government authorities. Did the CHR, on its own, investigate the propensity of

their despicable and incorrigible acts with a view of documenting the extent to which their human rights have been desecrated?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, again, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, with due indulgence, Your Honor, on condemning, that is the situation, Your Honor. The CHR condemns the attack of the Abu Sayyaf Group in Maluso, Basilan last August 21, resulting in the death of nine people. The CHR also calls for the protection of civilians in terrorist-stricken areas. So, this is the report, Your Honor, that we made and we will be furnishing you the details of this.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, anybody in this august Body can condemn the brutal acts perpetrated by this group. This institution can do that. We have done that so many times because the act and those acts are condemnable but this is not the function of the CHR. The function of the CHR—while you can condemn—that is not the entirety. The CHR is supposed to investigate every human rights violation irrespective of any group, any location—whether they are soldiers, whether they are policemen, whether they are members of the NPA, the Maute group or Abu Sayyaf. There should not be a selective application of investigation. You can condemn, but that is not the function of the CHR, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. Your Honor.

REP. MARCOLETA. The CHR is asking for a budget before this Hall but we need to investigate whether or not that budget is being utilized precisely to do your constitutional obligation.

REP. DEL MAR. Your Honor, they do not only condemn these human rights violations. Condemning is part of their action in investigating the human rights violations whether by State authorities or by non-State authorities. So, this is still ongoing, Your Honor, and if we can have a partial report on this, then we will, if you wish, before, or wait until such time as their investigation is completed, then that is the time we will furnish you a copy, Your Honor. But, in view of your questions here, we will submit a partial report which states their actions as of today.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, ...

REP. DEL MAR. And that is why the budget is necessary, Your Honor.

REP. MARCOLETA. I am not sure I am getting the correct answers here because if the Sponsor talks about reports, these reports could have been submitted a long time ago. There were so many of these acts already

perpetrated by these people. Now, the Sponsor is saying that he is about to submit the reports.

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, Your Honor.

REP. MARCOLETA. In the CHR's website, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, there appears a press release dated September 1, 2017 which reads, "CHR concerned over President Duterte's remarks against UN Special Rapporteur, human rights defenders." The last paragraph of which states and I quote:

CHR—as conscience of the government and the people—remains firm in its stance that in this campaign against drugs, the cause are the social ills forcing people to drug abuse and drug addiction. x x x

Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, why is the CHR concerned over President Duterte's remarks against the UN Special Rapporteur? Why?

REP. DEL MAR. Because, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, she is an officer of the UN human rights system and as such must be accorded protection as well.

REP. MARCOLETA. What is the answer, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. DEL MAR. She is an official of the UN human rights system and, as such, she is a Special Rapporteur and reports to the High Commissioner for Human Rights. And so, she is accorded the courtesy and the assistance that she needs when she conducts her own mandate here in the country.

REP. MARCOLETA. So, Mr. Speaker, following your answer, the CHR defers more to the UN Special Rapporteur than the President of the Republic of the Philippines.

REP. DEL MAR. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, I do not think that is. We disagree with that because the CHR attends to everybody, especially, to the President of the country. How can you not give the best service and accommodation to the President compared to the other persons? So, this is universal, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker. They protect and promote the human rights of all persons and conducts investigations upon the instructions or requests of not only—of everyone, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, including the President.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, *The New York Times* editorial dated April 25, 2017, bannered the following: "Let the World Condemn Duterte." Was the CHR aware of this editorial?

REP. DEL MAR. Like you, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, they read it.

REP. MARCOLETA. Okay.

REP. DEL MAR. But they have no participation in this written press release, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker. They have nothing to do with it.

REP. MARCOLETA. So, they are aware of that editorial, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, they are aware of it.

REP. MARCOLETA. Did the CHR express concern over *The New York Times*' unfair and absurd call for the world's condemnation of the President of the Republic of the Philippines?

REP. DEL MAR. They did not express, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. MARCOLETA. Why?

REP. DEL MAR. ... comments on the editorial but they expressed concern on the deaths that resulted from the incident in the war on drugs in this particular case.

REP. MARCOLETA. Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, does President Duterte have human rights?

REP. DEL MAR. Everyone, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. MARCOLETA. Thank you.

REP. DEL MAR. ... especially, the President. Even you, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, are entitled to be protected in your human rights, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. MARCOLETA. Does the CHR think that the human rights of President Duterte were violated by *The New York Times*?

REP. DEL MAR. No, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker. The first reason is that the journalist who wrote this editorial had a freedom of expression. Second, public officials are held to abide by the standards set in our Constitution on human rights.

REP. MARCOLETA. So, the journalist, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, has the rights to express himself and the President of the Philippines has no right to express himself. Is that it?

REP. DEL MAR. Of course not, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker. The President, especially, has the same rights in ...

REP. MARCOLETA. So, why is the CHR concerned when the President only expresses himself, but the CHR was not concerned at all when *The New York Times* asked the world's condemnation of the President of the Philippines?

REP. DEL MAR. Mr. Speaker, the CHR is there doing its job and cannot respond to each and every incident, and to each and every statement that is made. So, this, Mr. Speaker, is fundamental. If we respect everybody's human rights, the more we defend the President's human rights.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, what law created the Commission on Human Rights?

REP. DEL MAR. The Constitution itself, Mr. Speaker, under the provisions that the Gentleman just cited—he cited the provisions on the functions of the CHR, in Section 17, and so, if I may quote, Mr. Speaker, it is just a one-liner, Section 17 (1): "There is hereby created an independent office called the Commission on Human Rights."

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, is Section 17 (1) self-executory?

REP. DEL MAR. There is a ...

REP. MARCOLETA. Now, the question is, is Article XIII, Section 17 (1), of the Constitution self-executory?

REP. DEL MAR. Not really, Mr. Speaker, but ...

REP. MARCOLETA. So, which ...

REP. DEL MAR. ...but, wait, Mr. Speaker, let me finish my reply to the Gentleman. But, the corresponding authority and the creation of the CHR, pursuant to this mandate of the Constitution, was contained in Executive Order No. 163, series of 1987, signed by then President Cory Aquino, which gives flesh to the provisions of the Constitution since it enumerates and specifies the provisions that needed to be covered in a legislative measure. President Cory Aquino was, at that time when she made this Executive Order, exercising both executive and legislative powers because this was made before our Congress functioned.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, the Gentleman mentioned Executive Order No. 163, which was dated May

5, 1987. Is this the basis he is referring to, Mr. Speaker, for creating the Commission on Human Rights?

REP. DEL MAR. The Constitution, Mr. Speaker, as we stated earlier, is the basis.

REP. MARCOLETA. No, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. And this is a ...

REP. MARCOLETA. That is a very simple question. The Gentleman said that the provision that he cited was not self-executory. That is correct, because there should be a law to create an agency. And then he cited Executive Order No. 163, dated May 5, 1987, to be the law that created the CHR. Am I correct to assume that?

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the mandate is given by the Constitution and Executive Order No. 163 is the implementing legislation on the matter.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, the 1987 Constitution was ratified on February 2, 1987 through a plebiscite. And it was proclaimed, in force, on February 11, 1987. The Executive Order was issued on May 5, 1987. It is very clear that the President of the Philippines at that time, Mrs. Cory Aquino, had no more legislative power. It should have been Congress; we should have created the CHR. Mr. Speaker, it is not correct to say that because the Constitution mentioned the CHR, it is already created. As a matter of fact, the Civil Service Commission was created by Republic Act No. 2260. The Commission on Audit was created by Presidential Decree No. 898, dated March 3, 1976. The Commission on Elections, it was the National Assembly through Commonwealth Act No. 667, which created a statutory Commission on Elections. Commonwealth Act No. 657 was enacted organizing the Commission as a constitutional Body. The Ombudsman, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, although mentioned by the Constitution, was created under Republic Act No. 770. There should be a law in order to create the CHR. Executive Order No. 163, which was issued in May 5, 1987, is invalid because at that time, Mrs. Cory Aquino, the President of the Republic of the Philippines, already lost her legislative power. Mr. Speaker, how can we appropriate a budget to an agency which has not been validly created? I move that we assign a P1,000 budget to the CHR.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. Before any motion, Mr. Speaker, let me clarify first.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Majority, we second the motion of the Gentleman from the Party-List SAGIP.

REP. ERICE. Objection. May we explain our objection, please.

REP. DEL MAR. No, before that, Mr. Speaker, let me finish.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that the Honorable Marcoleta has proposed a motion and we have seconded it. There was an objection, so now, we will divide the House. That is our parliamentary status, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. We object. May we be given a chance to explain our position.

The motion is to remove the budget.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Dep. Majority Leader, what is the parliamentary status?

REP. BONDOC. The parliamentary status is that the Honorable Marcoleta has made a motion duly seconded by the Deputy Majority Leader. It has been opposed by the Gentleman from Caloocan.

I move that we divide the House.

REP. ATIENZA. And we continue to oppose it.

REP. DEL MAR. Mr. Speaker, before we divide the House, ...

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ERICE. May we explain our objection because Representative Marcoleta gave us ...

REP. DEL MAR. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor has the Floor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Those who are in favor please say *aye*.

REP. DEL MAR. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor has the Floor.

We object to the motion, Mr. Speaker. The Sponsor should be allowed three minutes to explain his objection before the Chair conducts the vote.

REP. ATIENZA. We should be allowed.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The ayes have it.

REP. ATIENZA. No, if the Chair continues the vote, he will be violating our rules.

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

It was 5:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:10 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The session resumed.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we reconsider the voting on the motion of the Honorable Marcoleta.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). There is a motion to reconsider. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, our parliamentary status is to allow those objecting to the motion of the Honorable Marcoleta to explain their objections. We shall first recognize a Representative from the Minority, the Honorable Atienza. He will be given three minutes to explain his objection.

Next will be the Honorable Lagman, from the Independent group. He will be given three minutes.

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. What happened to the Sponsor?

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, I am also objecting.

REP. BONDOC. And, lastly, the honorable Sponsor, has three minutes to explain his objection.

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, Dep. Majority Leader.

REP. BONDOC. I move now that we recognize, to explain his objection, the Gentleman from the Party-List BUHAY, the Hon. Lito Atienza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Atienza is now recognized. He has three minutes.

REP. ATIENZA EXPLAINS HIS OBJECTION

REP. ATIENZA. Salamat po.

Kinakailangang pong ipaliwanag namin ito sapagkat maling-mali po iyong mga sinabi ng ating Kagalang-galang na Marcoleta na baka paniwalaan ninyong lahat eh bumoto tayong lahat ayon sa kanya. Ang mga sinabi niya po ay puro mga defective, punung-puno ng depekto.

Pati ang Pangulo ng bansa ay idedepensa ng Commission on Human Rights? Palagay ko naman, napakalabo noon. Madaling sabihin, madaling pumintas pero napakahirap ng trabaho ng Commission on Human Rights.

Kapag ito po ay in-abolish natin ngayon, wala na pong pupuntahan ang ating bansa sapagkat ang problema natin ngayon ay violations of human rights. So, the Commission should not even be given P600 million, they should be given maybe P2 billion so that they can function properly. (*Applause*)

Ngayon, sinabi po ng ating Kagalang-galang na Marcoleta, si Pangulong Aquino raw ay nagkamali at hindi na raw bumuo sapagkat hindi na raw siya dapat—alam ninyo, noong panahong iyon, we were all under a revolutionary government. The President had every right to create laws through her own hand, signed by herself. Kung hindi ninyo naaalala iyon, naaalala ko po sapagkat kabilang po kami na lumaban kay Mr. Marcos. Kami po ang kasama ni Pangulong Cory at ako po ay isa sa pumalampak noong binuo niya ang Commission on Human Rights.

This should not be abolished. It should be strengthened because of the times we are in. We are now passing through a very narrow path—to lose our democracy or to gain and strengthen it. I say, we should all defend democracy because ito na po ang maaaring ipamana natin sa ating mga anak.

Let it not be said that in the middle of the darkness of night, everyone slept. This Representation is awake and will defend democracy all the way.

Thank you.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move for the recognition of the Hon. Edcel Lagman.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Edcel Lagman is recognized. The Gentleman has three minutes.

REP. LAGMAN EXPLAINS HIS OBJECTION

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, the reason why the distinguished Representative Marcoleta is asking for the reduction of the budget of the CHR to only P1,000 is that he is accusing the CHR of dereliction of duty, by not investigating the offenses committed by the Abu Sayyaf, by the Maute group, and other rebel groups.

He has failed to distinguish that there is a difference between common crimes and violations of human rights. Not all killings, abductions and ambushes are considered human rights violations. By international and domestic standards, a human rights violation is an offense committed by the State or agents of the State. Non-State parties, like rebels, terrorists and outlaws, when they commit crimes, they are sanctionable under the Revised Penal Code because they commit common crimes that are not violations of human rights. The CHR has no jurisdiction over non-State parties. It has jurisdiction over offenses committed by the State and agents of the State against the people of the Philippines.

Mr. Speaker, when the Committee of the CHR was committed by President Cory Aquino in May 1987, she was still exercising her legislative powers under the revolutionary government because Congress, the Eighth Congress, has not been convened at that time.

Now, the CHR is a constitutional body, no less than the distinguished Marcoleta has admitted this. Under the Constitution, it is stated: "There is hereby created an independent office called the Commission on Human Rights." Emasculating and killing the CHR with an annual budget of only P1,000 is unconstitutional because it virtually abolishes a constitutional body or office by legislative fiat. We cannot abolish a constitutional office by legislation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Honorable Lagman, please wind up.

REP. LAGMAN. Moreover, the CHR has fiscal autonomy. Under the Constitution, the approved annual appropriation of the CHR shall be automatically and regularly released. It is the height of irony and fantasy for us to automatically release a miniscule, embarrassing and disgraceful budget of only P1,000 to a constitutional body like the CHR which is needed to be in existence and functioning because of the so many human rights violations presently occurring in our country.

For all of those reasons, Mr. Speaker, I am objecting to the motion of the distinguished Marcoleta to reduce the budget of the CHR to only P1,000 annually. It is a miniscule, embarrassing and unconstitutional move if we approve such motion of the distinguished Marcoleta.

Thank you so much.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move for the recognition of the Hon. Raul Del Mar.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Raul Del Mar is recognized.

REP. DEL MAR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Gentleman has three minutes ...

REP. DEL MAR. Thank you, Asst. Majority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). ... to deliver his speech.

REP. DEL MAR EXPLAINS HIS OBJECTION

REP. DEL MAR. Before the objection, I wanted to restate that at the time President Corazon Aquino issued Order No. 163, it was before Congress convened. That being the case, she possessed both Executive and legislative powers.

So, let me go to my objection, Mr. Speaker, to the motion to reduce the budget of the Commission, of the CHR, from P678.049 million to P1,000.

We used to threaten agencies with reducing their annual budget to even one peso or zero. This P1,000 must have been adjusted to inflation. But, really, Mr. Speaker, it is ridiculous, especially so because it involves an agency created by the Constitution as an independent Body to serve a crucial concern of our nation: to investigate on its own or after a complaint by any party all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights.

Among the reasons for my objection, Mr. Speaker, is first, because it would in effect cripple, maim, and may even kill the CHR, which surely is not what the Constitution intends. Seriously, can Congress legally go against a clear purpose and intent of the Constitution? So, who is kidding who here, Mr. Speaker? One thousand is practically abolishing the CHR because the CHR can no longer function on such a ridiculous amount. And so, we are actually abolishing, in fact, the CHR, but we do not have the power to do so because it is only an amendment to the Constitution that can do that. Second, it is because the CHR has obligations under the Constitution as well as to the international community that upholds human rights. Third, its functions are misunderstood by many people, including some of our leaders who think the CHR defends only criminals. I wonder how we must look at the global community

when we do not recognize and appreciate the job that the CHR has been doing. We need to be reminded that the CHR was created to help curb excesses and abuses in the seat of power. The framers of the 1987 Constitution saw it fit to create the CHR as an independent body, free from coercion or reprisal.

Mr. Speaker, our lack of empathy with the CHR could also be because many of us think that all victims of human rights are drug dealers and criminals. Does this ever occur to you that many victims of human rights could also be innocent people, even our neighbors, friends and family?

Fourth, even assuming the CHR has been deficient in its work, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). May I remind the honorable Gentleman that you have consumed your three minutes.

REP. DEL MAR. Winding up, Mr. Speaker. Yes, winding up.

Even assuming that the CHR has been deficient in its work, the remedy is not to terminate or immobilize the constitutionally mandated agency. Let the people who would vote on future amendments to the Constitution decide the fate of the Commission on Human Rights, not us, not by mutilating and mangling its budget.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, our parliamentary status is that we shall now divide the House. Those in favor of the Honorable Marcoleta's motion ...

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, I move for a nominal voting on this measure.

REP. BONDOC. ... will say *aye* and those who are against will say *nay*.

So, with that, Mr. Speaker, we will now divide the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). We will now divide the House.

We divide the House first—before—if you can move for any nominal voting. If you wish to do so, after the voting.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Those who are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Those who are against, please say *nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The *ayes* have it.

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, malinaw po iyon, malakas iyong *nay*.

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, now I move for nominal voting.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Let us clarify the voting. Those who are in favor for the reduction of the budget of the CHR to P1,000, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

REP. VILLARIN. Ituloy mo, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. O, *nay* naman, sa *nay*.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Please, those in the gallery, do not vote in this voting.

I would like to clarify. Those who are in favor of the motion of the Honorable Marcoleta which is to reduce the budget of the CHR to P1,000, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Those who are against, please say *nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The *ayes* have it.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. ... malinaw po iyon. Mr. Speaker, do not commit the mistake of railroading this measure. It is a very important issue. We heard the voice of Congress. We heard a vote of *nay*.

REP. LAGMAN. It was loud and clear, Mr. Speaker, that the ...

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

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, our rules on voting are very ...

REP. VILLARIN. There is a motion for nominal voting, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Please, Honorable Villarín, there are rules in the House of Representatives.

Section 115 is very clear, and I go to the second paragraph:

If the Speaker doubts the result of the voting or a motion to divide the House is carried, the House shall divide. The Speaker shall ask those in favor to rise, to be followed by those against.

So, it is simple, Mr. Speaker. We will now ask those in favor of the motion of the Honorable Marcoleta, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Can we restate the issue, Mr. Speaker, for the guidance of the Members of the House.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Dep. Majority Leader will ...

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). ... restate the issue.

REP. BONDOC. Our parliamentary status ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). And, may I request all the Members to take their seats so we can count the votes.

REP. BONDOC. So, Mr. Speaker, in response to the Honorable Lagman, we are now asking those in favor of the motion of the Honorable Marcoleta to please rise. Those opposed, please stay seated.

DIVISION OF THE HOUSE

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Body will now proceed to a division of the House.

All those in favor of the motion of the Honorable Marcoleta reducing the budget of the CHR to P1,000, please rise. *(Several Members rose.)*

All those against the motion, please rise. *(Few Members rose.)*

The result shows 119 votes in favor and 32 against.

The motion is approved.

With 119 votes in favor and 32 against, the Body approved the motion.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. I now move that we proceed to the period of *turno en contra*, and with that, to recognize the honorable Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo E. Suarez. I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

REP. ERICE. Mr. Speaker, may we clarify the voting.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). No. We just declared that the ...

REP. VILLARIN. 119 voted in favor and ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Yes, 119 voted in favor of the P1,000 budget for the CHR and only 32 voted against.

REP. VILLARIN. And there is a pending motion for nominal voting, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ERICE. So, will that constitute a quorum, Mr. Speaker, if we add the "Yes" and the "No" votes?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Yes, Your Honor, and there are those who did not vote, but we have 151. With this number, we have a quorum.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I take back my previous motion. I now move to close the period of interpellation and debate on the budget of the Commission on Human Rights.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, on my previous motion for the period of *turno en contra*, I move for the recognition of the honorable Minority Leader, the Hon. Danilo Suarez.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Hon. Danilo Suarez, our Minority Leader, is recognized.

SPEECH *EN CONTRA* OF REP. SUAREZ

REP. SUAREZ. Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, the 2018 proposed National Budget presented by President Rodrigo Duterte carries with it the theme, “A Budget That Reforms and Transforms.” In his message, the President reiterated the beginning of real change, guided by the medium-term plan and long-term flagship plan of this administration, entitled: “The Philippine Development Plan (PDP) 2017-2022” and “AmBisyon Natin 2040.”

Respectively, last year, the proposed 2017 Budget prepared by the previous administration was passed with leeway for the transition and adjustment of the Duterte administration. We are witnessing how President Duterte established his programs and policies with the focus on the war against drugs and operations against crime and corruption. Aside from these, the President intends to make 2017 to 2022 the golden age of infrastructure in the Philippines.

Last month, he signed into law the Universal Access to Quality Tertiary Education Act which shall provide free tuition for students of 112 state universities and colleges.

The proposed 2018 Budget amounting to P3.7 trillion aims to concretely reflect the policies of this administration. Social services shall get P1.4 trillion or 37.8 percent of the proposed budget, more than half of which will be allocated to education, culture and manpower development. Meanwhile, economic services will be given the second highest share of the Budget with P1.2 trillion or 30.6 percent. One of the primary programs embodied in the next year’s budget is the Build, Build, Build Program which effected the increases in the allocations for infrastructures in different government agencies.

Accordingly, the budget for communications, road and other transport increased by 37.2 from P479 billion to P653 billion. It can also be seen how the anti-illegal drug campaign of the President Duterte administration gains foothold and how police operations against crimes intensify with the increased budget for the Philippine National Police. While these plans are promising, we cannot turn a blind eye on the current status of budget utilization by the government.

From 2013 to 2016, I have compared the utilization rates of major government agencies. The data, however, showed that most government agencies are not able to fully utilize their target. And it has been a practice to return to the National Treasury billions of the Unused Appropriations. We have noticed increases in the budget for agencies with low utilization rate, bureaucracy,

lack of monitoring and the ineffectual procurement process.

Let me just relay to you the average utilization of different agencies: DPWH, 75 percent; DA, 84 percent; DAR, 53 percent; DILG, 92 percent; DOE, 29 percent; DOH, 83 percent; DepEd, 88 percent; DOJ, 92 percent; DFA, 87 percent; DICT, 61 percent; DOT, 92 percent; DTI, 84 percent; DSWD, 84.52 percent; DOF, 86 percent; DENR, 85 percent; DOLE, 92 percent; and DOST, 88 percent.

Meanwhile, planning, research and intelligence gathering in general remain lamentable. Metro Pacific—traffic continuously worsens, notwithstanding different measures implemented in the past year. We have a public transport system plagued by many issues and complaints which seem to fall on deaf ears and incompetent hands.

On the other hand, despite advancement in telecommunications, the public continue to experience poor reception and connectivity. The country has still not achieved food security. Sadly, the budget of the BFAR was reduced by one billion. This is inconsistent with our goal of ensuring supply of fish which is one of the staples in a typical Filipino family table. Most importantly, poor military intelligence compromises the security not only of our people but of the soldiers themselves.

When the government officials present during the deliberations were questioned about these problems, I was unimpressed with their responses. Most, if not all, gave big and irrelevant answers. There were empty promises and hollow commitments. With the current performance by our government agencies, I am disappointed and skeptical on how real change can be effected.

We need long-term solutions. There is an apparent need for better research and development both for the economic and military sectors. We need knowledgeable and competent public officials to lead the agencies.

I reiterate my stand on strictly implementing the Attrition Law which has been enforced since 2005, and in amending the Government Procurement Reform Act. These two laws were passed to promote transparency and accountability, and we have laws in place but there is poor implementation.

How can we achieve its goal if there is a disconnect between legislation and execution? It is high time that we push for an active oversight committee to monitor and ensure adherence by the government agencies to their commitment and meeting targets. The committees should vigorously exercise their oversight functions over the relevant agencies to ensure that the funding they have been entrusted with will be spent properly.

We have the Attrition Law to help increase productivity and revenue. I strongly urge my fellow

public officials to effect real change and abide by our agencies' mandate and provide the prescribed services without delay and influence of corruption. This is our people's money. They should be spent for our people's welfare and we trust that the government agencies will be equal to the task of providing for a better life and future of the nation. Mr. Speaker, this is a healthy Congress, as I have noticed it over the time that I was elected in 1992. And for this, karapat-dapat po lamang na palakpalakan natin ang ating sarili. Napakagaling po ng ating performance ngayong 2017. Malakas pong palakpak sana mga kasama. *(Applause)*

So, what is the connection of the proposed 2018 Budget? It is not self-serving to say that this is an election fund. Tayo po ay haharap muli sa eleksyon sa 2019, and this much I can say, I can be the best orator in town, I can shine in the committee, I can always be in this Board, I can be on the broadsheet, I can be on television, but if I will not be able to deliver basic services to my barangay, I will not win in the election in 2019.

So, what have we achieved? Your Honor, in this one year after our learning curve with the turnover of the new administration, we have achieved this.

I propose that the TESDA be given an additional one billion to benefit 25,000 students and let us be heroes to these 25,000 students who cannot attend the TESDA seminars or trainings and cannot be given tools because wala po silang pamasaha at walang pagkain. I would like to ask the leadership of the House to support us in this particular measure.

I am also proposing that the congressional authority in our mandated districts be increased from the proposed accepted amount of the Department Secretary from P50 million to P100 million inasmuch as we are oozing money anyway and we do not know how to spend. Remember, Your Honor, 60 percent of the unspent is in the Central Office, 30 percent in the regions, and 10 percent in the districts. This is not just the DPWH, but a major agency of the government. Kung ang ilalagay po ay dadagdagan po natin ang ating jurisdiction expenditures ng distrito, mag-i-improve po ang absorbing power ng ating bansa, iikot ang pera sa community at makatutulong sa ating constituents. So, I am proposing that the budget of congressional districts be increased to P150 million. I think that deserves another round of applause. *(Applause)*

Iyan po naman ay hindi self-serving sapagkat sino po ba ang nakakaalam ng problema ng barangay? Iyon pong mga Executive na nasa airconditioned offices o tayong pumupunta sa barangay at tinitingnan natin ang katayuan ng ating mga kababayan?

Now, ngayon lang po ako nakakita—1992 nang napakarami ko pong naging kaibigan na naging lider

ng House. With my apologies to them, ngayon lang po ako nakakita ng isang Speaker na basagulero, mga kasama. Lahat po inaaway para sa kapakanan ng kanyang mga kasamahan sa Kongreso. Ang kaaway po ng isang Congressman ay kaaway ni Speaker. Palakpakan po natin si Speaker Alvarez, mga kasama. *(Applause)* Ang kaaway po ng isang Congressman, kaaway ni Majority Leader Rudy Fariñas. *(Applause)* Kaya iyan po ang aking sinasabi, naging cohesive ho tayo. For the first time, nagkaroon ng kulay ang Kongreso at sana ituloy natin ito sa 2018. I-implement natin nang tama at gawin po natin na makasaysayan itong ating Kongreso, awakening the people and showing to them what Congress is all about.

Marami pong salamat. Magandang araw sa inyong lahat. *(Applause)*

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

REP. DAZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). What is the pleasure of the Hon. Raul A. Daza?

REP. DAZA. May I be allowed to ask some questions to the distinguished Minority Leader on the *turno en contra* that he has just delivered.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Honorable Daza ...

REP. FARIÑAS. He has taken his seat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Minority Leader has taken his seat.

REP. DAZA. I am not here to object to the budget. I would like to anticipate that I will vote for the budget. I will vote "Yes," however, there are certain aspects of the speech of the *turno en contra* of the distinguished Minority Leader that I would like to clarify for the record.

Will the distinguished Minority Leader allow some questions to clarify...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Minority Leader is recognized.

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Minority Leader.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). The Minority Leader will take your questions, Honorable Daza.

REP. DAZA. Distinguished Minority Leader, I would just like to put on record, Mr. Speaker, that the *turno en contra* is not provided for in the Rules of the House. However, it has been a tradition, as far as I can remember, which is the Seventh Congress where I served in 1969, that because of the two-party system that then existed, whenever the General Appropriations Bill is sponsored on the floor by the Majority, the Minority takes what is called a “*turno en contra*.” Now, the phrase “*turno en contra*” is Spanish, it literally means a turn against in the budget as proposed by the Majority. So, I thought that, perhaps, even if we are now in a multi-party system, considering that in the House, we draw the lines between the Majority and the Minority based on coalitions, perhaps, the *turno en contra* should be accepted and practiced in the way that it has been so done following tradition.

I would just want to clarify from the Minority Leader, is it the intention of the Minority Leader to vote against the General Appropriations Bill recommended by the President and supported by the leadership of the House—is it or is it not?

REP. SUAREZ. Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, the question is, “Am I in favor of the proposed budget for 2018?” The answer is “Yes,” I am in favor of the Budget for 2018. Am I in favor of the application of the total budget to be implemented by different agencies within their functions, a percentage of which we call the “cultural and manpower development skills”? Yes, with serious concerns.

REP. DAZA. Kung ganoon po, naintindihan ko na ang kagalang-galang na Minority Leader ay sumusuporta, sumasang-ayon sa General Appropriations Bill. Mayroon po bang mga bahagi nitong General Appropriations Bill na tinututulan ng kagalang-galang na Minority Leader?

REP. SUAREZ. Mayroon po akong mga sinasabim inconsistent—kumain po kasi ako ng chicharon, mga kasama, kaya medyo nahihirinan ako—marami pong provisions na may inconsistencies. Kung mapakikinggan po ninyo iyong sinabi ko, ikinumpara ko po ito doon sa nakaraan. I am saying that it is our duty to maintain an oversight function and make sure that in the process, na ginagawa po natin itong 2018 in a continuing process—mag-oversight po tayo at tulungan natin ang Executive sa tamang paggastos. Pangalawa, sinisisi ko po ang administration for not implementing immediately the attrition when we know that the lifeline of this government are two agencies—the Bureau of Customs and the BIR. Tayo po ay nag-propose ng reward and punishment. Nag-commit po sa akin si Secretary Dominguez na bago po matapos ang taong ito, ilalagay na niya ang target amount.

Iyan po ang Minority, hindi po tayo sunud-sunuran sa sinasabi nila.

REP. DAZA. Now, let me go to another part of the presentation of the Minority Leader.

Alam po ninyo, ako po, tulad ng mga kasama natin dito, ay nakikipag-isang dibdib sa inyo pong iminungkahi na nararapat lamang dahil sa mabigat ang ating tungkulin at malaki ang ating ginagampanan sa ating mga kanya-kanyang distrito, na iyong mga appropriations na, sa ngayon, ay nasa General Appropriations Bill ay madagdagan. Ngayon, ang ibig ko pong malaman, at ikagagalak ko po kung maipapaliwanag ng kagalang-galang na Minority Leader, iyong kanyang mga iminungkahi o nabanggit kanina na mga appropriations na dapat madagdagan.

Sa kagalakan nating lahat ay nakita ko na tayo ay masigabong nagpalakpakan pero ang ibig ko pong malaman mula sa kagalang-galang na Minority Leader, ano pong pamamaraan ang magagawa natin dito ngayon upang madagdagan itong mga appropriations na nabanggit po niya kanina na dapat dagdagan? Nakita ko ho sa Saligang Batas na dito po sa Article VI, Section 25, paragraph 1, nasasaad at maliwanag na sinasabi, “The Congress may not increase the appropriations recommended by the President for the operation of the Government as specified in the budget.”

Baka naman po, ang dalubhasang Minority Leader ay may nalalamang pamamaraan na dapat na natin ngayong pag-usapan para maganap iyong mga kahilingan ng ating mga kasama, sampu ng inyong abang-lingkod, na madagdagan ang mga appropriations sa ilang items na nabanggit kanina ng ating Minority Leader.

REP. SUAREZ. Kinonsulta ko po iyan, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, no less than with the Speaker and with the Majority Leader, tungkol po sa ceiling na tinatawag. Gaya ng sinabi, “As long as you do not increase the pie, wala po tayong problema.”

Ang sinasabi ko lang po, gaya ng sinabi ko, mag-a-approve po tayo ngayon ng P3 trillion, di po ba? Mayroon po tayong track record na hindi po nila nagagastos. Hindi po ba napakalaking kasalanan iyan na tayo ay pupunta sa distrito, mangangako tayo, “Gagawa ako dito ng health center, ipagagawa ko itong flood control,” tapos, hindi po magagawa ng executive agencies, ng executive offices. Bakit? Unang-una, maaari pong lack of concern at iyong ceiling po ng amount. Bakit ko po sinabi iyong ceiling amount? Sixty percent ng unused ay nasa Central Office, 30 percent ay nasa region at 10 percent ay nasa distrito. Doon po sa bagay na iyon, makikita po ninyo ang depekto and this is human behavior.

Kayo po, nakapagtrabaho na din kayo sa gobyerno. Hindi po ba ang isang gobyerno, “Ito, ilagay po natin ang public works,” binigyan po sila ng napakalaking budget at ito ay nasa kanilang pangangalaga. Iyan po ay puwedeng umupo ng tatlong buwan, hindi po

gumagalaw ang pera. Iba po ang concern ng mga ahensiya na nasa Central, iba iyong gawa at kilos ng nasa region at iba po ang nasa district. Iyon po ang aking itinatama without increasing the budget. We are reappropriating the line of expenditures para mabilis po ang pag-absorb ng pondo, ng pera, at ang paniniwala ko, kung susunod po ang executive agencies dito sa ating proposal na sinasabi nating better alignment of funds for faster expenditures, makatutulong po tayo sa pag-unlad ng bansa.

Tandaan po natin, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, we do not have the element and luxury of time. Iyon pong umandar na oras na iyan, 5:54, pero iyon pong 5:53 ay hindi na ho iyan babalik, lumampas na iyan. Hindi po ba napakabigat naman sa atin, malapit na po tayong mag-break, na tayo ay uuwi, malapit na tayong mag-breakfast, marami po tayong gagawin, marami tayong pangako kaya dapat po cohesive po ang House ngayon at siguraduhin na iyong ating mga sinasabi at ipinapangako at ipinagyayabang that we have a healthy economy-driven sector not just by the private but the cohesive action with the government, maaayos po natin ang ating bansa. Iyon po ang dahilan.

REP. DAZA. Ako ho ay nandiyan at ako po ay hindi tumututol sa inyong mga kaisipan. Iyon lamang ang akin na...

REP. SUAREZ. Matutuloy po iyon.

REP. DAZA. Iyong mga pamamaraan na kinakailangang gawin para matupad natin iyong ating kagustuhan, maisagawa natin, at siguro po naman pagdating dito sa period of amendments, sapagkat mayroon tayong period of amendments na nakalagay sa programa, ay magawa ninyo na imungkahi iyan, mga kongkretong mungkahi at ako po, maaasahan ninyo, ay susuporta po para sa mga amyenda o amendments, kung magkakaroon pa tayo ng period of amendments dito ngayon sa ating session, bagamat ang alam natin, ang ating pinagkagawian ay iyong amendments, isinusulat na lamang at ibinibigay sa Committee.

Mr. Speaker, kung mayroon pong mga amyenda o mga susog na ang kagalang-galang na Minority Leader ang gagawa, isusulat para sa Committee on Appropriations para maganap iyong mga nais nating gawin, sapagkat alam natin na ang mga budget ng mga distrito ay kulang na kulang, lalo na para sa gawain ng Congressmen, asahan po ninyo, Mr. Speaker, ako po ay pipirma, basta't pumirma ang ating kagalang-galang na Minority Leader.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

REP. SUAREZ. Thank you, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DAZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Minority Leader.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, may I move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

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

It was 5:56 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:42 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 6215.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments on House Bill No. 6215 and consider Committee amendments. However, there being no Committee amendments, I now move that we proceed to the individual amendments.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we proceed to consider individual amendments.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, consistent with our parliamentary precedents, I move that we create a small committee to receive and resolve all individual amendments to House Bill No. 6215, the Fiscal Year 2018 General Appropriations Bill, which will be composed as follows: for the Majority, the Chair of

the Committee on Appropriations, Karlo Alexei B. Nograles; Rodolfo C. Fariñas, Reps. Maria Carmen S. Zamora, Federico “Ricky” S. Sandoval II, Mark Aeron H. Sambar, and Dakila Carlo E. Cua; and for the Minority: Minority Leader Danilo E. Suarez.

May I request that all Members submit their individual amendments to the small committee not later than Friday, September 15, 2017.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). Is there any objection to the motion of our Majority Leader? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6215 on Second Reading, subject to the amendments to be approved by the small committee, if any.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6215 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6215
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill 6215 is approved on Second Reading, subject to the amendments to be approved by the small committee, if any.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until September 13, 2017 at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Singson). There is a motion to adjourn the session until September 13, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

It was 6:44 p.m.