



# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 3

Wednesday, September 20, 2017

No. 27

## CALL TO ORDER

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

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

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Everybody is requested to rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

## PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Please remain standing for a minute of silent of prayer or meditation.

*Everybody remained standing for a minute of silent prayer.*

## ROLL CALL

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is as follows, per Journal No. 27, dated September 20, 2017:*

## PRESENT

Abellanos  
Abu

Abueg  
Acharon

Acop  
Acosta  
Acosta-Alba  
Advincula  
Aggabao  
Aglipay-Villar  
Albano  
Alejano  
Almario  
Almonte  
Alonte  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (M.)  
Alvarez (P.)  
Amatong  
Andaya  
Angara-Castillo  
Antonio  
Aquino-Magsaysay  
Aragones  
Arcillas  
Arenas  
Atienza  
Bag-ao  
Baguilat  
Banal  
Barbers  
Bataoil  
Batocabe  
Bautista-Bandigan  
Belaro  
Belmonte (F.)  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Belmonte (R.)  
Benitez  
Bertiz  
Billones  
Bolilia  
Bondoc  
Bordado  
Bravo (A.)  
Bravo (M.V.)  
Brosas  
Bulut-Begtang

Cagas  
Calderon  
Calixto-Rubiano  
Caminero  
Cari  
Castelo  
Castro (F.H.)  
Catamco  
Cayetano  
Celeste  
Cerilles  
Chavez  
Chipeco  
Co  
Cortes  
Cortuna  
Crisologo  
Cua  
Cuaresma  
Cueva  
Dalipe  
Datul  
De Jesus  
De Venecia  
De Vera  
Defensor  
Del Mar  
Del Rosario  
Deloso-Montalla  
Dimaporo (A.)  
Dimaporo (M.K.)  
Erice  
Eriguel  
Ermita-Buhain  
Escudero  
Espina  
Espino  
Eusebio  
Fariñas  
Fernando  
Ferrer (J.)  
Ferrer (L.)  
Fortun  
Fortuno

Garcia (G.)	Pacquiao
Garcia (J.E.)	Paduano
Garin (R.)	Palma
Garin (S.)	Pancho
Gasataya	Panganiban
Gatchalian	Panotes
Go (A.C.)	Papandayan
Go (M.)	Pimentel
Gomez	Pineda
Gonzaga	Primicias-Agabas
Gonzales (A.P.)	Quimbo
Gonzales (A.D.)	Radaza
Gonzalez	Ramirez-Sato
Gullas	Ramos
Hernandez	Relampagos
Herrera-Dy	Revilla
Hofer	Roa-Puno
Jalosjos	Rocamora
Kho	Rodriguez (I.)
Khonghun	Rodriguez (M.)
Labadlabad	Roman
Lacson	Romualdez
Lagman	Romualdo
Lanete	Roque (H.)
Laogan	Salceda
Leachon	Salimbangon
Lee	Salo
Limkaichong	Salon
Lobregat	Sambar
Lopez (B.)	Sandoval
Lopez (M.L.)	Santos-Recto
Loyola	Sarmiento (C.)
Maceda	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Manalo	Savellano
Mangaoang	Siao
Marcoleta	Silverio
Marcos	Singson
Mariño	Suansing (E.)
Marquez	Suansing (H.)
Martinez	Suarez
Mending	Tambunting
Mercado	Tan (A.)
Mirasol	Tan (M.)
Montoro	Teves
Nieto	Tiangco
Noel	Ting
Nogralas (J.J.)	Tinio
Nogralas (K.A.)	Tolentino
Nolasco	Treñas
Nuñez-Malanyaon	Tugna
Oaminal	Tupas
Ocampo	Umali
Olivarez	Unabia
Ong (E.)	Ungab
Ortega (P.)	Unico
Ortega (V.N.)	Vargas

Velarde	Violago
Velasco	Yap (A.)
Velasco-Catera	Yap (M.)
Veloso	Yap (V.)
Vergara	Yu
Villanueva	Zamora (R.)
Villaraza-Suarez	Zarate
Villarica	Zubiri
Villarin	

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 221 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). With 221 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of Journal No. 26, dated September 19, 2017. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we now proceed to the Reference of Business. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

#### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

#### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6407, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING TRANSPORTATION NETWORK SERVICES, IMPOSING AND AUTHORIZING FEES, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6408, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE TO LEYTE DEL SUR”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

PHILIPPINE SPACE AGENCY (PhilSA), DEFINING THE SCOPE OF ITS POWERS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 6409, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE PERMANENT MISSION TO THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AND RELATED INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (PM-IMO) IN LONDON, UK”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 6414, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM THE INCOME REQUIREMENT THE CAPITAL TOWN OF A PROVINCE WITHOUT A CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 450 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9009, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Panotes  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6410, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO COMPUTERIZE AND DEVELOP ONLINE DATABASES ON THE RECORDS OF THEIR STUDENTS, GRADUATES AND FACULTY MEMBERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6415, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT ON TRANSPORTATION FARE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 393 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Panotes  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6411, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE CONFERMENT OF A DOCTORATE DEGREE AS EQUIVALENT TO ENTRY LEVEL CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE OFFICER (CESO VI) IN THE CIVIL SERVICE”

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

House Bill No. 6416, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CAMARINES NORTE STATE COLLEGE (CNSC) IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE CAMARINES NORTE STATE UNIVERSITY (CNSU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Panotes  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6412, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE CULTIVATION, PRODUCTION, PROCESSING, MARKETING AND DISTRIBUTION OF KENAF PLANT FOR ITS ANTI-GLOBAL WARMING SIGNIFICANCE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

House Bill No. 6417, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE HIGH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT OF THE STA. ROSA INTEGRATED SCHOOL IN BARANGAY STA. ROSA, MUNICIPALITY OF CONCEPCION, PROVINCE OF TARLAC AND CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS THE STA. ROSA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Villanueva  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6413, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE SPACE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION FRAMEWORK AND CREATING THE

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1311, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE WELFARE OF CHILDREN TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO ASCERTAIN THE STATUS AND QUALITY OF IMPLEMENTATION OF LAWS PROVIDING FOR SPECIAL PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO, REPUBLIC ACTS 7610, 9208, 9262, 9344, AND 9775”

By Representative Herrera-Dy  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1312, entitled:

“RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO REVITALIZE THE PHILIPPINE GARLIC INDUSTRY AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Savellano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Resolution No. 1313, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING ARTHUS BUCAY, A PARALYMPICS VETERAN AND ASIAN GAMES MEDAL WINNER, WHO HANDED TEAM PHILIPPINES ITS FIRST MEDAL BY RACING TO A SILVER IN THE MEN’S KILOMETER C5 TRACK EVENT OF CYCLING IN THE NINTH (9TH) ASEAN PARA GAMES AT THE VELODROM NASIONAL MALAYSIA IN NILAI, NEGERI SEMBILAN, MALAYSIA HELD LAST SEPTEMBER 17, 2017”

By Representative Sambar  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1314, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE AGRARIAN DISPUTE BETWEEN FARMERS AND JC AGRI DEVELOPMENT, INC. (JCADI), FIRM OF SORIANO FAMILY OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE, ON THE 210-HECTARE AGRICULTURAL LAND COVERED BY TUBAY AGRICULTURAL PROCESSING CENTER (TAPCEN) LOCATED IN BRGY. DOÑA ROSARIO, TUBAY TOWN OF THE SAID PROVINCE”

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

House Resolution No. 1315, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PLIGHT OF AGRICULTURAL WORKERS UNDER NGPI – AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE (NGPI – ARB MPC) WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM – APPROVED PETITION FOR INDIVIDUAL TITLING OF PART OF THE 3,826.24 HECTARES OF AGRICULTURAL LAND BEING LEASED BY FILIPINAS PALMOIL PLANTATION, INC. IN THE TOWNS OF SAN FRANCISCO AND ROSARIO, AGUSAN DEL SUR”

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

House Resolution No. 1316, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES TO CONDUCT AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPACT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550 - FISHERIES CODE AND ITS AMENDMENTS REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10654 AND OTHER GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS AND POLICIES ON THE SMALL FISHERFOLK SECTOR OF REGION XIII OR CARAGA REGION”

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

House Resolution No. 1317, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING MS. MAYCHELL S. BARACINA FOR HER SELFLESS ACT OF SAVING THE LIFE OF A SWISS NATIONAL FROM DROWNING IN A RIVER IN JONCTION, GENEVA, SWITZERLAND”

By Representatives Ting, Bravo (A.), Veloso, Cosalan, Casilao and Go (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1318, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY DENOUNCING AND CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION

INTO THE DEVELOPMENT BY THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES OF A GRAYEAGLE DRONE IN MINDANAO, AND CALL FOR ITS IMMEDIATE WITHDRAWAL FROM OUR TERRITORY”

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

House Resolution No. 1319, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEPLOYMENT OF GRAY EAGLE UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (UAS) TO MINDANAO BY U.S. FORCES AND ITS IMPLICATION TO NATIONAL SECURITY”

By Representatives Brosas and De Jesus  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1320, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE ISSUES SURROUNDING THE RECLAIMED LANDS BY THE REPUBLIC REAL ESTATE CORPORATION AND THE PASAY CITY LOCAL GOVERNMENT OCCUPIED BY THE CULTURAL CENTER OF THE PHILIPPINES AND OTHER GOVERNMENT OFFICES”

By Representative Suarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1321, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING CENDY ASUSANO FOR DOMINATING THE JAVELIN COMPETITION TO HAND THE PHILIPPINES ITS FIRST GOLD MEDAL IN THE ONGOING 9TH ASEAN PARA GAMES AT THE BUKIT JALIL NATIONAL STADIUM IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA HELD LAST SEPTEMBER 18, 2017”

By Representative Sambar  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1322, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR HOUSE INVESTIGATION ON THE DEATH OF HORACIO TOMAS CASTILLO III AS A RESULT OF ALLEGED HAZING BY MEMBERS OF AEGIS JURIS FRATERNITY”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1323, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE KILLING OF LUMAD STUDENT OBILLO BAY-AO BY A MEMBER OF THE CIVILIAN ARMED FORCES GEOGRAPHICAL UNIT (CAFGU) AND A MEMBER OF THE PARAMILITARY GROUP ALAMARA, AND CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE SAME”

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

House Resolution No. 1324, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON WAYS AND MEANS, TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND OTHER APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED VIOLATIONS OF HYUNDAI ASIA RESOURCES, INC. OF THE TERMS OF ITS REGISTRATION UNDER THE MOTOR VEHICLE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM WITH THE END IN VIEW OF REVIEWING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS POLICY IN REVIVING THE AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY OF THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Lacson  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS

Rep. Luis “Jon-Jon” A. Ferrer IV for House Bill No. 2716;

Rep. Christopher V.P. de Venecia for House Bills No. 1794 and 4842;

Rep. Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe for House Bills No. 4995 and 5487 and House Resolution No. 585;

Reps. Mylene J. Garcia-Albano, Strike B. Revilla, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan, Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Lawrence H. Fortun, Frederick “Erick” F. Abueg, Abraham “Bambol” N. Tolentino, and Makmod D. Mending Jr. for House Bill No. 6251;

Rep. Elisa “Olga” T. Kho for House Bill No. 4344;

Rep. Gus S. Tambunting for House Bills No. 1859, 4689, 6136, and 6146;

Rep. Ricardo “RJ” T. Belmonte Jr. for House Bill No. 449;

Rep. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte for House Bills No. 5549 and 6312;

Rep. John Marvin “Yul Servo” C. Nieto for House Bills No. 347, 350, 668, 6212, and 6372;

Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate for House Resolution No. 1323;

Rep. Gary C. Alejano for House Resolution No. 1070;

Rep. Manuel Monsour T. Del Rosario III for House Bill No. 2726;

Rep. “Kuya” Jose Antonio R. Sy-Alvarado for House Bills No. 868, 6184, 6300, 6339, 6372, 6376, 6377, 6382, and 6383 and House Resolutions No. 676 and 743;

Rep. Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II for House Bill No. 6346;

Rep. Jonas C. Cortes for House Bills No. 4115, 4116, 5213, 5900, 5985, and 6029;

Rep. Florencio T. Flores Jr., M.D. for House Bills No. 4115, 4116, and 5985;

Reps. Alberto T. Ungab and Mario Vittorio “Marvey” A. Mariño for House Bills No. 4116, 5213, 5900, and 6029;

Rep. Alex “AA” L. Advincula for House Bills No. 5213, 5900, and 6029;

Rep. Maria Vida Espinosa Bravo for House Bills No. 5836, 5901, and 5868;

Rep. Makmod D. Mending Jr. for House Bill No. 2192;

Rep. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla for House Bill No. 6025;

Rep. Emmanuel A. Billones for House Bills No. 5549, 5782, and 6251;

Rep. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III for House Bill No. 2871;

Rep. Rodolfo C. Fariñas for House Bill No. 2903;

Rep. Robert Ace S. Barbers for House Bill No. 6383;

Rep. Raul V. Del Mar for House Bills No. 4115, 4116, 5213, 5900, 5985, and 6251; and

Rep. Juan Pablo “Rimpy” P. Bondoc for House Bill No. 5745.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

38<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Sandiganbayan for the Calendar Year 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

Annual Audit Report on the Partido State University, Goa, Camarines Sur for the year ended December 31, 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Bicol University, Legazpi City for the year ended December 31, 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated June 30, 2017 of Bato S. Ali, Jr., Director

IV, Office of the Regional Director, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Commission on Audit, submitting a copy of the report on the results of audit on the accounts and operations of the Regional Legislative Assembly, for Calendar Year ended December 31, 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 20, 2017 of Isabel B. Dasalla-Agito, Commissioner, Officer-in-Charge, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the 2016 Annual Audit Reports on the following government agencies:

A. Consolidated Annual Audit Reports

1. Commission on Population;
2. Department of Health;
3. Department of Science and Technology;
4. Department of Social Welfare and Development;
5. Department of Information and Communications Technology;
6. National Nutrition Council;
7. Philippine Science High School System; and
8. National Telecommunications Commission.

B. Individual Annual Audit Reports

1. Advanced Science and Technology Institute;
  2. Council for the Welfare of Children;
  3. Food and Nutrition Research Institute;
  4. Industrial Technology Development Institute;
  5. Inter-Country Adoption Board;
  6. Juvenile Justice and Welfare Council;
  7. Metals Industry Research and Development Center;
  8. National Academy of Science and Technology;
  9. National Council on Disability Affairs;
  10. National Research Council of the Philippines;
  11. Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration;
  12. Philippine Council for Health Research and Development;
  13. Philippine Council for Industry, Energy and Emerging Technology Research and Development;
  14. Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology;
  15. Philippine Nuclear Research Institute;
  16. Philippine Textile Research Institute;
  17. Science and Technology Information Institute;
  18. Science Education Institute; and
  19. Technology Application and Promotion Institute.
- TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 24, 2017 of Gen. Ricardo R.

Visaya (Ret.), Administrator, National Irrigation Administration, submitting the CY 2017 Second Quarter Progress Report for Agrarian Reform Infrastructure Support Project-III.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

Letter dated July 31, 2017 of Roland A. Rey, Regional Director, Regional Office V, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the CY 2016 Annual Audit Reports on the following water districts in Region V:

1. Baao Water District, Baao, Camarines Sur;
2. Daraga Water District, Daraga, Albay
3. Legazpi City Water District, Legazpi City;
4. San Andres Water District, San Andres, Catanduanes; and
5. Tabaco City Water District, Tabaco City.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 31, 2017 of Roland A. Rey, Regional Director, Regional Office No. V, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with copies of the CY 2016 Annual Audit Reports on the following CGS Water Districts and Other CGS Stand-Alone Agencies in Region V:

1. Calabanga Water District, Calabanga, Camarines Sur;
2. Camalig Water District, Camalig, Albay;
3. Casiguran Water District, Casiguran, Sorsogon;
4. Partido Development Administration, Tigaon, Camarines Sur; and
5. Viga Water District, Viga, Catanduanes.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated July 31, 2017 of Allan S. Borrromeo, OIC-Regional Director, Regional Office XI, Department of Public Works and Highways, furnishing the House of Representatives the Monthly Progress Status Reports of projects implemented by their office for the month of July 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 389), re H.B. No. 6425, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING AN URGENT, COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED LAND-BASED TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT POLICY TO EFFECTIVELY ADDRESS THE TRAFFIC CONGESTION CRISIS IN METRO MANILA, METROPOLITAN

CEBU AND METROPOLITAN DAVAO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 03, 38, 554, 1315, 1666, 3048, 3162, 3314, 3442, 3617, 3712, 3716, 4309, 4334, 4699 and House Resolution No. 119

Sponsors: Representatives Sarmiento (C.), Nograles (K.A.), Alvarez (P.), Fariñas, Abu, Suarez, Batocabe, Macapagal-Arroyo and Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee Report No. 390), re H.B. No. 6426, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AS AGRICULTURAL LAND CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN SITUATED WITHIN THE CITY OF SURIGAO, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5733

Sponsors: Representatives Ty and Matugas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed, may we acknowledge the presence of guests in the gallery of Hon. France L. Castro and the Hon. Antonio L. Tinio from ACT TEACHERS Party-List. They are ACT TEACHERS Party-List members, GABRIELA Women’s Party-List members, BAYAN MUNA Party-List members, ANAKPAWIS Party-List members, and KABATAAN Party-List members. We also have here Hon. Chua Tian Chang, Member of the Parliament for Batu and Vice President of Parti Keadilan Rakyat.

Mr. Speaker, they are all the guests of Reps. Antonio L. Tinio, France L. Castro, Emmi A. De Jesus, Arlene D. Brosas, Carlos Isagani T. Zarate, Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao and Sarah Jane I. Elago.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of the Makabayan Bloc, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. We would also like to acknowledge the presence of the guest of Hon. Kaka J. Bag-ao in the gallery. They are leaders and members of various LGBTQIA organizations, to wit: Lagablab Network, Babaylanes, Inc., Society of Transexual Women of the Philippines or STRAP, PUP Kasarinlan, TLF Share Collective, Inc., UP Babaylan, LOVE, LFR, LAM, LOUD, GALANG, Outright International, Metro

Manila Pride, UP ALYANSA, PANTAY, Rainbow Rights Philippines and ASEAN SOGIE Caucus.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of Rep. Kaka Bag-ao will please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. ROA-PUNO. Also in the gallery are the guests of Hon. Greg G. Gasataya. They are members of the local government of the city of Bacolod, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of Rep. Greg G. Gasataya, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. ROA-PUNO. Finally, Mr. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of Hon. Jorge T. Almonte from the First District of Misamis Occidental, the Hon. Samuel Edusma III, Municipal Councilor of the municipality of Tudela, Misamis Occidental, and the staff from the Office of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, province of Misamis Occidental.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The guests of the honorable Representative Almonte will please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Floor Leader is recognized.

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

*Continuation*

#### PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, under the Unfinished Business, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 5745, contained in Committee Report No. 262, as reported out by the Committees on Agriculture and Food, and on Appropriations. For this purpose, may I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of House Bill No. 5745 under Committee Report No. 262.

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

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Abu relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Rolando G. Andaya Jr.*

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of this Bill is that we are in the period of amendments. I move that we recognize the Sponsor, Rep. Jose T. Panganiban Jr., Chairperson of the Committee on Agriculture and Food.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The Chairman of the Committee, Congressman Panganiban, is recognized.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, we are now ready to discuss the proposed amendments to House Bill No. 5745.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin for her individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Cong. Sharon Garin is recognized. Please proceed.

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, with the permission of the Chairperson, Representative Panganiban, I would like to introduce some amendments on House Bill No. 5745:

On page 1, Section 2 on the Declaration of Policy, from lines 8 to 14 and on page 2, lines 1 to 2, to delete the entire subject provision and in lieu thereof, insert a new Declaration of Policy provision which will now read as follows: IT IS HEREBY DECLARED THE POLICY OF THE STATE TO CONSOLIDATE THE BENEFITS DUE TO COCONUT FARMERS, ESPECIALLY THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED, UNDER VARIOUS STATUTES AND THE COCO LEVY FUND, AND TO EXPEDITE THE DELIVERY THEREOF TO ATTAIN A BALANCED, EQUITABLE, INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COCONUT INDUSTRY.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor accepts the proposed amendment of the distinguished Rep. Sharon S. Garin.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, I also move for the amendment in Section 3, Definition of Terms, page 3, line 3, to add the following phrase after the word "(owner-cultivator)": WHO SHALL BE ENTITLED TO DIRECT BENEFITS FOR BEING DISADVANTAGED AND MARGINALIZED. Section 3 (f), item (i) shall now read as follows: "Tills the land (owner-cultivator) WHO SHALL BE ENTITLED TO



DIRECT BENEFITS FOR BEING DISADVANTAGED AND MARGINALIZED.”

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor accepts the proposed amendment of the distinguished Rep. Sharon Garin.

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

In Section 4, Audit and Inventory of Coconut Levy Assets, page 4, line 29, after the word “Commission on Audit (COA),” to delete the conjunction “and” and insert a COMMA (,) and then, on the same line, after the word “Office of the President (OP),” to add the following phrase: THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. Section 4, Audit and Inventory of Coconut Levy Assets, the first paragraph shall now read as: “Upon the effectivity of this Act, the PCGG, created under Executive Order No. 1 (Series of 1986), shall conduct a complete accounting and inventory of the Coconut Levy Assets as well as the investments, disbursements, and expenditures relating to the coconut levy fund and submit a certified report to the BTr, the Commission on Audit (COA), the Office of the President (OP), THE SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.”

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor accepts the proposed amendment of the distinguished Rep. Sharon Garin.

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

In Section 9, Management and Utilization of the Trust Fund, line 13, after the word “That,” to delete “ten billion pesos (PhP 10,000,000,000.00)” and in lieu thereof, to put TWENTY BILLION PESOS (PhP 20,000,000,000.00).

On the same section, line 14, to delete the word “initial” before the word “trust” and the word “which” before the word “shall.”

On the same line, to insert the phrase SET ASIDE AND TO BE in between the words “be known.”

On the same line, to delete the word “may” after the word “Fund” and in lieu thereof, insert “which shall.”

On line 15, to delete the phrase “within two (2) years commencing from the approval of the plan by the President.”

On line 16, to replace the word “jumpstart” with the word ACCELERATE, and after the word “industry,” delete the semicolon (;) and add the following phrase: FOR THE ULTIMATE BENEFIT OF THE COCONUT FARMERS AND FARM WORKERS: *PROVIDED FURTHER*, THAT AT LEAST SEVEN BILLION FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (PHP7.5 BILLION)

OF THE JUMPSTART FUND SHALL BE USED FOR THE SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 21 (E) OF THIS ACT.

Section 9, Management and Utilization of the Trust Fund, item (a), as amended, shall now read as: “The Trust Principal shall be preserved and maintained at all times and only the Trust Income may be used: *Provided*, That TWENTY BILLION PESOS (PHP20,000,000,000.00) of the trust principal shall be SET ASIDE TO BE known as the Jumpstart Fund WHICH SHALL be used to ACCELERATE the development of the industry FOR THE ULTIMATE BENEFIT OF THE COCONUT FARMERS AND FARM WORKERS: *PROVIDED FURTHER*, THAT AT LEAST SEVEN BILLION FIVE HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (PHP7.5 BILLION) OF THE JUMPSTART FUND SHALL BE USED FOR THE SOCIAL PROTECTION PROGRAMS AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 21 (E) OF THIS ACT.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor accepts the amendment proposed by the distinguished Rep. Sharon Garin.

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

In Section 12, Composition, to include the SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) as government representative to the Committee and so, the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Trust Fund Committee shall now have six (6) members from the government, namely: DA, DOF, DTI, NEDA, DAR and PCA; nine (9) representatives from the coconut farmers’ organizations; and two (2) representatives from the coconut industry sector.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor accepts the proposed amendment of the distinguished Rep. Sharon Garin.

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

On the same Section 12, line 28, after the word “The,” to delete the word “six (6)” and in lieu thereof, place the word NINE (9).

In the initial deliberations, farmers’ representatives were only six, but it was later agreed to increase farmers’ representation from six to nine, as clearly stated in the Composition of the Trust Fund Committee. However, on line 28, the necessary correction was not made, thus, this amendment, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor accepts the proposed amendment of the distinguished Rep. Sharon Garin.

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

In Section 21, Preparation of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan, page 11, line 4, after the phrase “and two (2) representatives from the coconut industry sector,” to add the phrase: WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND COMMITTEE.

So, Section 21, Preparation of the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Plan, the first paragraph shall now read as: “An Ad Hoc Committee is hereby created to be composed of the Secretaries of the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), National Anti-Poverty Commission (NAPC), National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), nine (9) representatives from the farmers’ groups and two (2) representatives from the coconut industry sector WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND COMMITTEE. The administrator of the PCA shall act as the Ad Hoc Committee’s Chairperson.”

In the same section, page 11, line 23, the second item (d) shall now be item (E).

In the same section, page 11, line 23, after the word “benefit,” to insert the phrase THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED.

On the same page 11, line 26, to put the word FREE before the word “medical” and add the phrase CARE AND SERVICES WHICH MAY NOT BE COVERED BY PHILHEALTH.

On the same page 11, line 27, after the phrase “coconut farmers,” to delete the semicolon (;) and add the following phrase: AND FARM WORKERS.

On the same page, page 11, line 28, after the word farmers, to delete the semi-colon (;) and add the following: AND FARM WORKERS OTHER THAN PAYMENT OF TUITION FEES BUT INCLUSIVE OF MONTHLY STIPEND, ALLOWANCE FOR BOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND OTHER ALLIED COMPONENTS OF A SCHOLARSHIP GRANT.

Still on page 11, line 28, to delete the conjunction “and” and after the phrase “livelihood programs,” add the following phrase: AND (4) OPENING A LENDING WINDOW IN A GOVERNMENT BANK FOR THE

EXTENSION OF CONCESSIONARY LOANS OF NOT MORE THAN TWO PER CENTUM (2%) INTEREST PER ANNUM EXCLUSIVELY TO POOR AND MARGINALIZED COCONUT FARMERS AND FARM WORKERS.

The new item (E) shall now read as follows: “(E) Establishment of social protection programs that directly benefit THE POOR AND MARGINALIZED coconut farmers and farm workers, in case these social protection programs are not funded by an appropriations law or any other special law, or where funding is insufficient. The social protection programs shall include: (1) social services such as life, FREE medical CARE AND SERVICES WHICH MAY NOT BE COVERED BY PHILHEALTH, and accident insurance coverage of the coconut farmers AND FARM WORKERS; (2) scholarships for the benefit of the deserving descendants of the coconut farmers AND FARM WORKERS OTHER THAN PAYMENT OF TUITION FEES BUT INCLUSIVE OF MONTHLY STIPEND, ALLOWANCE FOR BOOKS AND INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND OTHER ALLIED COMPONENTS OF A SCHOLARSHIP GRANT; (3) livelihood programs; AND (4) OPENING A LENDING WINDOW IN A GOVERNMENT BANK FOR THE EXTENSION OF CONCESSIONARY LOANS OF NOT MORE THAN TWO PER CENTUM (2%) INTEREST PER ANNUM EXCLUSIVELY TO POOR AND MARGINALIZED COCONUT FARMERS AND FARM WORKERS.

Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor accepts the proposed amendments of the distinguished Rep. Sharon Garin.

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, on Section 22, Privatization of the Coconut Levy Assets, on page 12, line 32, after the phrase “privatization to the PMO, ” to place a PERIOD (.) and to delete the subsequent provision which reads: “unless the President, upon recommendation of the Committee, designates another agency to preserve such coconut levy assets pending privatization.”

Section 22, lines 30 to 33, shall now read as: “The Committee shall submit its recommendation to the president for approval. The Committee shall also arrange for the transfer of the coconut levy assets approved for privatization to the PMO.”

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor accepts the proposed amendment of the distinguished Rep. Sharon Garin.

REP. GARIN (S.). Finally, the last one. In Section 28, Allowable Investments, page 15, after line 5, to add another item which shall now be item

(D) and shall read as follows: (D) INVESTMENT IN PROFITABLE COCONUT-BASED ENTERPRISES INCLUDING INTEGRATED PROCESSING OF COCONUT PRODUCTS AND DOWNSTREAM PRODUCTS CONSISTENT WITH ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 21, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS: (1) PREPARATION AND VALIDATION OF PERTINENT FEASIBILITY STUDIES; (2) INVESTMENT CEILING TO BE FIXED BY THE COMMITTEE; AND (3) THE PROCEEDS OR INCOME OF THE INVESTMENT SHALL AUTOMATICALLY ACCRUE TO THE TRUST PRINCIPAL.

I so move, Mr. Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor accepts the proposed amendment of distinguished Rep. Sharon Garin.

REP. GARIN (S.). Thank you, Mr. Sponsor. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you, Floor Leader.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, there being no other amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. Mr. Speaker.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROA-PUNO. I move to suspend the session.

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

*It was 4:31 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:32 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move to withdraw my motion to terminate the period of amendments. I so move.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Antonio L. Tinio for his amendments. Correction—I move that we recognize the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas for her amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Before we recognize Congresswoman Brosas, the Chair would like to ask the Floor Leader, how do we proceed? Do we approve all the accepted amendments, or do we approve it after every proponent?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, we move to approve after every proponent.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). After all the proponents?

REP. ROA-PUNO. After each one proponent has made the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Ok, after each one. So, can I now have a motion for the approval of the accepted amendments of Rep. Sharon Garin?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Yes, as the proponents make their amendments, we will consider them, Mr. Speaker. I move that we approve the amendments of the Hon. Sharon Garin. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is a motion for the approval of the accepted amendments of Congresswoman Garin.

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

Please proceed, Congresswoman Brosas.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I have proposed amendments on House Bill No. 5745, the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Fund: First, Section 1, to amend the short title to read: "This Act shall be known as the Coconut LEVY FUND FOR Farmers and Industry Development Act."

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, with due respect to the proponent, the Sponsor rejects the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Second proposed amendment, the Declaration of Policy, to amend Section 2 to read: "It is hereby declared the policy of the State to RECOGNIZE

THE COCONUT LEVY FUND WAS EXACTED FROM POOR AND POWERLESS COCONUT FARMERS DURING THE MARTIAL LAW PERIOD AND IN PURSUIT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AS WELL AS BALANCED, EQUITABLE, INTEGRATED AND SUSTAINABLE GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COCONUT INDUSTRY.”

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker again, with due respect to the proponent, the Sponsor rejects the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. Amend Section 6 to read: “hereby created a perpetual AND COMPENSATION fund to be known as the Coconut Farmers and Industry Development Fund.”

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, again, with due respect to the proponent, the Sponsor cannot accept the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. To amend Section 9 to read: “... initial trust principal which shall be known as the COMPENSATION FUND may be used within two (2) years.”

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, again, with due respect to the proponent, the Sponsor rejects the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, Section 12, Composition, we are proposing to insert the following paragraphs: A SMALL COCONUT FARMERS COUNCIL IS HEREBY CREATED AND ITS NINE (9) REGULAR MEMBERS COMPOSED OF SEVEN (7) REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GENUINE SMALL COCONUT FARMER SECTOR AND AT LEAST TWO (2) WHICH SHALL COME FROM THE COCONUT WOMEN FARMERS SECTOR, AND TWO (2) REPRESENTATIVES FROM NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT ADVOCACY AND IN LEGAL ASSISTANCE SERVICE TO COCONUT FARMERS WHO SHALL HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS AS THE NINE (9) REGULAR MEMBERS WITH AN EXCEPTION TO THE SELECTION OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL.

THE MEMBERS OF THE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS COUNCIL SHALL SERVE AS FARMER-REPRESENTATIVES TO THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND COMMITTEE. THE SEVEN (7) AND TWO (2) WOMEN REPRESENTATIVES FROM

THE GENUINE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS, AND TWO (2) FROM THE NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, RESPECTIVELY, SHALL BE SELECTED FROM AMONG THE NOMINEES TO BE DRAFTED BY GENUINE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS IN A NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

FOR THIS PURPOSE, THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY SHALL FACILITATE THE HOLDING OF A PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL ASSEMBLY OF SMALL COCONUT FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.

THE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS ORGANIZATIONS AT THE PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL LEVELS SHALL NOMINATE THEIR RESPECTIVE DELEGATES TO THE NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THE EXPENSES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY SHALL BE DEFRAID BY THE PHILIPPINE COCONUT AUTHORITY FROM ITS CURRENT AND AVAILABLE SAVINGS.

THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COUNCIL SHALL BE SELECTED BY THE NINE (9) REGULAR GENUINE SMALL COCONUT FARMER-REPRESENTATIVES FROM AMONG THEMSELVES IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE NATIONAL GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, again, with due respect to the proponent, the Sponsor rejects the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. Next is for Section 21, to add the following phrase: NINE (9) REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE SMALL COCONUT FARMERS COUNCILS AND TWO (2) REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE COCONUT INDUSTRY SECTOR.

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor cannot accept the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. Next, the amendment is: THE AD HOC COMMITTEE SHALL BE KNOWN AS THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PLAN AS RECOMMENDATION TO THE COCONUT FARMERS AND INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT TRUST FUND COMMITTEE.

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, again, with due respect to the proponent, the Sponsor cannot accept the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. Another amendment: “If the

President has any objection xxx shall be deemed approved, UPON APPROVAL OF THE PLAN BY THE PRESIDENT, THE AD HOC COMMITTEE SHALL BE DISBANDED.”

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, again, with due respect to the proponent, the Sponsor rejects the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. In Chapter VI, the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker, is REVITALIZATION OF THE COCONUT LEVY ASSETS and so, Section 22, as amended, will read: “REVITALIZATION of the Coconut Levy Assets. Assets that shall be REVITALIZED and/or retained OR AS THE CASE ALLOWS, MAY BE DISPOSED.”

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor cannot accept the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, there is another line pa: “The Committee shall submit its recommendation to the President for approval,” and delete the sentence “on privatization to the PMO.”

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Again, Mr. Speaker, with due respect to the proponent, the Sponsor could not accept the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. Another amendment, to delete “Section 23. Additional Mandate of the Privatization and Management Office (PMO).”

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor rejects the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. Another amendment, to delete “Section 24. Powers of the Privatization and Management Office (PMO).”

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, again, with due respect to the proponent, the Sponsor rejects the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. Last amendment, to delete all the sentences and sections involving the PMO.

I so move.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, with due respect to the proponent, the Sponsor rejects the proposed amendment.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Those are the proposed amendments for the record.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. France L. Castro of ACT TEACHERS for her individual amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my motion. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to propose individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The motion is approved.

The period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, can the Sponsor make a manifestation, Mr. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The Floor Leader?

REP. ROA-PUNO. We have no objection, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Yes, please proceed.

REP. PANGANIBAN. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the Speaker, the Sponsor would like to include Cong. Edcel C. Lagman and Cong. Jesulito A. Manalo as coauthors of House Bill No. 5745.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The request is noted and approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we move now to affirm the rejection of the Sponsor of the amendments by the Honorable Brosas. So, we move to divide the House. those in favor of the amendments shall say *aye* and those opposed to the amendments, which sustains the Sponsor’s position, say *nay*.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). As many as are in favor of the rejection, please say *aye*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Sorry, there is a motion—please restate the motion.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, our motion is a positive motion, that voting be held to sustain the amendments of the Honorable Brosas. So, all those in

favor of the amendments of the Honorable Brosas shall say *aye* and those who wish to sustain the position of the Sponsor in rejecting the amendments shall say *nay*.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). So, the motion is for calling a vote. Am I correct?

There is a motion calling for a vote. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The motion is approved.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Nay*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The *nays* have it. The proposed amendments are hereby lost.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Once again, Mr. Speaker, there being no more individual amendments, I move to close the period of amendments.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is a motion to close the period of amendments. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The motion is approved.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 5745, as amended, on Second Reading.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). So, we now move to a votation on House Bill No. 5745. As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

GALLERY. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5745, AS AMENDED,  
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Not counted, the votes coming from the gallery.

The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 5745, as amended, is hereby approved. (*Applause*)

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, before we go on, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Henry S. Oaminal, the Hon. Sabiniano S. Canama and the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD, who are with us in the gallery today. They are the supervisors and principals of Department of Education of Tanguib City Division, Misamis Occidental, Region X: Ms. Jubay, Ms. Penonal, Ms. Mandawe, Ms. Bagaboyboy, Ms. Enerio, Ms. Decina, Mr. Mosiquera, Mr. Huertas, Mr. Omega, Ms. Barbon, Ms. Alivio, Ms. Malabosa, Ms. Legaspi, Ms. Gumiter, Ms. Porio, Mr. Alduheza, Mr. Penonal, Mr. Vince, and Ms. Regidor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is acknowledged and we appreciate that you came well-dressed for the occasion. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Floor Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 4982  
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 4982 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on September 14, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

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

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is as follows, per Journal No. 27, dated September 20, 2017:*

*Affirmative*

Abellanosa

Abu

Abueg	Cojuangco	Mangaoang	Roque (H.)
Acharon	Cortes	Marcoleta	Salo
Acop	Crisologo	Marcos	Salon
Acosta	Cuaresma	Mariño	Sambar
Acosta-Alba	Cueva	Marquez	Sandoval
Advincula	Dalipe	Martinez	Santos-Recto
Aggabao	Datol	Mending	Sarmiento (C.)
Aglipay-Villar	De Jesus	Mercado	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Alejano	De Venecia	Mirasol	Savellano
Almonte	De Vera	Montoro	Siao
Alonte	Defensor	Nieto	Singson
Alvarez (F.)	Del Mar	Noel	Suansing (E.)
Alvarez (M.)	Deloso-Montalla	Nogralas (J.J.)	Suansing (H.)
Alvarez (P.)	Dimaporo (A.)	Nolasco	Suarez
Amatong	Dimaporo (M.K.)	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Sy-Alvarado
Angara-Castillo	Erice	Oaminal	Tambunting
Antonio	Eriguel	Olivarez	Tan (M.)
Aquino-Magsaysay	Ermita-Buhain	Ong (E.)	Teves
Aragones	Escudero	Ortega (P.)	Tiangco
Arcillas	Espina	Ortega (V.N.)	Ting
Bag-ao	Espino	Pacquiao	Tinio
Bagatsing	Eusebio	Paduano	Tugna
Baguilat	Fariñas	Palma	Tupas
Banal	Fernando	Pancho	Umali
Barbers	Ferrer (J.)	Panganiban	Unabia
Bataoil	Ferrer (L.)	Panotes	Ungab
Batocabe	Fortun	Papandayan	Unico
Bautista-Bandigan	Fortuno	Pimentel	Vargas
Belaro	Garcia (G.)	Pineda	Velarde
Belmonte (F.)	Garcia (J.E.)	Primicias-Agabas	Velasco-Catera
Belmonte (J.C.)	Garin (R.)	Quimbo	Veloso
Belmonte (R.)	Garin (S.)	Radaza	Vergara
Benitez	Gasataya	Ramos	Villanueva
Bertiz	Go (A.C.)	Relampagos	Villaraza-Suarez
Billones	Go (M.)	Revilla	Villarin
Bolilia	Gonzaga	Roa-Puno	Violago
Bondoc	Gonzales (A.P.)	Robes	Yap (A.)
Bordado	Gonzales (A.D.)	Rocamora	Yap (M.)
Bravo (A.)	Gonzalez	Rodriguez (I.)	Yap (V.)
Bravo (M.V.)	Gullas	Rodriguez (M.)	Yu
Brosas	Herrera-Dy	Roman	Zarate
Bulut-Begtang	Hofer	Romualdo	Zubiri
Cagas	Kho		
Calderon	Khonghun	Negative	
Calixto-Rubiano	Labadlabad		
Caminero	Lacson	None	
Cari	Lagman		
Castelo	Lanete	Abstention	
Castro (F.H.)	Laogan		
Catamco	Leachon	None	
Cayetano	Lee		
Celeste	Limkaichong		REP. BAG-AO. Mr. Speaker, I vote “Yes,” and I reserve my right to explain my vote later.
Cerilles	Lobregat		
Chavez	Lopez (B.)		
Chipeco	Lopez (M.L.)		REP. BAGATSING. Mr. Speaker, in behalf of the Fifth District of Manila, malugod naming
Co	Manalo		

sunusuportahan ang SOGIE Equality Bill. So, we vote “Yes.” *(Applause)*

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, my vote is “Yes,” and I would like to explain my vote later.

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, I vote “Yes,” and I reserve my right to explain my vote later.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, with pride, we vote “Yes” to the SOGIE Equality Bill. *(Applause)*

REP. GARIN (S.). Mr. Speaker, this Representation votes a resounding “Yes” to House Bill No. 4982.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, para sa pantay-pantay na karapatan para sa lahat, ang BAGONG HENERASYON Party-List votes “Yes” to the SOGIE Bill.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of the First District of Antipolo, I vote a resounding “Yes” to the SOGIE Equality Bill.

REP. ROCAMORA. Mr. Speaker, I vote “Yes,” but I would like to reserve an explanation for my vote later.

REP. ROMAN. Mr. Speaker, sa ngalan po ng mga taga-Unang Distrito ng Bataan at sa ngalan din po ng aking mga kapatid sa LGBT community, maraming salamat at “Yes.”

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, the AKBAYAN Party-List, being a principal sponsor and author of the Bill since 2004, we vote our resounding “Yes” to House Bill No. 4982.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZARATE. Mr. Speaker, I vote “Yes,” but I reserve my right to explain my vote.

REP. ZUBIRI. Mr. Speaker, I vote a double “Yes.” From the Third District of Bukidnon, dalawang “Yes” po, dalawang kamay.

REP. SY-ALVARADO. Mr. Speaker, sa sexual discrimination po ay lumalaban ang buong lalawigan ng Bulacan. Kami po ay bumoto ng “Yes.”

#### RESULT OF THE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). With 197 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 4982 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BAG-AO. Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, there are colleagues who wish to explain their vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Can we proceed with the first one. Congresswoman Kaka Bag-ao, please proceed.

#### REP. BAG-AO EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. BAG-AO. G. Ispiker, tumitindig po ako ngayon upang irehistro ang aking boto para sa House Bill No. 4982 o ang SOGIE Equality Bill.

Labingwalong taon na po ang nakaraan mula nang magsimula ang laban para sa pagkakapantay-pantay sa pamamagitan ng panukalang batas na ito. Ngayon, nais ko pong bigyang-pugay ang mga nanguna noon sa kampanya para sa Anti-Discrimination Bill na sina Cong. Etta Rosales, Cong. Mayong Aguja at Congresswoman Risa na ngayon ay isang Senador na mula sa AKBAYAN Party-List. Sila po ang nagpanday ng ating landas upang umusad ang mahalagang batas na ito. Ikinararangal ko pong ipagpatuloy ang laban kasama ang #EqualityChamps ng Kongreso.

Nais ko rin pong pasalamatang ang Committee on Women and Gender Equality para sa patuloy na pagbibigay ng halaga sa SOGIE Equality Bill kada Kongreso mula nang ako ay naging Kongresista sa pamumuno nina Cong. Angel Amante-Matba ng Agusan del Norte, Cong. Linabelle Ruth Villarica ng Bulacan, Cong. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar ng DIWA Party-List at Cong. Sol Aragones ng Laguna. Parati nilang itinatakda bilang priority measure ang SOGIE Equality Bill sa kanilang Committee.

Gusto ko rin pong banggitin ang mga kasamahan ko mula pa noong Fifteenth Congress na sina Cong. Dina Abad ng Batanes na nagsilbing guro sa mga proseso ng paggawa at pagsusulat ng batas, Cong. Sharon Garin ng AAMBIS-OWA Party-List, Cong. Mercedes Alvarez ng Negros Occidental, Cong. Bolet Banal ng Quezon City at Cong. Teddy Baguilat ng Ifugao. Salamat sa inyong masigasig na pagsasama-sama, mga batchmate. Simula pa lamang ng laban sa Fifteenth Congress ay sila ang unang tumindig para sa pagkakapantay-pantay.

Noong Sixteenth Congress, lalo pa kaming dumami at dumagdag sa hanay namin sina Cong. Sitti Djalía Turabin-Hataman ng ANAK MINDANAO Party-List, Congresswoman at ngayon ay Vice President Leni Robredo ng Camarines Sur, Cong. Victoria Noel ng AN WARAY Party-List, Cong. Barry Gutierrez ng AKBAYAN Party-List at Cong. Malou Acosta-Alba ng Bukidnon. Aktibo silang dumalo sa mga Committee



hearing noon at sabay-sabay po naming pinakinggan ang mga kuwento tungkol sa diskriminasyon at sabay-sabay kaming nanindigan para labanan ito.

Ngayong Seventeenth Congress, mas lalong tumindi ang kampanya para sa panukalang ito dahil sa pagkakabuo ng grupong tinatawag na #EqualityChamps. Salamat sa inyong tapang at husay mula pa noong unang meeting natin at simula pa lang ng Seventeenth Congress—sina Cong. Geraldine Roman ng Bataan, Cong. Toff De Venecia ng Pangasinan at Cong. Tom Villarin ng AKBAYAN Party-List. Kayo ang nagsilbi bilang bagong mga mukha ng kampanyang ito. Kayo, kasama ang higit sa kalahati ng mga kasapi ng Kamara—at ngayon lang po ito nangyari na pumirma bilang authors at coauthors ng panukalang batas na ito—ang nagbigay ng bagong enerhiya para mas mapalakas pa natin ang laban.

G. Ispiker at mga kasama, ang panukalang batas pong ito ay produkto ng isang mahabang kasaysayan kung saan hindi lamang ang mga Mambabatas ang ating kasama kundi aktibong nakilahok din ang mga mamamayan. Produkto ito ng masigasig na pangangampanya ng mga grupo kagaya ng LAGABLAB, UP Babaylan, Babaylanes, GALANG, TLF SHARE, GANDA Filipinas, Rainbow Rights, OutRight International, PANTAY, at marami pang iba, kasama ng mga mag-aaral at kabataan, kababaihan at iba pang mga sektor.

Kanina lang po, kung sumilip tayo sa Twitter, makikita po natin na matagal nang nasa top trending topic sa buong bansa ang #YESToEquality. Napakaraming Pilipino ang nag-tweet at nagpahayag ng suporta sa panukalang batas na ito, hindi lang po mga LGBTQ+ kundi pati na rin straight allies. Marami sa kanila ang naglahad ng mga karanasan ng diskriminasyon. Marami sa kanila ang marangal nang tumindig at sinabi ang kanilang sexual na oryentasyon o gender identity. Lahat sila, kagaya ng marami sa atin dito ngayon, ay #EqualityChamps.

Ang laban po para sa pagkakapantay-pantay ay laban ng lahat, at sa lahat ng laban pong ito, ang puhunan po natin ay ang pagmamahal sa ating kapwa at ang pag-asa para sa isang lipunang mas makatarungan, mas bukas at mas pantay.

Mr. Speaker, I vote “Yes” to the SOGIE Equality Bill. Ngayong huling termino ko sa Kongreso, ang boto ko po ay isang matamis na “Oo” para sa pag-ibig, dignidad, at karapatang pantao.

Marami pong salamat at mabuhay po tayong lahat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you, Congresswoman Bag-ao.

The Hon. Arlene D. Brosas is recognized to explain her vote.

## REP. BROSAS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, this Representation supports the passage of House Bill No. 4982, also known as the SOGIE Equality Act. Article II, Section 14 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution ensures the fundamental equality before the law of women and men. As a signatory of many international conventions on the recognition of human rights of every person, regardless of any situation including sexual orientation, the State shall extend its effort to address the continuing discrimination against the LGBT community.

Gabriela Women’s Party recognizes the misconceptions about the LGBT, causing individual and institutional practices that prohibit them from exercising their basic civil, socio-economic and political rights. Discriminatory acts due to sexual orientation add up to the burden of our Filipino LGBTs who are experiencing unemployment and limited access to social services, among others. The proposed measure is the assertion of the LGBT community, not for additional or special rights, but to put forward recognition of the same rights enjoyed by all individuals.

Muli po, sa loob at labas ng larangang ito, susuportahan at ipaglalaban ng Gabriela Women’s Party-List ang anti-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. Pinatunayan na po ito ng kasaysayan.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you very much.

The Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus is recognized to explain her vote.

## REP. DE JESUS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, ang pagkilala sa karapatan ng mga LGBT ay isa sa 10 prinsipyong dala-dala ng Gabriela Women’s Party. Ito po ay nakatala sa aming mga kasulatan. Ang boto ko po ay isang kongkretong pagpapahayag sa larangan ng Kongreso para itala ang paninindigan namin na bigyan o kilalanin ang LGBT bilang positibong bahagi ng ating lipunan.

Mahalagang diwa rin ang dala ng panukalang batas na ito ang pagbasag sa isang kultura na labis na naglalagay sa mga kababayan nating pinili ang kanilang kasarian pero sila ay nakakaranan ng diskriminasyon. Ang isang kultura na discriminatory ang nais pong labanan ng panukalang ito.

Ako po, sa ngalan ng aming partido ay bumoboto ng “Yes” sa panukalang ito.

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

The Hon. Ramon V.A. “Rav” Rocamora is recognized to explain his vote.

#### REP. ROCAMORA EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ROCAMORA. Mr. Speaker, as a coauthor of the Bill, of course, I vote with a resounding “Yes” on the passage of the SOGIE Equality Bill for the following reasons:

It is unique in our Constitution that we, as a sovereign people, have promulgated the basic law of the land to be one under a regime of love and equality. I believe this Bill seeks to uphold this principle in our democracy; that we love all our fellow Filipinos equally regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity and gender expression. More importantly, as a former prosecutor, I have handled a number of what we now call “hate crimes.” So, I welcome the inclusion of the concept of hate crimes as it is a huge step in ensuring that justice prevails. Too many have died simply because of who they are and who they love. We should never let such hate go unpunished.

So, again, I vote “Yes” to gender equality, and I vote “Yes” to love.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you, Congressman Rocamora.

The Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate is recognized to explain his vote.

#### REP. ZARATE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ZARATE. G. Ispiker, inirerehistro po ng BAYAN MUNA, bilang coauthor ng House Bill No. 4982, ang malakas na pagsuporta rito.

Sa kabila ng mga tagumpay sa pagkamit ng mga ligal na karapatan para sa mga kapatid nating lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders o LGBT sa ibang bansa, marami pa ang kailangan nating gawin para sa pagkamit ng buong-buo ang pagkakapantay-pantay dito mismo sa ating bayan. Patunay rito, G. Ispiker, ang malagim na pangyayari sa pagkapatay kay Jennifer Laude noong October 2014. Maaalalang pinatay siya ng isang US Marine na si Joseph Scott Pemberton habang nakadaong sila sa Subic Bay Freeport noong October 2014. Ang pagkamatay ni Jennifer ay bumukas sa usapan ukol sa Visiting Forces Agreement at ang paparami na hate crimes laban sa mga kapatid natin sa LGBT community. Isa pang kuwento rito ay ang diskriminasyon nitong bago lamang laban kay Bunny Cadag na inalis sa kanyang trabaho sa isang malaking fast-food chain dahil umano siya ay genderqueer.

Araw-araw, G. Ispiker, nakakaranas ng iba’t ibang porma ng diskriminasyon ang ating mga kapatid sa LGBT community. Habang ang mga karapatan ng

bakla, lesbyana, transgender ay pinoprotektahan sa Saligang Batas sa mga katagang, “The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights” pero hindi nito siniseguro na hindi magiging biktima ng diskriminasyon, pang-aapi at karahasan ang mga LGBT.

G. Ispiker, lumagda rin ang ating bayan, ang Pilipinas, sa mga pangdaigdigang kasunduan para sa pagkilala sa mga karapatan nila tulad ng International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights at International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights na nag-oobliga sa pagkilala sa karapatan ng bawat tao laban sa diskriminasyon, ito man ay laban sa isang lahi, kasarian, relihiyon, pulitika, at iba pa, kabilang na ang oryentasyong seksuwal. Tulad ng mga iba pang marginalized sector sa ating lipunan, G. Ispiker, dapat ay pinoproteksiyunan ng ating mga batas ang mga kapatid nating LGBT. Dahil na rin siguro sa kawalang-kaalaman, bigotry, maling kuro-kuro, at kapabayaang estado, lalung-lalo na ang kapabayaang estado, nananatiling mahirap para sa mga LGBT ang pantay-pantay na karapatan sa iba pang mga mamamayan.

G. Ispiker, ang prejudicial practices and policies ay kalakhang hindi naisusulat at isinisiwalat pero ang mga ito ay pinaiiral sa mga paaralan, sa mga opisina, sa mga institusyong publiko at pribado, at marami pang iba. Kaya naman mahigpit ang pangangailangan na magkaroon ng batas na kinikilala ang karapatan ng mga LGBT at magpaparusa sa mga lalabag dito. G. Ispiker, ito ay hindi paggawad ng espesyal o karagdagang karapatan pero ito ay pagkilala na mayroong pantay na karapatan ang mga LGBT tulad ng iba pang mamamayan.

Kaya muli, inirerehistro ng Kinatawang ito ng BAYAN MUNA ang botong “Yes” sa House Bill No. 4982 at gaya nga ng sinasabi ng ating mga kapatid sa LGBT community, “Makibeki! Huwag ma-shokot! Labanan ang diskriminasyon at pang-aapi!

Maraming salamat, G. Ispiker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you very much, Congressman Zarate.

Deputy Speaker Pia S. Cayetano is recognized to explain her vote.

#### REP. CAYETANO EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. CAYETANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I apologize for the delay. We had to take a historic photo with the advocates.

I would just like to explain my vote, Mr. Speaker. Just as I have fought for reproductive rights some six-and-a-half years ago, I also joined in this fight for anti-discrimination and I am very proud to be considered one of the coauthors. I would like also to express my thanks to all the advocates and Members of Congress who fought for this Bill and underwent a lot of difficulties in

terms of explaining what this Bill is all about. It takes a lot of wisdom, courage and patience to be able to get a Bill like this through and I actually congratulate and thank our colleagues because one year is really not a bad timeline to get something passed in Congress.

So, with that, I register my "Yes" vote and, again, thank my colleagues for all the support. Thank you.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4982  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you very much.

With the affirmative vote of Deputy Speaker Cayetano, the Secretary General is directed to make the appropriate correction. The total affirmative vote is, instead of 197, it should now be 198.

So, with 198 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 4982 is approved on Third Reading.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6331  
ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6331 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on September 14, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6331, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE INTO TWO (2) LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is as follows, per Journal No. 27, dated September 20, 2017:*

*Affirmative*

Abellanos  
Abu

Abueg  
Acharon

Acop  
Acosta  
Acosta-Alba  
Advincula  
Aggabao  
Aglipay-Villar  
Alejano  
Almonte  
Alonte  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (M.)  
Alvarez (P.)  
Amatong  
Angara-Castillo  
Antonio  
Aquino-Magsaysay  
Aragones  
Arcillas  
Bag-ao  
Bagatsing  
Baguilat  
Banal  
Barbers  
Bataoil  
Batocabe  
Bautista-Bandigan  
Belaro  
Belmonte (F.)  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Belmonte (R.)  
Benitez  
Bertiz  
Billones  
Bolilia  
Bondoc  
Bordado  
Bravo (A.)  
Bravo (M.V.)  
Brosas  
Bulut-Begtang  
Cagas  
Calderon  
Calixto-Rubiano  
Caminero  
Cari  
Casilao  
Castelo  
Castro (F.H.)  
Catamco  
Cayetano  
Celeste  
Cerilles  
Chavez  
Chipeco  
Co  
Cojuangco

Cortes  
Crisologo  
Cuaresma  
Cueva  
Dalipe  
Datol  
De Jesus  
De Venecia  
De Vera  
Defensor  
Del Mar  
Deloso-Montalla  
Dimaporo (A.)  
Dimaporo (M.K.)  
Erice  
Eriguel  
Ermita-Buhain  
Escudero  
Espina  
Espino  
Eusebio  
Fariñas  
Fernando  
Ferrer (J.)  
Ferrer (L.)  
Fortun  
Fortuno  
Garcia (G.)  
Garcia (J.E.)  
Garin (R.)  
Garin (S.)  
Gasataya  
Go (A.C.)  
Go (M.)  
Gonzaga  
Gonzales (A.P.)  
Gonzales (A.D.)  
Gonzalez  
Gullas  
Herrera-Dy  
Hofer  
Javier  
Kho  
Khonghun  
Labadlabad  
Lacson  
Lagman  
Lanete  
Laogan  
Leachon  
Lee  
Limkaichong  
Lobregat  
Lopez (B.)  
Lopez (M.L.)  
Manalo

Mangaoang  
 Marcoleta  
 Marcos  
 Mariño  
 Marquez  
 Martínez  
 Mending  
 Mercado  
 Mirasol  
 Montoro  
 Nieto  
 Noel  
 Nograles (J.J.)  
 Nolasco  
 Nuñez-Malanyaon  
 Oaminal  
 Olivarez  
 Ong (E.)  
 Ortega (P.)  
 Ortega (V.N.)  
 Pacquiao  
 Paduano  
 Palma  
 Pancho  
 Panganiban  
 Panotes  
 Papandayan  
 Pimentel  
 Pineda  
 Primicias-Agabas  
 Quimbo  
 Radaza  
 Ramos  
 Relampagos  
 Revilla  
 Roa-Puno  
 Robes  
 Rocamora  
 Rodriguez (I.)  
 Rodriguez (M.)  
 Roman  
 Romualdo

Roque (H.)  
 Salo  
 Salon  
 Sambar  
 Sandoval  
 Santos-Recto  
 Sarmiento (C.)  
 Sarmiento (E.M.)  
 Savellano  
 Siao  
 Singson  
 Suansing (E.)  
 Suansing (H.)  
 Suarez  
 Sy-Alvarado  
 Tambunting  
 Tan (M.)  
 Teves  
 Tiangco  
 Ting  
 Tinio  
 Tugna  
 Tupas  
 Umali  
 Unabia  
 Ungab  
 Unico  
 Vargas  
 Velarde  
 Velasco-Catera  
 Veloso  
 Vergara  
 Villanueva  
 Villaraza-Suarez  
 Villarin  
 Violago  
 Yap (A.)  
 Yap (M.)  
 Yap (V.)  
 Yu  
 Zarate  
 Zubiri

abstention, House Bill No. 6331 is approved on Third Reading.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6294  
 ON THIRD READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6294 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on September 14, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6294, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE BILIRAN PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN ITS PROPOSED RELOCATION SITE IN BARANGAY LARRAZABAL, MUNICIPALITY OF NAVAL, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN, FROM SEVENTY-FIVE (75) TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is as follows, per Journal No. 27, dated September 20, 2017:*

*Affirmative*

Abellanos  
 Abu  
 Abueg  
 Acharon  
 Acop  
 Acosta  
 Acosta-Alba  
 Advincula  
 Aggabao  
 Aglipay-Villar  
 Alejano  
 Almonte  
 Alonte  
 Alvarez (F.)  
 Alvarez (M.)  
 Alvarez (P.)  
 Amatong  
 Angara-Castillo  
 Antonio  
 Aquino-Magsaysay  
 Aragones  
 Arcillas  
 Bag-ao  
 Bagatsing  
 Baguilat  
 Banal  
 Barbers  
 Bataoil  
 Batocabe  
 Bautista-Bandigan  
 Belaro  
 Belmonte (F.)

*Negative*

None

*Abstention*

None

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6331  
 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). With 200 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no

Belmonte (J.C.)	Garcia (G.)	Pimentel	Sy-Alvarado
Belmonte (R.)	Garcia (J.E.)	Pineda	Tambunting
Benitez	Garin (R.)	Primicias-Agabas	Tan (M.)
Bertiz	Garin (S.)	Quimbo	Teves
Billones	Gasataya	Radaza	Tiangco
Bolilia	Go (A.C.)	Ramos	Ting
Bondoc	Go (M.)	Relampagos	Tinio
Bordado	Gonzaga	Revilla	Tugna
Bravo (A.)	Gonzales (A.P.)	Roa-Puno	Tupas
Bravo (M.V.)	Gonzales (A.D.)	Robes	Umali
Brosas	Gonzalez	Rocamora	Unabia
Bulut-Begtang	Gullas	Rodriguez (I.)	Ungab
Cagas	Herrera-Dy	Rodriguez (M.)	Unico
Calderon	Hofer	Roman	Vargas
Calixto-Rubiano	Javier	Romualdo	Velarde
Caminero	Kho	Roque (H.)	Velasco-Catera
Cari	Khonghun	Salo	Veloso
Casilao	Labadlabad	Salon	Vergara
Castelo	Lacson	Sambar	Villanueva
Castro (F.H.)	Lagman	Sandoval	Villaraza-Suarez
Catamco	Lanete	Santos-Recto	Villarin
Cayetano	Laogan	Sarmiento (C.)	Violago
Celeste	Leachon	Sarmiento (E.M.)	Yap (A.)
Cerilles	Lee	Savellano	Yap (M.)
Chavez	Limkaichong	Siao	Yap (V.)
Chipeco	Lobregat	Singson	Yu
Co	Lopez (B.)	Suansing (E.)	Zarate
Cojuangco	Lopez (M.L.)	Suansing (H.)	Zubiri
Cortes	Manalo	Suarez	
Crisologo	Mangaoang		
Cuaresma	Marcoleta	<i>Negative</i>	
Cueva	Marcos		
Dalipe	Mariño	None	
Datol	Marquez		
De Jesus	Martinez	<i>Abstention</i>	
De Venecia	Mending		
De Vera	Mercado	None	
Defensor	Mirasol		
Del Mar	Montoro		
Deloso-Montalla	Nieto		
Dimaporo (A.)	Noel		
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Nogralas (J.J.)		
Elago	Nolasco		
Erice	Nuñez-Malanyaon		
Eriguel	Oaminal		
Ermita-Buhain	Olivarez		
Escudero	Ong (E.)		
Espina	Ortega (P.)		
Espino	Ortega (V.N.)		
Eusebio	Pacquiao		
Fariñas	Paduano		
Fernando	Palma		
Ferrer (J.)	Pancho		
Ferrer (L.)	Panganiban		
Fortun	Panotes		
Fortuno	Papandayan		

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6294  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Can we request for an oxygen tank, the Secretary General seems to be out of breath.

With 201 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6294 is approved on Third Reading.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS  
ON SECOND READING

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration of the following measures:

1. House Bill No. 6389, contained in Committee Report No. 377; and

2. House Bill No. 6391, contained in Committee Report No. 378.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the respective Explanatory Notes of the Bills be considered as the sponsorship speeches on the measures.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measures, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments and approve the Committee amendments, if any, as contained in the respective committee reports on the aforementioned Bills. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, I move that we terminate the period of amendments. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bills No. 6389 and 6391 on Second Reading. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). As

many as are in favor of the approval of the Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

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

The Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion are hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, today being a Wednesday, I move that we open the Privilege Hour. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas of GABRIELA Party-List for her turn to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Congresswoman Brosas is recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

Please proceed.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mga kapwa ko Kinatawan, magandang hapon.

Muling tumitindig ang Kinatawang ito upang isatinig ang mga hinaing ng mga bata mula sa pambansang minoritya—mga batang vulnerable at higit pang ginawang vulnerable ng patong-patong na pasakit ng pagkakait ng batayang serbisyo at walang habas na militarisasyon ng kanilang mga komunidad.

Noong Agosto 31, 2017, mahigit sa 2,500 Lumads, Moro at iba pang sektor mula sa iba't ibang bahagi ng bansa ang nagsama-sama dito sa Metro Manila upang higit na maigiit ang kanilang karapatan sa sariling pagpapasya at makatarungang kapayapaan sa tinaguriang Lakbayan ng Pambansang Minoritya. Subalit sa loob ng nakaraang limang taon na kinaharap

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

ng kanilang komunidad, ng kanilang mga paaralan at lalo't higit, ng mga bata, ang mga nakatutok ay baril at pagpapaulan ng mga bomba sa kanilang komunidad, bagay na siyang naging dahilan ng kanilang paulit-ulit na paglikas.

Ang Lakbayan ng Pambansang Minorya at ang pagpapatuloy ng pag-aaral ng mga batang Lumad sa temporary schools saan man sila itaboy ng militarisasyon, ay ang matapang na pagpapahayag ng pagtutol at paglaban sa represyong ginagawa sa kanila ng estado. Mula July 2016 hanggang July 2017, naitala ng Save Our Schools Network ang mga sumusunod na kaso sa Mindanao: 28 kaso ng pananakot, harassment, red-tagging at surveillance; 17 kaso ng military encampment sa mga paaralan at pampublikong lugar na gumagamit ng human shields; pitong kaso ng EJK, extrajudicial killings, kasama ang pagpatay sa 19-year old Lumad student na si Obillo Bay-ao ng CAFGU; five cases of frustrated EJKs o extrajudicial killings at indiscriminate firing; four cases of destruction and divestment of school property; four cases of illegal or arbitrary arrest and detention; isang kaso ng enforced disappearance, pagpapasara ng paaralang Lumad, torture, and forced evacuation; at 89 schools and 2,623 students ang apektado sa mga pag-atakeng ito. Higit pang nakagagalit na sa gitna ng kanilang pagigiit ng karapatan at lumalakas na panawagan, nagpapatuloy at tumitindi pa rin ang atake sa kanilang komunidad. Habang ang daan-daang mga kabataan mula sa mga paaralang Lumad ay narito sa Maynila, nabalitaan nila ang pagpaslang kay Obillo Bay-ao, 19 taong gulang at estudyante sa ika-anim na baytang sa Salugpungan Ta' Tanu Igkanugon Learning Center. Ika-5 ng Setyembre nang pagbabarilin ng dalawang paramilitary si Obillo habang siya ay pauwi mula sa kanilang sakahan. Siya ang ika-47 na Lumad na pinaslang sa ilalim ng kasalukuyang administrasyon.

This is not an isolated case. These are no isolated cases. The President even announced in his Second SONA that he would order his military to bomb Lumad schools. These are systemic harassments and violations targeting the Lumad people, and the policy of the government is very clear. It is very evident that this administration does not treasure the cultural wealth of this nation and does not put any value on the rights of our indigenous people to self-determination, to education, and to life. Hindi tumitigil ang mga atake sa ating mga kababayang Lumad. Higit pa nga itong tumindi sa gitna ng pagpapatupad ng Oplan Kapayapaan at deklarasyon ng martial law sa Mindanao. Subalit hindi rin sila tumitigil sa paglaban at ang mga kababayan natin ay nasa frontlines ng paglaban sa pang-aabuso ng mga malalaking minahan at logging companies na sumasalaula sa kanilang lupa at kabuhayan.

Malakas ang paglaban ng mga Lumad at mga katutubo sa pagbigay ng DENR ng mga permit sa mga

logging at mining companies. Isa sa tinututulan ay ang D.M. Consunji, Inc. (DMCI) na binigyan ng DENR ng logging permit sa 102,954 ektaryang lupa. Apektado ang kabuhayan, pamumuhay at mga komunidad ng mga Dulangan Manobo sa halos walong municipalities. Hindi bago ang paglaban ng mga katutubo sa DMCI. Panahon pa ito ng diktadurang Marcos noong naging Kalihim ng Department of Public Works, Transportation and Communications si David Consunji. He dominated the construction and logging operations in the country. The DMCI did not act on this alone; the company employed government forces as security to maintain its economic interest at the expense of displacing Lumad communities and terminate any form of opposition. The unabashed deployment of state forces to protect the economic interest of the few resulted in harassments and killings. Habol ng mga multinasyonal na kompanya ang mahigit sa 500,000 hectares na lupa para sa pagmimina at 700,000 hectares na lupa para sa mga plantasyon ng saging, pinya, at iba pang mga agrikultural na produkto. Itong 1.2 milyong ektaryang lupa ay ancestral land ng mga Lumad at iba't ibang minorya na inagaw at ninakaw sa kanila ng mga multinational corporations. The government, in its effort to protect the interest of these multinational companies, even deployed 56 percent of its Armed Forces, together with its paramilitary groups like Alamara and Magahat-Bagani in Mindanao, to end outrage and opposition against the plunder of our natural resources.

G. Ispiker, mga kapwa Kinatawan, napakalaki ng ating papel na maaaring gampanan sa pagpigil sa pamamaslang, tulad rin ng napakalaki ng ating naging kasalanan at pagpapalala ng kanilang kalagayan, sa bulag na pag-aaproba sa batas militar sa kanilang lugar at kalaunan ay pagpapalala ng kanilang kalagayan. Ang deklarasyon ng martial law ay katumbas ng pagpitik sa gatilyo ng baril na nakatutok kay Obillo Bay-ao, sa mga batang Lumad at sa kanilang komunidad. Bukas, ika-21 ng Setyembre, gugunitain ang deklarasyon ng batas militar ng diktador na si Marcos. Hindi natin kailangang tumanaw ng apat na dekada para makita ang dahas at pang-aabuso sa kapangyarihang hatid nito. Huwag na nating balikan pa ang madilim na bahagi ng kasaysayan ng ating bansa. Huwag na rin nating hayaang madagdagan pa ang mga pangalan ng mga batang napaslang. Bitbitin natin ang kanilang mithiin para sa katarungan at kapayapaan bukas at sa darating pang mga araw. Nawa ay ang lakas at tapang ng mga batang nagnanais ng isang mapayapang bansa na nakabase sa hustisya at pagkakapantay-pantay ang magtulak sa atin na ipaglaban ang karapatan ng bawat Lumad sa edukasyon at sariling pagpapasya.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you, Congresswoman Brosas.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Arlene Brosas to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The speech is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara of the Third District of Nueva Ecija for her turn to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Congresswoman Vergara is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. VERGARA

REP. VERGARA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Marlon Villanueva, Chester Paulo Abracias, Cris Mendez, Menardo Clamucha, EJ Karl Intia, Noel Borja, Nor Silongan, Marc Andre Marcos, John Mark Dugan, Marvin Reglos, Guillo Servando, Horacio Castillo—these young men all died from acts of cruelty in initiation rites that supposedly strengthen, if not cement, the bond of brotherhood amongst its members.

Fraternalities are most common in law schools, and these date back to 1920’s in our country, but it crosses cultures and borders. Death from hazing is most common in our country and in Asia. Despite the Anti-Hazing Law of 1995, our society is unable to stop fraternalities from conducting these dastardly acts. Horacio’s death, while tragic, shocking and inconceivable, will fall under the countless hazing deaths before him, and his name will resurface when another young man suffers the same fate. When media attention has waned, he will become like the other victims of hazing-- a statistic.

Is it our justice system that allows these crimes to happen? Is it the lack of parental guidance that young men fall prey to these rites? Is it our lax monitoring of outside-school activities that provides the environment for these activities to flourish? Is it the macho attitude prevalent in the Filipino society to tacitly accept this primitive form of initiation as part of becoming a lawyer? What kind of thinking goes on in the minds of those doing the beating? Could they be thinking—we need to make men out of these boys—and sometimes we get carried away in our merely doing to these new recruits, what we ourselves went through and survived, and the death of a neophyte is just proof that he does not

have what it takes to be a member of our frat. While these questions have no easy answers, they must be faced.

Earlier today, I spoke to Mrs. Castillo and she told me one of the reasons she felt confident about Atio’s joining Aegis Juris fraternity was that one of its officers formed part of the academe of the UST, and he is no less than the Dean of the Faculty of Civil Law, Dean Nilo T. Divina. This is the understanding of Atio when he attended the welcome rites and this is what his parents also knew. As parents, Carminia and Horacio were aware of the victims of hazing despite the implementation of the 1995 Anti-Hazing Law, and they cautioned their son; but he assured them that hazing was not an activity this fraternity espoused. Horacio must have been surprised himself when the welcome rites turned into every person’s parents’ nightmare. Brutal repeated acts of physical violence inflicted with intention to hurt and maim so severe that the objective is to make the newcomer physically unable to walk.

In a cursory reading of the Lenny Villa case which became the basis of the Anti-Hazing Law of 1995, I can only speculate and surmise that these rites include alcohol and drugs, for how else can men who are being educated to be well-versed and practitioners of the law, and protectors of the accused and victims of criminal acts, so callously beat and hurt a fellow human being to a pulp? Studies show that child abusers were victims of abuse as children. Upper fratmen who beat neophyte law students must have been beaten severely too and maybe, almost died but did not. Hence, the desire to inflict pain just as they received pain, is a vicious cycle and one that must end.

Schools and universities must be accountable, especially in cases such as when the Dean of the Faculty of Civil Law is listed as a member of the fraternity. They are perceived as active members of the frat and so, this gives students and parents a sense of assurance and comfort that in this fraternity, the rule of law is upheld, the Anti-Hazing Law is implemented. A congressional inquiry in aid of legislation must be conducted with emphasis on what role the university had in this welcome rites and in Horacio Castillo’s death. The Anti-Hazing Law or Republic Act No. 8049 is weak and its stand on hazing is vague, to say the least. The law does not prohibit hazing per se or initiation rites. What it prohibits is the infliction of physical violence during initiation. The fraternity is required to notify the school authorities of their planned initiation rites, including the names of the applicants, with an undertaking that no physical violence will be inflicted on the neophytes. However, the law does not provide for penalties if the notice requirement is not complied with. The school head is required to assign two representatives to be present during the initiation rights to ensure that no physical violence will be inflicted on the neophyte.



However, again, the law does not provide for penalties if this requirement is not complied with.

In actual practice, I think the school head rarely assigns representatives since the fraternity does not comply with the notice requirement. These are just some of the weaknesses of the Anti-Hazing Law which need to be strengthened. The 1995 Anti-Hazing Law must be reviewed and amended to make universities and colleges, especially the members of the academe who form part of the fraternity, accountable even in their absence during the fraternity events, and especially when an initiation is conducted.

We must not stay silent. The death of Horacio Castillo from actions that humiliated, degraded, abused, endangered and eventually killed him, by no less than individuals whom he would have considered life-long friends or brods had he survived is not acceptable. There is something very wrong with our society if this is the means future lawyers use to gauge the strength of their brotherhood.

Aegis Juris' motto is "Do no injustice, suffer no injustice." As legislators, we must come together to make sure Horacio Castillo's brutal murder is given justice.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you very much.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action. I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

The speech is referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour—Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. I withdraw my motion to refer the speech to the Committee on Rules, and move to recognize the Hon. Florida "Rida" P. Robes of San Jose Del Monte City, Bulacan for her interpellation. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROBES. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to address and make a manifestation to the august Body with regard to the privilege speech of our dear colleague, Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara.

Sa nakikita ko po ngayon, talagang aking nababasa na hindi po kinatatakutan ang ating Republic Act No. 8049 dahil paulit-ulit po itong nangyayari na hazing. Minarapat ko lang po, Mr. Speaker, na susugan ang opinyon ng ating kasama na sana ay basahin natin nang maigi at pag-aralan ang batas na ito. Maliwanag po na ang sinasabi po rin nila na ito daw po ay ligal—ang hazing o initiation na sinasabi ay ligal at talagang katanggap-tanggap sa ating society, pero I would like to make a manifestation, Mr. Speaker, that we move and make this, sabihin na nating a wake up call to everybody. Mahirap magkaanak, mahirap bumuhay ng isang bata, at hindi nararapat na panoorin lamang ang ganitong initiations para lamang makapasok at maging daan para ikaw ay isang maging magaling na Mambabatas dahil, ang sinasabi nga po nila, kapag ikaw ang miyembro ng isang sorority or fraternity, ay malakas ka. Hindi po sana ito ang maging basehan.

That is all, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you very much.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Deputy Speaker Pia S. Cayetano for her interpellation.

REP. CAYETANO. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Deputy Speaker Pia Cayetano is recognized.

REP. CAYETANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I would not make this long, but I just want to express my support. I thank our colleague Rep. Rosanna Vergara for bringing this up to the Body. A lot of Members, even I, are members of a sorority or fraternity. I remember it was, I think, 20 years ago, when that law was passed and yet, we still have to stand here and lay witness to the sad reality of young people dying from hazing.

I cast my support and I hope that as a Body we can do more about this to prevent this from happening again.

Thank you.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Rosanna “Ria” Vergara to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action and likewise the interpellation, Mr. Speaker. I so move.

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

The speech and the interpellation are referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move that we close the Privilege Hour. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that all bills that had been approved on Third Reading be transmitted to the Senate. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until four o’clock in the afternoon of Monday, September 25, 2017. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The session is adjourned until Monday, September 25, 2017, at four o’clock in the afternoon.

*It was 5:51 p.m.*