



# Congressional Record

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

Vol. 3

Tuesday, October 3, 2017

No. 32

## CALL TO ORDER

*At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica called the session to order.*

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

## NATIONAL ANTHEM

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

*Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.*

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

## ROLL CALL

REP. DEFENSOR. Good afternoon, Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). 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. 32, dated October 3, 2017:*

## PRESENT

Abaya  
Abayon

Abellanosa  
Abu

Abueg  
Acharon  
Agarao  
Aggabao  
Albano  
Alejano  
Almario  
Almonte  
Alonte  
Alvarez (F.)  
Alvarez (P.)  
Amante  
Amatong  
Aragones  
Arenas  
Atienza  
Aumentado  
Bag-ao  
Bataoil  
Belaro  
Belmonte (J.C.)  
Benitez  
Bertiz  
Biazon  
Billones  
Biron  
Bolilia  
Bondoc  
Bordado  
Bravo (A.)  
Brosas  
Bulut-Begtang  
Calderon  
Caminero  
Campos  
Canama  
Cari  
Casilao  
Castro (F.L.)  
Castro (F.H.)  
Catamco  
Celeste  
Cerilles  
Chavez

Co  
Cojuangco  
Collantes  
Cortes  
Cortuna  
Cosalan  
Cua  
Cuaresma  
Cueva  
Dalipe  
Datol  
De Vera  
Defensor  
Del Mar  
Del Rosario  
Deloso-Montalla  
Dimaporo (A.)  
Dimaporo (M.K.)  
Durano  
Elago  
Eriguel  
Ermita-Buhain  
Escudero  
Espina  
Espino  
Estrella  
Evardone  
Fariñas  
Fernando  
Ferrer (J.)  
Ferrer (L.)  
Flores  
Fortun  
Fortuno  
Fuentebella  
Garcia (G.)  
Garcia (J.E.)  
Garcia-Albano  
Garin (R.)  
Gasataya  
Gatchalian  
Go (A.C.)  
Go (M.)  
Gonzaga

Gonzales (A.P.)	Ramos
Gonzales (A.D.)	Relampagos
Gonzalez	Revilla
Gullas	Roa-Puno
Hernandez	Rodriguez (I.)
Herrera-Dy	Roman
Hofer	Romualdo
Jalosjos	Roque (R.)
Kho	Sacdalan
Lacson	Sahali
Lagman	Salimbangon
Lanete	Salo
Laogan	Salon
Lazatin	Sandoval
Lee	Santos-Recto
Lobregat	Sarmiento (C.)
Lopez (B.)	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Lopez (C.)	Savellano
Lopez (M.L.)	Siao
Loyola	Silverio
Maceda	Singson
Madrona	Suansing (E.)
Malapitan	Suansing (H.)
Manalo	Suarez
Mangaoang	Tambunting
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Tan (A.)
Marcoleta	Tan (M.)
Marquez	Tejada
Martinez	Tiangco
Matugas	Ting
Mending	Tinio
Mercado	Tolentino
Mirasol	Treñas
Montoro	Tugna
Noel	Ty
Nogralas (J.J.)	Unabia
Nogralas (K.A.)	Ungab
Nolasco	Unico
Nuñez-Malanyaon	Uy (R.)
Oaminal	Uybarreta
Ocampo	Vargas
Ong (E.)	Vargas-Alfonso
Ortega (P.)	Velasco
Ortega (V.N.)	Velasco-Catera
Paduano	Vergara
Palma	Villanueva
Pancho	Villarica
Panganiban	Villarin
Panotes	Violago
Pichay	Yap (A.)
Pimentel	Yap (V.)
Pineda	Yu
Primicias-Agabas	Zamora (R.)
Quimbo	Zarate
Radaza	Zubiri
Ramirez-Sato	

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 203 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). With 203 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 31 of the session on October 2, 2017.

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

Journal No. 31 is approved.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up the Unfinished Business.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6452

##### *Continuation*

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6452, contained in Committee Report No. 393, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6452, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH POLICY FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENHANCING THE DELIVERY OF INTEGRATED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES, PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS UTILIZING PSYCHIATRIC, NEUROLOGIC AND PSYCHOSOCIAL HEALTH SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate. And with that, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairperson of the Committee on Health, the Honorable Helen ...

I am sorry, Mme. Speaker. To continue the sponsorship of the measure, rather, I move that we recognize the Hon. Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The Hon. Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. And to interpellate, Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Albay, the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The Hon. Edcel C. Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Will the distinguished Sponsor yield to a series of clarificatory questions?

REP. ROA-PUNO. With pleasure, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. I would like to preface my interpellation with a statement that I am 100-percent in favor of this Bill which is a measure that is long overdue. Because of the significance of this Bill on mental health, I would really appreciate it if more Members of the House would participate in the debates so that at the proper time, perfecting amendments can be introduced, from the substantial to the typographical.

It is truly significant, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, that this Bill gives importance to community-based mental healthcare.

The World Health Organization states, and I quote:

The community mental health services are more accessible and effective to lessen social exclusion and are likely to have less possibility for the neglect and violations of human rights that were often encountered in mental hospitals.

The Commission on Human Rights, in its position paper submitted to the sponsoring Committee, reiterated the statement above when it said, and I quote:

The absence of community-based mental healthcare means that the only care available is in psychiatric institutions which are associated with gross human rights violations including inhuman and degrading treatments and living conditions.

Verily, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, since this Bill is right-based, a less intrusive and more open environment in community-based mental healthcare facilities needs to be encouraged and enhanced.

Now, for my first question, may we know, distinguished Sponsor, if the purpose of this Bill is to "evolve from a predominantly hospital-based mental healthcare system to a comprehensive community-based mental healthcare system which shall consist of: a) mental healthcare service development; b) capacity-building reorientation and training; and c) research and development," as proposed in one of the Bills consolidated in this substitute bill, House Bill No. 6452?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Thank you very much to the Honorable Lagman for that question.

Before I proceed with my answer, I would just like to thank the Honorable Lagman for the support that he has demonstrated and reiterated. He has told me before that he is in full support of this measure.

To the community-based healthcare that is being proposed in this Bill, precisely as he mentioned, this is the thrust of the DOH now as it is the thrust of most of the systems all over the world. Community-based healthcare acknowledges the fact that, particularly in third-world countries, it is difficult for those who need the service, for the service users, to access the kind of treatment that might be available in hospitals as we have been used to.

What we want to accomplish with this Bill is for everybody to be able to go to their nearest barangay, to their community, to a clinic, and to be able to talk about a problem that they might have, to discover a problem that they did not know they had, and to be able to process feelings that they had that might actually lead to a serious mental condition. We are thinking of and talking about the people that we see on a day-to-day basis, the people that we see on the streets roaming around, sleeping in cartons, sleeping under the bridge, people that we are scared of or scared to approach. These are the kinds of people that we have in mind. The neediest Filipinos who have no access to health when it comes to their mental wellness. And as to community-based service, community-based healthcare is the answer to such problems.

Mme. Speaker, it also stresses the fact that treatment for mental health conditions involves not only the patient or the client or the service user but it has to also involve the families and their communities. They cannot be isolated or singled-out and it is best for them to be left in their communities and treated where they are most comfortable in order for the treatment to be effective. And, that again is another highlight of community-based healthcare.

It is enumerated in the provisions of Section 21 of the Bill which talk about the importance of capacitating

the barangay health workers to be able to address the needs of all Filipinos to be able to provide mental healthcare as part of primary healthcare. And that is going to be one of the priorities with the Comprehensive Mental Health Act, to be able to allow our barangay health workers to provide, to become the first responders or to be able to provide mental health first aid, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you for those relevant answers, distinguished Sponsor. But, my question really was, is there a transition from hospital-based to community-based mental healthcare system which is articulated in the provisions of this Bill?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, precisely, that is going down to the barangay, capacitating and enabling the barangay health workers, who are not necessarily psychiatrists or psychologists, who number very few in our country today, and allowing them to be able to address or at least recognize mental health problems as a first step towards this direction. This is non-existent at the moment or this is not the common practice as of yet, but we recognize how important it is to be able to help all those in need even at the barangay and the community levels.

Part of this also, Mme. Speaker, is the availability of medicines, free medicines for the indigent, for those who are in need, and also acknowledging that not all problems with mental health, or not all seeming problems with a mental condition will lead to hospitalization or to a clinical approach. And this will ease the burden, as well, on the very few mental health facilities that we have in the country today. It will also recognize that we should be able to attain an overall healthy citizenry by just starting with the communities and just being able to deal with mental health on a primary health level, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. May we know, distinguished Sponsor, whether there are existing viable community-based mental healthcare facilities in various areas nationwide.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Right now, Mme. Speaker, there is already a—if I am not mistaken, it has already been launched, but there are pilot areas and programs—Quezon, I believe, is one. The Surigao del Sur pilot project launched by the DOH will also include this mental health program involving the communities. This is something that is espoused by the Secretary of Health, as was observed in Cuba.

It is not yet widespread and we are counting on the passage of this Bill to be able to help this effort and to fast-track it, Mme. Speaker. That is the importance of passing this measure at the speediest time.

REP. LAGMAN. Are there community-based mental healthcare facilities in the City of Manila, for example, in Quezon City, Makati City, Antipolo City, Cebu City, Davao City, Iloilo City, Baguio City, and other important places in the country?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Right now, I can speak for my district, Mme. Speaker, we are pushing for a community-based mental health facility in Antipolo. We recognize the need for it, and recognize the need for it elsewhere in the country. And again, this emphasizes the importance of the passage of this Bill, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. So, from the answer of the distinguished Sponsor, there are only pilot areas and there are no sufficient community-based mental healthcare facilities presently. Then, how will this Bill enable the establishment of such facilities?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Let me just mention that there is an existing program or facility in Quezon City. There is a program for mental health. I think it is the intention of the Department of Health—aside from observing best practices elsewhere in the world as they have, but starting with these pilot programs in chosen areas in the country, I think this is the direction that the Department of Health wants to go to.

Again, this just underscores the importance really of supporting this measure. As we said, it has been 30 years since legislation for this measure has been attempted. There had been trials and failures for the past 30 years, and what the Honorable Lagman is bringing to light just, again, emphasizes the need for us to fully support this measure and to implement community-based treatment for mental health conditions all over the country.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, my question really was whether there are pertinent provisions in the Bill, not general provisions, but specific provisions which would enable the establishment and operation of community-based mental healthcare facilities nationwide.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Like I mentioned, Mme. Speaker, we will start with enabling the barangay health workers. That is really the first line of defense, if we can call it that. The idea being they should be able to meet their constituents or those in their area to be able to assess them for primary care, to provide them primary care but, at the same time, assess them for their overall mental well-being. And barangay healthcare workers will be capacitated or will be enabled to assess whether or not there needs to be further action, if they need to be referred to professionals. Sometimes all they need is to be told that there is something to be done, to be listened to, to be empowered, and to be educated about

what is there for them. That is a priority of this particular program, Mme. Speaker.

Let me go to Section 17 of our Bill which states:

Mental health service shall, within the general healthcare system in the community, include the following:

a. development and integration of mental healthcare at the primary healthcare in the community;

b. support services for families and co-workers of service users, carers, legal representatives and mental health professionals;

x x x

Community resilience and psychosocial well-being training in all barangays, including the availability of mental health and psychosocial support services for issues related to everyday living, for example, parenting and marriage, and related to natural disasters and other calamities—these are something that we also need to stress, Mme. Speaker, because as we know, our country has gone through a lot of natural calamities of late and the emphasis on post-traumatic stress disorder treatment cannot be made louder. This is really something that we need to focus our energies on and this is something that is highlighted in our Bill.

Finally, like I mentioned, there is also the training and capacity-building programs for local mental health workers so that they can undertake mental healthcare in the community, in coordination, of course, with mental health facilities and with the Departments of Psychiatry and Neuro-Sciences, in general, and university hospitals in the academe or relevant specialty organizations. This is a community effort as much as it is a community service, Mme. Speaker. This requires the efforts of the entire mental health community to be able to see this work and to be able to see their goals come to fruition, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, to be more specific, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, what specifically are the equipment and personnel requirements for a community-based mental healthcare facility?

REP. ROA-PUNO. It will start with thorough, meaningful, tested and, I guess, recognized training coming from—there are many different programs that are available. We know a program such as mental health first aid that is employed in Australia, originated in Australia, used in about 10 different countries in Asia including Japan, and Nepal. It is also used in the UK and the US. Program such as this, not necessarily that one in particular, but programs involving thorough training of the barangay health workers by psychiatrists, psychologists and those who will enable them to be able

to stand as first responders to mental health concerns. There are modules that we will abide by, there are strict programs that are out there that will be the devices and that will be used by the DOH to properly train these barangay health workers.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, from the answer of the distinguished Sponsor, among others, what would be needed would be professionals trained in the delivery of mental healthcare services like psychiatrists, psychologists and other allied professionals. Do we have, presently, an adequate pool of such qualified professionals?

REP. ROA-PUNO. We are talking about the mental health workers, nurses, primary physicians, all trained to World Health Organization ...

REP. LAGMAN. Psychiatrists.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Yes, as to the question of Honorable Lagman, it is well known that there is a dearth of psychiatrists in this country. I think they number 500 or 550—not very many at all. It is alarming. The ratio of psychiatrist practitioners, specialists in this field, the ratio of these specialists to those who need their services, I have read statistics that said there is one for every 130,000 Filipinos, one psychiatrist for every 130,000 Filipinos. This problem is also being addressed by the Comprehensive Mental Health Act.

We are trying to improve and increase the number of practitioners by mandating that psychiatry, neurology and subjects such as these be mandatory in the tertiary level and even in the primary and the secondary levels. Subjects on mental health should already be introduced. But taking into consideration the situation at hand where we have very little psychiatrists in the country, this Bill also recognizes the importance of the practicing psychologists who are able to also help those whose needs need to be addressed, and again, the importance of capacitating volunteers, community workers and other laymen. Everybody should be able to, with enough training, with commitment, be able to be first responders, to be able to help in improving the situation or the state of mental health of the country. Just to be specific, the DOH provided us the number: there are currently 539 diplomate psychiatrists in the country. And just from the numbers, we know that they need to really be increased, as well as the effort to try to involve the entire community of mental health practitioners to be able to address the state of mental health of the country today, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, admittedly, there is really a dearth of psychiatrists and other professionals in the delivery of mental healthcare. With about 500

psychiatrists nationwide for a population of 105,000,000 people, that is a very low percentage.

Now, is there a specific provision in the Bill which would encourage the entry of more psychiatrists, psychologists and other health professionals in the delivery of mental healthcare?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, aside from including this subject, as we mentioned, in the tertiary level, there is also the—acknowledging the fact that psychiatrists in the past were probably also discouraged from pursuing that particular specialization because of the lack of emphasis and lack of support, lack of laws, legislation that protect and support their field, I am hoping, and we are hoping that the passage of this Bill will also encourage more physicians to pursue this field.

Let me just make mention, Mme. Speaker, of the National Program for Mental Health from 2017 to 2022. This is an entire strategic plan that has already been drawn out now by the Department of Health and it also includes the financial capability of the Department of Health to capacitate and train the different community workers that we are looking to service the community-based programs and facilities.

It is also worth mentioning, Mme. Speaker, that no less than the World Health Organization explains that there is perhaps a mistaken notion that improvements in mental health require sophisticated and expensive technology and the services of psychiatrists and psychologists, highly-specialized staff. The reality is that most of the mental health issues that face our population today can be managed by non-specialists, by those who serve in the community-based facilities, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Would the distinguished Sponsor be amenable to an amendment which would provide for a specific policy to encourage the study and entry of professionals in the delivery of mental healthcare services, like provisions for incentives and a scholarship program?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, that is already part and parcel of the National Mental Health Program Strategic Plan for 2017 to 2022, which the DOH intends to adhere to and this is going to be the basis of the mental health program as prescribed in the Comprehensive Mental Health Act. We are happy to note that this is something that is already included in this program.

Again, in many other parts of the Bill, I think, it will be most encouraging for physicians to see that mental health is given priority in the country, and therefore, it would be advantageous for them to actually pursue that line of specialization.

REP. LAGMAN. May we know what specific

provision is there with respect to the grant of incentives and scholarships for those who would like to pursue a study and practice in the delivery of mental healthcare services?

REP. ROA-PUNO. For one, Mme. Speaker, there is a provision for plantilla positions in the local level and that in itself should encourage particularly the new doctors to pursue this specialization.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, a plantilla position would mean that there is an existing qualified professional. But the purpose really of the question is whether there are incentives and scholarship grants so that we could encourage more to study the course on mental health...

REP. ROA-PUNO. Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. .... and then practice the same.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, the National Center for Mental Health in Mandaluyong is actually not just a hospital but also a facility where physicians can be trained as psychiatrists, and with this program, physicians who are not currently practicing in this field can pursue further education. This will be provided for by the government to allow them to be able to specialize in the field of psychiatry.

REP. LAGMAN. I would like to see the specific program because in the absence of such specific program, then this Bill can be the avenue for giving incentives as well as scholarships even for postgraduate studies to those who are interested in pursuing the profession on mental healthcare service.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, because this is part of the intention of this Bill as we recognize that it really is a problem, the dearth of psychiatrists in the country, we are confident that this Bill will address that problem. But with the help of the Honorable Lagman, perhaps, in rephrasing some of the provisions of the Bill so that they would more directly address this particular issue of allowing current physicians to practice in psychiatry and encourage upcoming medical professionals to actually go into that field, then, we are amenable.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor, because an intention should be articulated and the best articulation would be a specific provision in this Bill.

Now, what is the approximate minimum budgetary requirement for the establishment and operation of a community-based mental healthcare facility?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Before we go into the specific,

Mme. Speaker, we would just like to mention the budget allocation for mental health. Historically, the Department of Health has been giving a good amount of their budget for mental health programs even before the creation of this Bill. In 2017, P5.8 billion has been allocated for mental health and as far as the capacity-building and the enabling of community health-based programs are concerned, the DOH is still not able to pinpoint an exact figure, but we trust that it is well included in their budget for 2018.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, I am not sure whether the establishment and operation of community-based mental healthcare facilities are included in the present budget or in the proposed budget of the Department of Health.

REP. ROA-PUNO. One thing to ...

REP. LAGMAN. That is why I am asking the question, how much is the minimum budgetary requirement for the establishment and operation of a community-based mental healthcare facility?

REP. ROA-PUNO. One thing to consider, Mme. Speaker, capacitating the barangay health workers who are already existing in their communities is a cost-effective way of manning these community-based facilities because we are using the same barangay health workers who go around, providing primary healthcare already. I think that is the idea as well. It is additional training for them and I guess it will become a cost-saving measure for all of us because the barangay health workers are already there. They are already tasked to provide primary care to their communities and what we want to do is just to further capacitate them to provide mental healthcare as well.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, the capacitation of barangay health workers is a good starting point, but we all know that in a community-based mental healthcare facility, there are other personnel which should be included, for example, the professional mental healthcare providers and also the necessary equipment plus the required medicines. So, most probably, we should ask the Department of Health to give us an estimate of how much would be needed for budgetary support for the establishment and operation of a community-based mental healthcare facility. I am certain that they must have the figures and they should provide the same to the House of Representatives so that we could fully effectuate the enactment of this Bill.

REP. ROA-PUNO. It is worth noting, Mme. Speaker, that mental health programs are already included and aggregated in the different budgets

or in the different programs that the DOH has. It is just that it has not been identified as the budget for community-based facilities per se, but we are confident that these community-based facilities are already incorporated in all of the plans that the Department of Health has for their different programs in the different communities.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, but since we are emphasizing the establishment and operation of community-based mental healthcare facilities, then I suppose it would be wise for the Department of Health to disaggregate the minimum budgetary amount needed for the establishment of community-based mental healthcare facilities for the guidance of Legislators who are going to enact this Bill.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, let us look, for example, at the budget allocation for the existing mental health programs of the DOH in the past couple of years. While we know that mental health programs are included, in particular, in 2016, P8.3 million was allocated for mental health programs in the two main mental centers, mental hospitals, we also have budget allocations for psychiatric facilities, operation expenses for operation of the dangerous drug abuse centers, et cetera. These are all indications that mental health services are already incorporated within the budget of the DOH. But we do acknowledge and recognize the need, as the Honorable Lagman has brought up, to see exactly what it will cause to create something that is still not yet in existence. This is something that we are doing from scratch and I guess it would be beneficial to all to see how much exactly, ...

REP. LAGMAN. Yes.

REP. ROA-PUNO. ... although I do not know if it is possible to come up with an exact budget for every community given that each community is made up of different factors.

REP. LAGMAN. It is an approximation of the average budgetary requirement. I think it will not be difficult for the sponsoring Committee to ask the Department of Health to disaggregate that portion which would be for the creation and operation of community-based mental healthcare facilities.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Well noted, Mme. Speaker. We will ask the DOH to do the same.

REP. LAGMAN. Last question on this topic, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. Is the definition of community-based rehabilitation under Section 4 (d) adequate to properly convey the concept and

emphasis on a community-based mental healthcare facility or would it require some more improvement and amendments to capture the very importance of this transition to a community-based mental healthcare facility?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Let me read the definition that we have on Section 4 (d):

- d. *Community-based rehabilitation* refers to a rights-based program, planned and implemented in the community, that ensures intervention for a mental health patient either as a supplemental undertaking to hospital care, primary drug use programs, or in place of facility-based treatment as long as the patient is not a danger to oneself or to others.

This, Mme. Speaker, is the definition as provided for in Section 4 of our Bill, but there is also a section—Section 12 that provides for all of the duties and responsibilities of all mental health facilities and mental health service providers, and this includes the community facilities as well. So, we feel that this Bill adequately provides for all of the—it includes—and specific to the importance of community-based healthcare, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, thank you, distinguished Sponsor for saying that this definition is adequate. Most probably, at the proper time, we may introduce some perfecting amendments to this definition but that would have to come later.

Now, I will go to my next topic on the types, classification of specific mental illness or disorder. I noticed, distinguished Sponsor, that the Bill mentions about mental health or disorder in a generic language. However, there are various types and classifications of mental illness or disorder which should be identified in the Bill for proper appreciation and disclosure. Does the Sponsor agree that such identification and disclosure be made instead of hiding this specific mental illnesses or disorders in generic terms?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I think we are counting on the professional community to be able to fully define the disorders that are included in this Bill which include all the psychiatric disorders and psychosis that there are. It might be futile to have to mention every single one as there are so many, but there is a book such as the DSM and other references that will list all of the different disorders that would fall under psychiatric disorders mentioned in the Bill. This would include the more commonly known disorders such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, multiple personality disorder and many more, Mme. Speaker. It probably would not be

possible to mention in the Bill all of the disorders but to say that it will include all psychiatric disorders should be sufficient. It will also include all disorders such as major depression and anxiety disorders such as panic disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder, phobia, post-traumatic stress disorder, anorexia and bulimia, impulse disorders like kleptomania, and the like.

Again, the list is endless. There are many other disorders that fall under anxiety disorders, but this Bill includes all the disorders that fall under this particular category. We included all neurologic disorders, the most commonly known of which are dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's disease, epilepsy, narcolepsy, also IDD or intellectual development disorder such as dyslexia, ADHD, autism and Down syndrome. We also included addiction or substance use disorders such as gambling, alcohol, substance abuse, shopping disorders, even hypersexual disorder, and Internet disorder. The list goes on and more are discovered as we go along, and we believe that mentioning in the Bill all of the general classifications of all of these psychiatric disorders, neurologic, mental, and substance disorders should suffice, Mme. Speaker, because the intention is to include all those who need help when it comes to achieving their mental health.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, we are not calling for an exhaustive enumeration of all kinds of mental illness. We are only asking for a specification of the major ones for the appreciation of this Chamber as well as of the community. To the stigmatized mental illness, we should be open to talking about it in plain neutral language, and this includes calling the illnesses by their actual names and not using euphemisms.

So, to my mind, we could include the following enumeration which is not all-inclusive: anxiety disorders; mood disorders, and this would include depression and bipolar disorder; schizophrenia; psychotic disorders; dementia; eating disorders; post-partum depression; and post-traumatic stress disorder or PTSD.

I do not think it would harm the Bill if we make this disclosure of some of the more important mental illnesses rather than treat them in a generic language. So, at the proper time, ...

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, ...

REP. LAGMAN. ... I would propose that these major classifications should be included in the Bill.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I think we were able to highlight the most common and the most well-known of these disorders, and perhaps, to mention the major categories and classifications such as psychiatric or psychosis, major depression, anxiety, neurologic



disorders, and to give the examples of the most well-known disorders such as dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and those that both the Honorable Lagman and this Representation have mentioned, I think, it should suffice.

Just to note, Mme. Speaker, there is also the concern that the terms used are always updating. Using the general terms will also prevent the Bill from being outdated in light of the ever-changing terms and newly discovered disorders. Case in point, what used to be known as bipolar disorder used to be called manic-depressive psychosis. That is just one example, but this is also to safeguard or to make sure or ensure that our Bill will not be outdated.

Having said that, the inclusion of, perhaps, the mention of the major well-known disorders as enumerated by the Honorable Lagman is well noted.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

Now, talking about this depression and bipolar disorder, I think we should be able to give a human face to this common mental ailment. Persons with bipolar disorder and episodes of depression should never be demeaned, humiliated or disgraced, as cogently proposed in the Bill. Many of these people had contributed much to history and culture like the following: literary figures like Edgar Allan Poe, Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams, Virginia Woolf and Leo Tolstoy; actors, actresses and singers like Frank Sinatra, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Richard Dreyfuss, Patty Duke, Robin Williams, Carrie Fisher, Director Francis Ford Coppola, Elton John, Brooke Shields and Marie Osmond who suffered post-partum disorder; world leaders like Napoleon Bonaparte, Adolf Hitler, even Winston Churchill, Gen. George S. Patton Jr., J.C. Jackson Jr., Abraham Lincoln, Ted Turner—the founder of CNN; and sports personalities like Mike Tyson, Ricky Hatton, David Beckham, and Mardy Fish of tennis.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, this is the reason this Bill should be appreciated because it would discourage the humiliation or disgrace of people like all of those I have enumerated, who had bipolar and depression disorder. For purposes of this discussion, I think in another time, most probably, we will have to categorize and specify the very mental ailment of these popular figures. I am not mentioning here local personalities but I am certain that there are many local personalities in the category of Edgar Allan Poe, Ernest Hemingway, Napoleon Bonaparte and other sports personalities.

Now, let me go to my third topic and this will be the coverage of private hospitals. Does this Bill include or cover private hospitals, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, the Bill includes all hospitals, private and government.

REP. LAGMAN. I beg your pardon.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, private hospitals need to abide by all of the provisions of this law as much as the government, and public hospitals and facilities.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, okay. I am happy to know that, but most probably, there should be a specification in the Bill with respect to the coverage of private hospitals.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, let me again refer to Section 12 of the Bill, "Duties and Responsibilities of All Mental Health Facilities and Mental Health Services Providers." It lists eight provisions, I can read them here, but the point is all of these responsibilities of all mental health facilities and mental health service providers include the private hospitals as well. They are not very many in the country which again highlight the need for us to be able to provide health and treatment to those who cannot afford private hospital care, but having said that, all of these provisions apply to all mental health facilities including private hospitals. If it is the pleasure of the Honorable Lagman, we can mention private hospitals and just ...

REP. LAGMAN. Well, because the provision you have read, distinguished Sponsor, would refer to professional doctors, psychiatrists, et cetera, but they do not refer specifically to private hospitals. For example, in Section 18, it provides and I quote, "All regional, provincial, and tertiary hospitals shall provide the following psychiatric, psychosocial, and neurological services."

Then, I understand that regional and provincial hospitals refer exclusively to government-owned and -operated hospitals. Is that correct?

REP. ROA-PUNO. That is correct, Mme. Speaker. Section 18, is inclusive, falls under Chapter V, which talks about mental health service in the community and that is why it enumerates the provincial, regional and tertiary hospitals per se. But again, I do not believe it supersedes the provisions of Section 12, whereby all mental health facilities which include private facilities need to abide by the provisions as stated here. So, we believe it still covers the private hospitals, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Since we are now legislating, I

think, we should not base on assumptions but we will have to be very specific so that there will be no questions later as to the intention of the Congress.

REP. ROA-PUNO. If it is the pleasure of the Honorable Lagman, again, maybe we can just include the term “private hospitals” in Section 18 after “tertiary hospitals” to be followed.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, because the tertiary hospital would also be referring to government hospitals. Well, there is a precedent, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, when a bill which is now an Act covered private hospitals and this is Republic Act No. 10354, the Reproductive Health Law, under Section 7 of the Act, which covers private hospitals rendering services to paying patients with the option to establish charity ward. So, under this precedent, we will be proposing an amendment at the proper time.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Noted, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, let me go to my fourth subject which is the Philippine Mental Health Council. As mentioned in Section 14 of the Bill, the Philippine Council for Mental Health was created under Executive Order No. 470, issued by President Fidel Ramos on February 24, 1998. Unfortunately, I do not think this Council was ever operationalized, and as of today, this Council has no specific budget. Is that correct?

REP. ROA-PUNO. That is correct, Mme. Speaker. It was passed. Under the administration of former Pres. Fidel Ramos, the Executive Order was never actualized, Mme. Speaker. But may I mention that the inspiration if I may say, or this is the basis by which we are putting together this Comprehensive Mental Act and the creation of a Philippine Mental Health Council that is better supported financially and otherwise, with much consideration of the needs and the desires of the community. There was a lot of consultation that went on with the psychiatric organizations of psychiatrists, psychologists and other practitioners in the field. So, we are hoping that the current model of the Philippine Council for Mental Health will be implemented and will be able to serve the mental health community as it was intended to be.

REP. LAGMAN. We fully appreciate, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, the reconstitution and the operation of this Philippine Council for Mental Health. But there are some questions I would like to propound.

You would recall, distinguished Sponsor, that under Section 1 of Executive Order No. 470, the composition of the Council was provided with the

Secretary of Health as Chairperson and the following as members: Secretary, Department of Social Welfare and Development; Secretary, Department of Education, Culture and Sports, now the Department of Education; Secretary, Department of Justice; Secretary, Department of Labor and Employment; Secretary, Department of the Interior and Local Government; Medical Center Chief, National Center for Mental Health; Chairman, Department of Psychiatry UP-PGH; Chairman, Commission on Higher Education; Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority; and three representatives from the non-government organizations concerned with mental health to be appointed by the Chairman of the Council.

May we know, distinguished Sponsor, why the foregoing composition was not maintained in the Bill.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Again, this is part of the mental health council that was enacted as EO back in 2010. For many other reasons, this Council did not see the light of day. But, the intention, with this bill, is to bring back the Philippine Council for Mental Health again with more teeth, with proper budget and to be able to accomplish everything that the President, the EO, set out to do, and more.

So, we are looking to fulfill the composition of the Council as inspired by E.O. No. 470 that we just read.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, most probably, the intention as to why the composition was not maintained was because some sectors are asking that an independent, autonomous and highly competent membership of the Philippine Mental Health Council be envisioned to be the venue for the need to inspire and engender more involvement from the private sector, harness their experience, skills and commitment towards a more mentally healthy nation.

Would the distinguished Sponsor confirm that this is the reason the composition was not maintained because we want an independent, autonomous and competent PMHC?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, the original EO included three representatives from the non-government organizations concerned with mental health to be appointed by the Chairman of the Council. Just as the Honorable Lagman pointed out, we probably need more participation from the non-government organizations and other members of the mental health community.

There is a proposed alternative composition to the Council which includes the Secretary of Health as ex officio Chairman, the Executive Director as Vice Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, two representatives from the government sector, two representatives from the private health sector or

consumer groups, one representative from the academe or research, two representatives from the professional organization and two representatives from the allied non-government organizations involved in mental health issues as members.

We are more than willing to adopt this particular composition to satisfy the inquiry of the Honorable Lagman, ...

REP. LAGMAN. Yes.

REP. ROA-PUNO. ... and it will be part of the Committee amendments.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes. I suppose the Bill must state the composition of the Council because, otherwise, if the Secretary of Health will be the one to determine the composition after consultation with public and private stakeholders as provided for in Section 14, there might be a constitutional infirmity.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, we will include this and specify it as part of the amendments where the Secretary of Health is an ex officio Chairman but not the sole personality to name the members of the Council.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes. I have here a suggestion from a recognized leader in the field of mental healthcare and the composition would be as follows: Chair, Secretary of Health; members, government sector, Secretaries of the DSWD, the Department of Education and the DND; non-government organization and academe; Philippine Psychiatric Association, World Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation, Psychological Association of the Philippines, Philippine Mental Health Association and Department of Psychiatry of a medical school. Then, another group would be user-group and advocates, like families, ex-patients and sympathetic media practitioners.

Most probably, the sponsoring Committee could harmonize these proposals and find out the best composition of the Council. But, the purpose is to make it independent and autonomous.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Well noted, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Well, I have other questions but, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, I had a bilateral knee joint replacement simultaneously and I could not stand for more than an hour. So, this is some physical disability and not a mental disability. I am sure of that.

So, I would request that I suspend my interpellation for tomorrow and I will wrap up my interpellation by tomorrow, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Deputy Speaker Pia S. Cayetano for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The honorable Deputy Speaker Pia Cayetano has the floor.

REP. CAYETANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. I am actually a coauthor so it is more of a manifestation.

I would just like to put on record, I worked on this in the Senate for about four years, and I would like to point out a certain section under Basic Mental Health Rights, Section 6 letter g, which refers to every person with a mental illness' right to "access to treatment which addresses holistically their needs through a multidisciplinary care plan approach."

I would like to emphasize, Mme. Speaker, that this is very critical because we read a lot of studies, especially in countries where they have, I guess, stronger mental health programs, that the access to medicine makes it easier for doctors to prescribe this kind of mental health medicines. Over the years, for decades actually, there has been a lot of studies that there have been over-prescriptions even with children on mental health cases and they were given very strong medicines to deal with depression, et cetera.

I am not a health professional, in any way, I am a health advocate and I just want to put on record that my support to this Bill, as I said, that I had filed even in the Senate, remains. However, I want to emphasize that multidisciplinary approach.

Just to put on record one study that I have read repeatedly. When they did a test on people with depression, one test group was given anti-depression medicines, another test group was just told to embark on a running program and a third test group was told to do nothing. Guess which group came out with the best results? It is that which was given a running program, not medicines.

That is why I emphasized this multidisciplinary care planning approach which is holistic in nature, and not just veering towards medication.

That is all, Mme. Speaker.

Thank you, Mme. Sponsor, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Thank you.

I would just like to take the opportunity to thank the Hon. Pia S. Cayetano for her full support. Like

what I have said, on a personal note, I think it was she, here in Congress, whom I first approached about my pet Bill—and I think we are both overjoyed to see this Bill where it is now.

Thank you.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION  
OF H.B. NO. 6452

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I respectfully move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 6452.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; we suspend for a few minutes.

*It was 5:21 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:25 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Before we proceed, Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of our Asst. Majority Leader Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III. They are a delegation of officials and members of the Balanga City Lions Club, headed by Councilor Liza Vasquez and Dr. Owen Gloria. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). Please stand. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up items in our Calendar of Business.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 1530  
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 1530, contained in Committee Report No. 397, as reported out by the Committees on Health and Appropriations.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of House Bill No. 1530.

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 1530, entitled: AN ACT REQUIRING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO INDICATE THE BLOOD TYPE OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE IDENTIFICATION CARDS, CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairperson of the Committee on Health, the lady from the Fourth District of Quezon, the Hon. Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The Chairperson of the Committee on Health, Hon. Angelina “Helen” Tan, is recognized.

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

The Committee on Health is submitting House Bill No. 1530 entitled: AN ACT REQUIRING GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO INDICATE THE BLOOD TYPE OF INDIVIDUALS IN THE

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

## IDENTIFICATION CARDS, CERTIFICATES AND LICENSES.

I move that the Explanatory Note of the author, Representative Alexandria Gonzales, be adopted as our sponsorship speech.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note of the measure as the sponsorship speech.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Since there are no interpellators, Mme. Speaker, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Since there are no Committee or individual amendments, Mme. Speaker, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 1530.

## VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 1530 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 1530  
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 1530 is approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6396  
ON SECOND READING

## PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider on Second Reading House Bill No. 6396, contained in Committee Report No. 380, as reported out by the Committee on Labor and Employment.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the title of House Bill No. 6396.

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6396, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTING POLICIES FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CAREGIVERS IN THE PRACTICE OF THEIR PROFESSION.

## ADDITIONAL COAUTHORS OF H.B. NO. 6396

REP. DEFENSOR. Before we proceed, Mme. Speaker, I move that we include the following Members as coauthors of this measure: Representatives Rodolfo C. Fariñas, Juan Pablo “Rimpy” P. Bondoc, Arthur R. Defensor Jr., Roger G. Mercado, Ann K. Hofer, Vincent “Bingbong” P. Crisologo, Aurelio “Dong” D. Gonzales Jr., Victoria Isabel G. Noel, Arnel U. Ty, Alexandria P. Gonzales, Johnny Ty Pimentel, Francisco Jose F. Matugas II, Marlyn B. Alonte, Deogracias Victor “DV” B. Savellano, Oscar “Richard” S. Garin Jr., Benhur B. Lopez Jr., Vini Nola A. Ortega, Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III, Ron P. Salo, Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy, Cristina “Chiqui” Roa-Puno, Marlyn L. Primicias-Agabas, Jose L. Atienza Jr., Eugene Michael B. De Vera, Anthony M. Bravo PhD, Luis Jose Angel N. Campos

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

Jr., Harlin Neil J. Abayon III, Mylene J. Garcia-Albano, Frederick "Erick" F. Abueg, Randolph S. Ting, Cesar V. Sarmiento, Francis Gerald A. Abaya, Franz E. Alvarez, Celso L. Lobregat, Henry S. Oaminal, Angelina "Helen" DL. Tan MD, Rodolfo T. Albano III, Dakila Carlo E. Cua, Robert Ace S. Barbers, Ramon "Red" H. Durano VI, and Edgar Mary S. Sarmiento.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, to sponsor the measure, I move that we recognize the distinguished Chairperson of the Committee on Labor, the Gentleman from the Third District of Cagayan, the Hon. Randolph S. Ting.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The Honorable Ting is recognized.

REP. TING. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. I have the honor to present Committee Report No. 380 on House Bill No. 6396, AN ACT INSTITUTING POLICIES FOR THE PROTECTION AND WELFARE OF CAREGIVERS IN THE PRACTICE OF THEIR PROFESSION.

May I request that the Explanatory Note of the Hon. Geraldine B. Roman be considered as the sponsorship speech thereon, Mme. Speaker.

Thank you.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since there are no interpellators, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Since there are no Committee or individual amendments, Mme. Speaker, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 6396.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6396 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 6396 is approved on Second Reading.

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6425 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6425, contained in Committee Report No. 389, as reported out by the Committee on Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations.

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

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

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

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without*

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

*prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL, House Bill 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.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move for suspension of the session.

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

*It was 5:34 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:38 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6425

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 6425.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up Business for Thursday and Friday.

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration of the following House Bills

on Second Reading as contained in their respective Committee Reports:

1. House Bill No. 6431, as contained in Committee Report No. 391, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING BOHOL CHRONICLE RADIO CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL;

2. House Bill No. 6449, as contained in Committee Report No. 392, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE PASONANCA WATERSHED FOREST RESERVE, LOCATED IN ZAMBOANGA CITY, AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF NATURAL PARK AND PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT;

3. House Bill No. 927, as contained in Committee Report No. 394, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LICENSING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF KAWIT, PROVINCE OF CAVITE INTO A REGULAR LICENSING CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE LTO CAVITE LICENSING CENTER OF KAWIT, CAVITE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES;

4. House Bill No. 6465, as contained in Committee Report No. 395, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE NORTHWESTERN MINDANAO STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NMSCST) IN THE CITY OF TANGUB, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWESTERN MINDANAO (UNM), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

5. House Bill No. 3932, as contained in Committee Report No. 396, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN, LOCATED IN BARANGAYS BUNOG, IRAAN, PUNTA BAJA, CAMPONG ULAY AND RANSANG OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF JOSE P. RIZAL, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AS AGRICULTURAL LAND, OPEN TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL, COMMERCIAL, RESIDENTIAL, INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES;

6. House Bill No. 6512, as contained in Committee Report No. 400, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY TIMBABAUAN IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUNGAWAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY;

7. House Bill No. 6513, as contained in Committee Report No. 401, entitled: AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY MASAO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TUNGAWAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY;



8. House Bill No. 6521, as contained in Committee Report No. 403, entitled: AN ACT UPGRADING THE BATAAN PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF BATAAN INTO A LEVEL 3 TEACHING AND TRAINING HOSPITAL TO BE NOW KNOWN AS THE BATAAN GENERAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

9. House Bill No. 6522, as contained in Committee Report No. 404, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BAGUMBAYAN, BALANGA CITY, PROVINCE OF BATAAN TO BE KNOWN AS BALANGA CITY NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that the respective Explanatory Notes be considered as the sponsorship speeches on the measures.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, since no Member has registered to interpellate or to speak against the measures, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments and approve the Committee amendments, if any, as contained in the respective committee reports of the aforementioned Bills.

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

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bills No. 6431, 6449, 927, 6465, 3932, 6512, 6513, 6521 and 6522.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). As many as those in favor of the approval of the Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

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

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

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

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). 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, Communication and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

#### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6478, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE SECRETARIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE, NATIONAL ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, AND DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND



MANAGEMENT, AND THE GOVERNOR OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, TO APPEAR BIANNUALLY BEFORE A JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE TO REPORT ON THE STATUS AND DIRECTIONS OF THE FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES OF THE STATE”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6479, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING QUEZON COCONUT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER IN CATANAUAN, QUEZON”

By Representative Suarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6480, entitled:

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

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

House Bill No. 6481, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MOUNT 387 OR MOUNT BATONG-AMAT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARRANGLAN, NUEVA ECIJA AS A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Violago  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 6482, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAUB, SAN RICARDO, SOUTHERN LEYTE”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6483, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY STO. NIÑO, HINUNANGAN, SOUTHERN LEYTE”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6484, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAN ISIDRO, SOGOD, SOUTHERN LEYTE”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6485, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN MAASIN CITY, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6486, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOGOD, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6487, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A FISH BREEDING FARM AND RESEARCH CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONTOC, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE”

By Representative Mercado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6488, entitled:

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

By Representative Gonzalez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6489, entitled:

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

By Representative Gonzalez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6490, entitled:

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

OF ALBAY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gonzalez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6491, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AS AGRICULTURAL LAND PORTIONS OF FORESTLAND LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MALAY, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PROCLAMATION NO. 1064”

By Representatives Marquez and Aggabao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6492, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING TO FIVE (5) YEARS THE VALIDITY OF THE PROFESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD AND CERTIFICATE OF REGISTRATION OF EVERY PROFESSIONAL UNDER LAWS GOVERNING THE PRACTICE OF PROFESSIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 6493, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A TWENTY PERCENT (20%) DISCOUNT PRIVILEGE ON THE SALE OF GOODS AND SERVICES FOR ACTIVE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) AND PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP)”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6494, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE CITY OF MALOLOS IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6495, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL

EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PULILAN IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6496, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALUMPIT IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6497, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAOMBONG IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6498, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BULAKAN IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6499, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (TESDA) TRAINING AND ACCREDITATION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF HAGONOY IN THE PROVINCE OF BULACAN”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6500, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE PATERNITY LEAVE FROM SEVEN (7) TO FIFTEEN (15) DAYS WITH FULL PAY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 2 AND 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8187, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PATERNITY LEAVE ACT OF 1996 ”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 6501, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION THE PLANTILLA POSITIONS OF GUIDANCE COUNSELORS IN EVERY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND ADDITIONAL PLANTILLA POSITIONS OF GUIDANCE COUNSELOR FOR HIGH SCHOOL, INCREASING THE SALARIES OF GUIDANCE COUNSELORS AND GUIDANCE-RELATED POSITIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Tinio and Castro (F.L.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6502, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BRACKISH WATER MULTI-SPECIES BREEDING FARM AND HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LALA, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Dimaporo (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

## RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1346, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF ENGINEER DAVID M. CONSUNJI”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1347, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF MARIO A. HERNANDO”

By Representative Nieto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1348, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE JULY 16, 2017 - EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLING OF SILVESTRE MARATAS, VICE-CHAIRPERSON OF THE FARMERS GROUP KAPONUNGAN SA MGA MAG-UUMA SA SURIGAO DEL SUR (KAMASS) BY UNIDENTIFIED MEN IN BRGY. MAGROYONG, SAN MIGUEL TOWN, SURIGAO DEL SUR”

By Representatives Casilao, De Jesus, Tinio, Brosas, Castro (F.L.) and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1349, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE JULY 10, 2017 - EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLING OF MELITON CATAMPONGAN, MUNICIPAL CHAIRPERSON OF NAGKAHIUSANG MAG-UUMA SA SURIGAO DEL NORTE (NAMASUN) BY TWO UNIDENTIFIED MEN IN ALEGRIA TOWN, SURIGAO DEL NORTE, CARAGA REGION”

By Representatives Casilao, De Jesus, Tinio, Brosas, Castro (F.L.) and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1350, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 - EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLING OF LUMAD STUDENT OBELLO BAY-AO, OF SALUGPONGAN TA'TANU IGKANOGON COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTER (STTICLC), BY MEMBERS OF THE CITIZEN AUXILIARY FORCES GEOGRAPHICAL UNIT (CAFGU) AND PARA-MILITARY GROUP ALAMARA, UNDER THE COMMAND OF THE 60TH INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY IN TALAINGOD TOWN, DAVAO DEL NORTE”

By Representatives Casilao, De Jesus, Tinio, Brosas, Castro (F.L.) and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1351, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF

LEGISLATION, ON THE SEPTEMBER 2, 2017 - EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLINGS OF FARMER-COUPLE JEZREEL AND DALIA ARRABIS, BOTH ACTIVE MEMBERS OF FARMERS ASSOCIATION IN DAVAO CITY (FADC), BY SUSPECTED MILITARY AGENTS OF COMBINED UNITS OF 84TH AND 3RD INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY (IBPA) IN BARANGAY TAMAYONG, CALINAN DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY”

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

House Resolution No. 1352, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE AUGUST 20, 2017 - FRUSTRATED EXTRA-JUDICIAL KILLING AGAINST ROY IBARAT, A LUMAD HIGAONON LEADER OF PANGALASAG (SHIELD) ORGANIZATION RESISTING THE PALM OIL EXPANSION OF A. BROWN ENERGY AND RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT, INC. (ABERDI), BY A MILITARY PERSONNEL UNDER 58TH INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY (IBPA) IN OPOL TOWN, MISAMIS ORIENTAL”

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

House Resolution No. 1353, entitled:

“RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO NOMINATE MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO FOR CONFERMENT OF THE QUEZON SERVICE CROSS, IN RECOGNITION OF HER EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATION THROUGH A LIFE DEDICATED TO PUBLIC SERVICE”

By Representative Suarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### COMMUNICATION

Letter dated 25 September 2017 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Circular No. 973 dated 18 September 2017; and

2. Memorandum No. M-2017-029 dated 19 September 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 405), re H.B. No. 6523, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (RMTU) AS THE PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY STATE UNIVERSITY (PRMSU), EXPANDING ITS CURRICULAR OFFERINGS AND STRENGTHENING ITS GOVERNING BOARD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8498, ENTITLED: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OUT OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IBA, THE WESTERN LUZON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MARCELINO AND THE CANDELARIA SCHOOL OF FISHERIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CANDELARIA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5315

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer and Deloso-Montalla

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Economic Affairs, the Committee on Trade and Industry, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 406), re H.B. No. 6524, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER STRENGTHENING THE POWERS AND FUNCTIONS OF THE AUTHORITY OF THE FREEPORT AREA OF BATAAN (AFAB) AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9728, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FREEPORT AREA OF BATAAN (FAB) ACT OF 2009”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4106

Sponsors: Representatives Yap (A.), Biron and Garcia (J.E.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Economic Affairs, the Committee on Trade and Industry, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 407), re H.B. No. 6525, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL DEFENSE ECONOMIC ZONE (SpeDEZ) INSIDE THE GOVERNMENT ARSENAL DEFENSE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE LOCATED IN CAMP GEN. ANTONIO LUNA, LAMAO, MUNICIPALITY OF LIMAY, PROVINCE OF BATAAN, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SPECIAL DEFENSE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (SpeDEZA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4462

Sponsors: Representatives Yap (A.), Biron and Garcia (J.E.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee Report No. 408), re H.B. No. 4208, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) TO CUT, BALL, TRANSFER, DISPOSE OR PLANT TREES WHEN IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL OR LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS”

recommending its approval without amendment

Sponsors: Representatives Ty and Fernando

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 409), re H.B. No. 5578, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING MAGTOMA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - DUPLIGAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY DUPLIGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TANUDAN, PROVINCE OF KALINGA FROM THE MAGTOMA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BIGA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendments

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 410), re H.B. No. 6528, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE LILOY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - PATAWAG EXTENSION IN BARANGAY PATAWAG, MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FROM THE LILOY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PATAWAG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5441

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 411), re H.B. No. 6529, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE KALAWIT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL - PIANON ANNEX IN BARANGAY PIANON, MUNICIPALITY OF KALAWIT, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FROM THE KALAWIT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PIANON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4514

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 412), re H.B. No. 6530, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CATIGAN, TORIL DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY TO BE KNOWN AS CATIGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4289

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 413), re H.B. No. 6531, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SIBULAN, TORIL DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY TO BE KNOWN AS MT. APO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4288

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 414), re H.B. No. 6532, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TALISAY, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ISIDRO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS TALISAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3919

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 415), re H.B. No. 6533, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CORPORACION, MUNICIPALITY OF LUPON, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS CORPORACION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3874

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 416), re H.B. No. 6534, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MAGDUG, MUNICIPALITY OF GOVERNOR GENEROSO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO

ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS MAGDUG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3872

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 417), re H.B. No. 6535, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY DIGON, MUNICIPALITY OF MARGOSATUBIG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS DIGON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2076

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

CONSIDERATION OF COMM. RPT. NO. 398

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 398.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the title of the report.

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Committee Report No. 398, entitled: MOTU PROPRIO INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED SMUGGLING OF HIGH GRADE “SHABU” THROUGH THE EXPRESS LANE OF THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND CONSEQUENTLY SEIZED BY THE BUREAU’S AGENTS TOGETHER WITH THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move for the transmittal by the House of Committee Report No. 398 to the following government agencies:

1. Office of the President
2. Department of Finance
3. Department of the Interior and Local Government
4. Department of Justice
5. Bureau of Customs
6. National Bureau of Investigation
7. Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
8. Office of the Ombudsman
9. Civil Service Commission
10. Philippine Coast Guard
11. Maritime Industry Authority

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 398.

ADOPTION OF FINDINGS AND RECOM.  
IN CTTEE. RPT. NO. 398

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

The findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 398 are adopted.

CONSIDERATION OF CTTEE. RPT. NO. 399  
ON H. RES. NOS. 1054 and 1057

REP. DEFENSOR. I move that we consider the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 399 on House Resolution Nos. 1054 and 1057.

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

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

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the Committee Report have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title of the measures without prejudice to inserting their texts in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1054, entitled: RESOLUTION DIRECTING

THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE 6.4 BILLION PESO WORTH OF SHABU SEIZED BY THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS.

House Resolution No. 1057, entitled: RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ILLEGAL ENTRY, THROUGH THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS (BOC) EXPRESS LANE, OF MORE THAN FIVE BILLION PESOS WORTH OF METHAMPHETAMINE HYDROCHLORIDE (SHABU).

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move for the transmittal by the House of Committee Report No. 399 to the following government agencies:

1. Bureau of Internal Revenue
2. Dangerous Drugs Board
3. Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency
4. Department of Justice
5. Office of the Ombudsman
6. Civil Service Commission

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Madam Speaker, I move that we adopt the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 399 on House Resolution Nos. 1054 and 1057.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). As many as are in favor of adopting the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 399 on House Resolution Nos. 1054 and 1057, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

ADOPTION OF FINDINGS AND RECOM.  
IN CTTEE. RPT. NO. 399  
ON H. RES. NOS. 1054 AND 1057

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

The findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 399 on House Resolution Nos. 1054 and 1057 are adopted.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, October 4, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The session is adjourned until tomorrow, October 4, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

*It was 5:53 p.m.*