



Congressional Record

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No. 33

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.

INVOCATION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). Please remain standing for the Invocation to be led by the honorable Majority Leader, Rep. Rodolfo C. Fariñas.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Speaker, today being the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, may I lead us to the prayer attributed to St. Francis.

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

REP. FARIÑAS. Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is despair, hope; where there is doubt, faith; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.

Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; it is in dying that we are born again to eternal life. Amen.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). Amen.

Thank you.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

REP. PIMENTEL. 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. 33, dated October 4, 2017:

PRESENT

Abayon	Barbers
Abellanos	Barzaga
Abu	Bataoil
Abueg	Batocabe
Acharon	Belaro
Acop	Belmonte (F.)
Acosta-Alba	Belmonte (J.C.)
Advincula	Bertiz
Aggabao	Biazon
Albano	Billones
Alejano	Biron
Almario	Bolilia
Almonte	Bondoc
Alonte	Bordado
Alvarez (P.)	Bravo (A.)
Amatong	Brosas
Angara-Castillo	Bulut-Begtang
Aquino-Magsaysay	Calderon
Aragones	Calixto-Rubiano
Arcillas	Caminero
Atienza	Campos
Aumentado	Canama
Bag-ao	Cari
Bagatsing	Casilao
Banal	Castelo

Castro (F.L.)	Javier	Rodriguez (I.)	Tiangco
Castro (F.H.)	Kho	Rodriguez (M.)	Tinio
Cayetano	Labadlabad	Roman	Tolentino
Cerilles	Lacson	Romualdo	Treñas
Chavez	Lagman	Roque (H.)	Tugna
Chipeco	Lanete	Roque (R.)	Tupas
Cojuangco	Laogan	Sacdalan	Ty
Cortes	Lazatin	Sagarbarria	Umali
Cortuna	Lee	Sahali	Unabia
Crisologo	Lobregat	Salceda	Ungab
Cua	Lopez (B.)	Salimbangon	Uy (J.)
Cuaresma	Lopez (C.)	Salo	Uy (R.)
Cueva	Lopez (M.L.)	Salon	Uybarreta
Dalipe	Loyola	Sandoval	Velarde
Datol	Maceda	Sarmiento (C.)	Velasco
De Venecia	Madrona	Sarmiento (E.M.)	Veloso
De Vera	Malapitan	Savellano	Vergara
Defensor	Mangaoang	Sema	Villanueva
Del Mar	Mangudadatu (Z.)	Siao	Villaraza-Suarez
Deloso-Montalla	Marcoleta	Silverio	Villarica
Dimaporo (A.)	Marcos	Singson	Villarin
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Marquez	Suansing (E.)	Violago
Duavit	Martinez	Suarez	Yap (V.)
Durano	Matugas	Tambunting	Yu
Elago	Mellana	Tan (A.)	Zamora (R.)
Erice	Mending	Tan (M.)	Zarate
Eriguel	Mercado	Tejada	Zubiri
Ermita-Buhain	Mirasol	Teves	
Escudero	Montoro		
Espina	Nava		THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker, the
Espino	Nieto		roll call shows that 217 Members responded to the call.
Eusebio	Noel		
Evardone	Nogralas (J.J.)		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). With
Fariñas	Nolasco		217 Members present, the Chair declares the presence
Ferrer (J.)	Nuñez-Malanyaon		of a quorum.
Ferrer (L.)	Oaminal		
Ferriol-Pascual	Ocampo		REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, before we
Flores	Ortega (P.)		approve Journal No. 32, may we acknowledge the
Fortun	Ortega (V.N.)		presence of the guests of Rep. Dakila Carlo E. Cua from
Fortuno	Pacquiao		the Australian Parliamentary Delegation, Senator Skye
Garcia (G.)	Paduano		Kakoschke-Moore, she is the Senator from the Parliament
Garcia (J.E.)	Palma		of the Commonwealth of Australia, representing South
Garin (R.)	Pancho		Australia. (<i>Applause</i>) She has initiated amendments
Garin (S.)	Papandayan		to the Criminal Code of Australia in order to impose
Gasataya	Pichay		tougher jail sentences for Australians who pay to view
Gatchalian	Pimentel		the sexual abuse of children in developing countries
Geron	Pineda		such as the Philippines. The Senator is also with Ms.
Go (M.)	Plaza		Karina Natt and Ms. Jessica Slater.
Gomez	Primicias-Agabas		
Gonzaga	Quimbo		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica).
Gonzales (A.D.)	Radaza		Please stand. (<i>Applause</i>) Welcome to the House of
Gonzalez	Ramirez-Sato		Representatives.
Hernandez	Ramos		
Herrera-Dy	Relampagos		REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, we would
Hofer	Revilla		also like to acknowledge the presence of members of
Jalosjos	Roa-Puno		International Justice Mission headed by Atty. Samson

Inocencio, the National Director. In his company is Atty. Rey Bicol, Evelyn Pingul, Nate Sanger, Atty. Noel Eballe, Erika Ryan and Cherry Weber.

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

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 32 dated October 3, 2017.

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

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep. Lucy Torres Gomez. They are her constituents from the municipality of Palompon, Leyte headed by Mayor Ramon C. Oñate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). Please rise. *(Applause)* Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we now 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 on First Reading, Resolutions, Communication and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6503, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9287 ENTITLED AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL NUMBERS GAMES, AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1602, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES AND STRENGTHENING THE FINES AND PUNISHMENTS FOR VIOLATIONS THEREFOR”

By Representative Lopez (M.L.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 6504, 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 SESSION OF CONGRESS TO REPORT ON THE STATUS AND DIRECTIONS OF THE FISCAL AND MONETARY POLICIES OF THE STATE”

By Representative Villafuerte

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6505, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING A NEW WATER CODE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PD NO. 1067 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE WATER CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Antonio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1354, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE DPWH AS THE NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE AGENCY TO UNDERTAKE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS OF ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF 1987”

By Representative Savellano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Resolution No. 1355, entitled:

“RESOLUTION RESPECTFULLY URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO NOMINATE MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO FOR CONFERMENT OF THE QUEZON SERVICE CROSS IN RECOGNITION OF HER LIFELONG DEDICATION TO PUBLIC SERVICE AND OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE BETTERMENT OF THE NATION”

By Representative Suansing (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

INCLUDE IT IN THE YEARLY BUDGET OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS”

House Resolution No. 1356, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND
COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE TEAM
FOR WINNING SILVER MEDALS IN THE
FIFTH EDITION OF THE ASIAN INDOOR
AND MARTIAL ARTS GAMES HELD IN
ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN FROM
SEPTEMBER 17 TO 27, 2017”

recommending its adoption with amendment
Sponsors: Representatives Lobregat and Bondoc
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

By Representative Estrella
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways
and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee
Report No. 419), re H.R. No. 10, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL
ECONOMIC AND DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY TO SUPPORT THE PROPOSED
ZAMBOANGA CITY IMPOUNDING DAM
PROJECT AND TO INCLUDE IT IN THE
PRIORITY PROJECT LISTING OF THE
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT”

House Resolution No. 1357, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND
COMMENDING THE PHILIPPINE TEAM
FOR WINNING BRONZE MEDALS IN THE
FIFTH EDITION OF THE ASIAN INDOOR
AND MARTIAL ARTS GAMES HELD IN
ASHGABAT, TURKMENISTAN FROM
SEPTEMBER 17 TO 27, 2017”

recommending its adoption without amendment
Sponsor: Representative Lobregat
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

By Representative Estrella
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

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

COMMUNICATION

Report of Atty. Cesar Strait Pareja, Secretary General,
House of Representatives, on enrolled bill,
submitted to the Office of the President, for His
Excellency’s consideration and signature, pursuant
to the provision of Rule VI, Section 18, Par. (h) of
the Rules of the House of Representatives:

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, we would also
like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Rep.
Rodolfo T. Albano III. They are from the Philippine
Cannabis Compassion Society: Anna Kapunan, Jay
de Leon, Kimmi del Prado, Donnabel Cunanan, Baby
Muassab, Girlie Cleofas Mapa, Jenny Larga, Agnes
Ocson Buico, Cielz Sampayso, Cecile Cerda, Rowena
Pilapil, Lincoln Lagandaon I, Dhen Mallari, Juan Paolo
Gopez, Mickey Macacho, Lu Eugenio, Nikka Matibag,
and Jose Basa.

Consolidated Senate Bill No. 1584 and House Bill
No. 6308, entitled:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE OCTOBER
2017 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG
KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR
THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS
AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340,
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT
NO. 10656, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

TO THE ARCHIVES

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6517
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways
and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee
Report No. 418), re H.R. No. 134, entitled:

“RESOLUTION TO REVIVE THE PAMPANGA
RIVER CONTROL SYSTEM AND TO

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, under the
Calendar of Business for the Day, I move that we consider
House Bill No. 6517, contained in Committee Report
No. 402, as reported out by the Committee on Health.

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.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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. 6517, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE AND RIGHT OF ACCESS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS AND EXPANDING RESEARCH INTO ITS MEDICINAL PROPERTIES.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that the author of the Bill, Rep. Rodolfo T. Albano III, be recognized to begin sponsorship of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The Hon. Rodolfo Albano III is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. ALBANO

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

I am a little bit high now not because of the cannabis, Mme. Speaker, but because I am very elated that this Bill, through Chairperson Rep. Angelina “Helen” Tan, D.L. M.D., has reached the floor.

So, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, today, hundreds of thousands of patients suffering from serious and debilitating diseases are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. After three years of persistent and unrelenting advocacy, they are overflowing with hope and optimism that, finally, they will benefit from the legalization of the medical use of cannabis.

Please roll the video. *(Audiovisual presentation)*

Mme. Speaker, it is time for us to decide based on evidence. Around the world, clinical trials have shown the safety and efficacy of cannabis and its naturally occurring compounds as well as therapeutic and palliative effects. There are 27 countries and 29 states in the United States plus Washington D.C. that had passed laws legalizing medical cannabis.

Mme. Speaker, House Bill No. 6517 or the Philippine Compassionate and Medical Cannabis Act promotes the people’s right to health by ensuring affordable and safe access to quality medical cannabis under a very strict regulatory framework. It will be available only to qualified patients with IDs issued by the Department of Health after S3-licensed doctors have made a full assessment of their medical history and current medical conditions. Should these patients require follow-up care, the S3-licensed doctors shall provide the same.

Medical cannabis shall only be available in hospital-based Medical Cannabis Compassionate Centers through pharmacists with an S3 license. The PDEA, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, shall have a key role in monitoring and regulating the dispensing of medical cannabis in health facilities. Research and testing can only be done by the medical cannabis research and safety compliance facilities licensed by the DOH and the DDB. The Dangerous Drugs Board shall formulate the regulations regarding the allowable sources and methods to access medical cannabis.

Mme. Speaker, House Bill No. 6517 does not decriminalize the use of cannabis. Neither does the Bill allow the smoking of cannabis. The recreational use of cannabis continues to be prohibited by law. What this proposed measure does is to rely on the limited and narrow exception provided for under the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. Thus, a physician will now be allowed to prescribe medical cannabis to patients only with serious and debilitating medical conditions which will respond to medical cannabis treatment. This proposed measure does not amend or in any way contravene the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, which recognizes the medical use of drugs, including cannabis, in Section 2. Neither does it contravene the UN Single Convention on Narcotics, as amended by the 1972 Protocol, as it explicitly allows, for medical and scientific purposes, the production, manufacture, export, import, distribution, trade-in, use and possession of drugs in Article IV.

Mme. Speaker, one may ask, why are you pushing for the legalization of medical cannabis at this time when we are in a war against drugs? Mme. Speaker, the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 declares the government shall aim to “achieve a balance in the national drug control program” so that people with legitimate medical needs are not prevented from being treated with adequate amounts of appropriate medication, which include the use of dangerous drug.

On behalf of countless suffering patients who will benefit from this measure, I would like to thank you, Mme. Speaker, and the distinguished Members of the House, for your support.

Mabuhay po tayong lahat!

Thank you very much.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr. of the Party-List BUHAY.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

With the kind indulgence and permission of the Sponsor, this Representation would like to interpellate him on very important sensitive portions of his proposal.

REP. ALBANO. Mme. Speaker, I promise the Rules Committee that interpellation will be done next week because another bill is scheduled today. So, may I beg the indulgence of the Gentleman from Manila. I can answer all his questions next week.

REP. ATIENZA. So, is the Gentleman accepting the request of this Representation?

REP. ALBANO. Next week, Mme. Speaker, surely.

REP. ATIENZA. Next week.

REP. ALBANO. Surely, I accept the Gentleman's request for an interpellation, but I promised the Rules Committee that today will only be for me to deliver my sponsorship speech. So, I beg the Gentleman's indulgence, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, we gladly accept the position of the Sponsor that he prefers to be interpellated next week. So, we therefore reserve the right that, next week when we tackle the same measure, this Representation be given the priority as the first to interpellate the Gentleman as we are prepared to do so now. Since he would rather be interpellated next week, then, we will reserve that particular right.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ALBANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Gentleman from Manila.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6517

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 6517.

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. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, under the

Calendar of Unfinished Business, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6452, contained in Committee Report No. 393, as submitted by the Committees on Health and Appropriation. For this purpose, may I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read the title of the Bill.

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. 6452.

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.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we include the following Representatives as coauthors of House Bill No. 6452, establishing a National Mental Health Policy: Rep. Ann K. Hofer of the Second District of Zamboanga Sibugay; Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel of An Waray Party-List; Rep. Francisco Jose F. Matugas II, First District, Surigao del Norte; Rep. Vini Nola A. Ortega of the Party-List ABONO; Rep. Cristal L. Bagatsing of the Fifth District of Manila; and Rep. Lucy T. Gomez of the Fourth District of Leyte.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of sponsorship and debate.

I move that we recognize Rep. Cristina "Chiqui" Roa-Puno of Antipolo City, First District.

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

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

I am ready to take the additional questions that the Honorable Lagman wants to ask.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from Albay, First District, Rep. Edcel C. Lagman.

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

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Before I continue my interpellation, let me state that yesterday, I forgot to mention that Napoleon Bonaparte and Adolf Hitler were afflicted with Narcissistic Personality Disorder, a mental disorder in which people have an inflated sense of their own importance, a deep need for adoration, and lack of empathy for others, but behind this mask of ultra-confidence lies a fragile self-esteem that is vulnerable to the slightest criticism. From this reference, Mme. Speaker, the distinguished Members of the House can pick up from this definition of this particular personality disorder.

Now, may I proceed, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. On Section 10 (g), it is mentioned that the general guidelines set by the National Commission on Mental Health should be pursued. May we know what is the status of the National Commission on Mental Health?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, on the National Commission, the mention of the “National Commission of Mental Health” is merely a typographical error or mistake that was already seen at the TWG level and was not fixed in time for the preparation of this Bill. For this, we thank the Honorable Lagman for spotting it. I think the error arose because the possibility of a commission was being talked about during the TWG but in the end, the idea was dismissed and not included in the consideration of the final version, this final substitute Bill. So, we beg the indulgence of the Honorable Lagman and we thank him for pointing out the error. We will rectify this error during the Committee amendments, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor because I understand this National Commission on Mental Health is not an existing agency; it has never been created.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, it should have read “Philippine Mental Health Council,” as we were discussing yesterday.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, let me go to my next subject and this is with respect to the appropriations language. Section 28 of the Bill on appropriations provides, and I quote:

The amount necessary for the initial implementation of the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year’s appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in this Annual General Appropriations Act.

This is the usual language with respect to appropriations in several measures. Considering the importance and overriding significance of this Bill, I think we should be able to provide a specific appropriation for the initial implementation of the measure so that such implementation will not be delayed and will be properly funded. May we know from the distinguished Sponsor, what is the definite amount or the specific amount or estimated amount for the initial implementation of the Mental Health Act?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, let me refer to the budget allocation for mental health provided by the DOH—I think it is a six-year plan that started in 2012, ending in 2018, where we see that by year 2018, a budget of P2.9 billion had already been allocated for mental health compared to the P5.434 billion that was allocated for this year. The discrepancy is noted because last year or for this year 2017, much of the budget was allocated for the building of certain facilities, the operation of drug abuse rehabilitation centers and also for mental health drugs. There was a large purchase done this year which should be able to satisfy the needs for 2018 and thus, the difference in the budget allocations for 2017 and 2018.

Looking at the big picture, Mme. Speaker, the DOH has, historically, budgeted about five percent of its entire allocation for mental health and looking forward to the passage of this legislation, we are confident that the DOH will allocate what is needed to get it started and we look to the GAA, the General Appropriations Act, to be able to fund the mental health program that we look forward to starting next year, hopefully, when our legislation is passed. This would come to about P7.9 billion and this amount is taken from computations based on the needs of community-based mental health programs that we were talking about yesterday.

After some pencil-pushing and some research, we were able to come up with an approximation or an estimation of how much a community-based mental health program would cost and without going through all of these or the details, we can say that, probably, P4 million allotted for each municipality to get started with the community-based program would be enough. Multiply this by the 1,489 municipalities we have in the country, we would come up to about or to be exact, P6.186 billion a year, and that is just for the community-based mental health program. Add to that the funds that we need for the information campaign that we hope to start and possibly, the addition of medicines and also the educational requirements to capacitate the barangay health workers, the effort to try to increase the number of physicians pursuing the field of mental health, we quote a budget estimate of P7.906 billion to start the comprehensive mental health program, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Well, my question really was, what would be the specific amount necessary for the initial implementation of the Act? I do not think the initial amount will reach P7.9 billion. If it is P7.9 billion, from where will we source this huge amount of money?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, if I may share with the Honorable Lagman, a study that shows a per capita expenditure on mental health saying that the cost of prevention—and this is in US dollars because it was an international study done by the World Health Organization—on mental health is three to four US dollars per day, multiply that by 100 million Filipinos, that would be, more or less, US \$400 million or P20 billion. If the P7.9 billion seems like an insurmountable amount to get the program started, P20 billion would be next to impossible.

We want to be realistic and just target the 30 million or so poorest of the poor in the country, and that is how we arrived at the P6-billion range, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay.

REP. ROA-PUNO. So, based on many studies, and based on the many programs that are already in place around the world, I feel we are according a realistic and reachable amount, considering that the DOH is giving full support and is set on seeing this comprehensive mental health program take off. We were also given assurance by the Appropriations Committee that they will give full support to see this happen.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Now, I just would like to have a realistic as well as a specific appropriation for the initial implementation of the Act. If this Bill becomes a law this year, the reference to the current year's appropriations would be the General Appropriations Act for 2017, and I am afraid that at the time this Bill becomes a law, the appropriations would have been already depleted in the Department of Health. If this Bill becomes a law in 2018, then the appropriations referred to in Section 28 would be the General Appropriations Act for 2018 with respect to the appropriations for the Department of Health. In either case, the amount of P6 billion to P7 billion as a start-up fund for the implementation of this Act cannot be sourced from the current year's appropriations. So, where do we get the appropriations. Because the fund should be appropriated in the Bill.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, it would take a lot to be able to see the Comprehensive Mental Health Act in its full fruition. I think the capacitating efforts on the barangay level will be

given priority as it is the easiest to implement. As we mentioned yesterday, we will be dealing with barangay health workers who are already working in their particular communities. It will not take much for them to be trained, it will take minimal cost for them to be able to act as first responders to those who need attention in the field of mental health. This will start the ball rolling and get the mental health program on its way, and this is something that we hope to be able to realize on the first year. However, building community-based facilities will probably take longer, and I imagine that we will not be able to build the community centers in all of the 1,489 municipalities nor should we expect to be able to do that. Given that, I think with the given budget in 2018, we should be able to get started with the provisions of this program and we hope to be able to complete the ideal of getting a community health center for every municipality in the years following. Again, let me stress that the DOH is very confident and very reassuring in doing what it needs to do and finding the appropriation of around P7 billion to be able to fund the Comprehensive Mental Health Act, not fully in the first year, but I guess spread out in the next two to three years. We just really need to get it started. If for 2018 the budget for mental health is three billion pesos, now there is an additional three to four billion pesos as initial budget, then we can be optimistic about what we can do to get this program started.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, that is why my question is, how much is the estimated amount necessary for the initial year implementation of a Mental Health Act? Definitely, we cannot source that only from the current year's appropriations, whether 2017 or 2018, because there will be a great shortfall. Before we look for sources of funds, we should first determine how much is needed for the initial implementation of this Act in the first year and this could be in 2018.

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

REP. LAGMAN. Magkano ba talaga?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I will go back to the P7.9 billion that we mentioned. That is for the full implementation of the Comprehensive Mental Health Program, if it is to be fully implemented in the first year, but I think the objective here is to really just get this started. We are willing to work with a lesser budget just to be able to get the program started and to be able to capacitate the barangay health workers and build as many municipal community-based health facilities that

can be accommodated within the year. To be realistic, we do not look to being able to accomplish everything in one year.

So, again, we will go back to the P7.9 billion ideal but to be realistic, we probably will not need even half of that because it takes a whole lot to be able to build community-based centers in all 1,489 municipalities. Although this is what is mandated and provided for in the law, there is no time limit set as to when they need to be built. So, the priority here and the intention is to just get the program started and to let the Filipino people realize that we care about their mental well-being.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, thank you, distinguished Sponsor, but that does not answer my question because the P7.9 billion is a multi-year appropriation. What I am asking for is, how much is needed for say, 2018, the startup of the implementation of the Mental Health Act? Should it be in the vicinity of two billion pesos?

REP. ROA-PUNO. I think, Mme. Speaker, looking at the provisions of the Act, if you work with two billion pesos and, again, prioritize the capacity building of the community/barangay health workers and making available their services which are really out-patient based, as they can do their jobs without having to work in a clinic or a community-based facility, that will already make the mental health community happy in seeing that some innovations or some groundbreaking programs are already in place. This will not cost too much, like we said, because the barangay health workers are already where they are. Added to that, maybe we can prioritize the bigger communities or the bigger cities and provide them with the health facilities first and work or, perhaps, go in reverse and go to the farthest-flung areas of the country, those who do not have access to the bigger hospitals and the wards that are already existing. We work with them, prioritize them and give them their community-based facilities, and just see how far we can go within a year. Maybe, two billion pesos will be more than sufficient for that, and that is something that is already provided for in the DOH's allocation for mental health for this year and next year.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, I doubt very much if the present and proposed appropriations of the Department of Health with respect to the mental health program would reach three billion pesos. I cannot see where that amount is embedded in the appropriations of the Department of Health for this year and for next year.

What I have here are the following figures: National Mental Health Program, confined to MOOE for 2017,

it is P286,016,000, and for 2018, it is even a lesser amount, it is P106,730,000; for the development of psychiatric facilities among selected DOH hospitals, on the Enhanced Projects of the DOH, the amount for 2017 is P339,963,000, and for 2018, it is even a reduced amount of P328,060,000 for Capital Outlay. Adding these two figures for 2018, because the amount for 2017 could have been depleted already, the total amount for the mental health program under the Department of Health is only P434,790,000. I do not see where the amount of three billion pesos is embedded. I got this figure, incidentally, from the Committee on Appropriations.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, for the record, I am quoting budget estimates coming directly from the Department of Health. Just to note that in 2019, they estimate a total expenditure of P3.4 billion for mental health. This is not yet including the provisions of the Comprehensive Mental Health Act.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, those are estimates for 2019, but we are talking about the current appropriations and the proposed appropriations for the Department of Health, and with respect to the mental health program for 2018, the figure is only P434,790,000, unless the Committee on Appropriations was not accurate in the figures given to me.

What I am pointing out is this, Mme. Speaker, because I am fully supportive of this measure—if the amount necessary for the start-up is two billion pesos, or even make it a figure of P2.5 billion, then let us place in the appropriation language that amount and where to source the same. For example, we can start with the P434,390,000 and get about two percent of the TRAIN collection of revenues which would amount to about two billion pesos in 2018 to fund the start-up of this program. So, we will have to be very specific because appropriation should be specific. We cannot rely on estimates.

So, at the proper time, distinguished Sponsor, I will provide for the appropriation language and possibly, the appropriation language would read this way:

The amount of P106,730,000 for MOOE and the amount of P328,060,000 for the development of psychiatric facilities among selected DOH hospitals under the Health Facilities Enhancement Program, HFEP, for Capital Outlay in the appropriations of the Department of Health for 2018 shall be sub-allotted to the Philippine Mental Health Council for its administration and distribution and disbursement.

All balances for mental health in the 2017 General Appropriations Act, Republic Act No. 10924 shall accrue to the PMHC. Likewise, two per centum of the total revenue collections in 2018 under the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion, TRAIN, shall form part of the first year implementation of this Act for administration and disbursement by the PMHC.

Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Acts under PMHC which annual appropriations shall be no less than the initial amount appropriated for the first implementation of this Act as well as of the previous year's annual appropriations.

Subject to style, I will be going to propose this during the period of amendments so that we will have a specific figure and we will be able to really start up effectively the implementation of the Mental Health Act.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, this Representation fully appreciates the proposal of the Honorable Lagman and we will consider it in full when the period of amendments comes. If I may just add, I also fully appreciate the efforts of the Honorable Lagman because I understand that we are really both pushing to see that everything that is provided for in House Bill No. 6452 sees the light of day. I think this is what is moving both of us, myself and the Honorable Lagman, to perfect this piece of legislation that is long overdue.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, thank you for appreciating the efforts of this Representation.

My next question on the appropriation, there are proposals to place the appropriations under the Philippine National Mental Health Council to ensure its autonomy and independence and remove it from the politics and bureaucratic processes of the Department of Health. Does the distinguished Sponsor agree to this proposal?

REP. ROA-PUNO. As was brought up yesterday, the Mental Health Council and the makeup of the council, as we discussed yesterday, will need the participation of the entire mental health community, including the non-government sector. I fully agree with the Honorable Lagman on that.

REP. LAGMAN. In other words, the proposal is, instead of placing the appropriations for mental health

under the auspices of the Department of Health, it should be placed under the Philippine National Mental Health Council to assure its autonomy and independence.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Yes, we agree, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, my next group of questions, Mme. Speaker.

I really regret that I have to consume more time because I really would like to—well, there is no perfect bill, but to approximate perfection for this measure. Is there any specific provision in the Bill authorizing the free dispensation of mental health care services and medicines to indigent patients, considering that poverty has a dominant impact on people's mental health and well-being? I am asking for a definite, categorical provision, not merely a general statement or attribution.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, in House Bill No. 6452, we devoted an entire section to enumerating the rights of persons with mental illness and before that, stating that "Every person shall have the right to the best available mental health care, which shall be part of the health and social care and protection system." We take cognizance of the fact that in a Third World country, it is imperative that we give mental health treatment for free to those who are in need. This is included in the Universal Health Care Program that is almost there, authored by our Chairman Hon. Angelina "Helen" Tan, and mental health medicines are included in that. When it comes to services in community-based facilities, as well as those services that are dispensed by barangay health workers, these are meant to be free of charge to those who are not able to pay. Of course, private hospitals are probably best to those who are capable of accessing such treatment in these private hospitals where it is not necessarily free but, again, this Bill prioritizes the needs of indigent Filipinos which number more than 30 million of our population.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, we understand that in the general statements or provisions of the Bill, it can be inferred that there will be free dispensation of mental health care services and medicines to indigent patients. I think it will not harm the measure, and it will even promote its objectives, if we have a specific and categorical provision on the free dispensation of medical care services and medicines similar to the provision of the Reproductive Health Law. At the proper time, distinguished Sponsor, I would recommend the inclusion of a specific provision on indigent patients.

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

REP. LAGMAN. Now, let me go to another question with respect to term “service user.” The Bill refers to “service user” in many of its provisions, but “service user” is not defined under the Definition of Terms unlike “patient.” Is there any difference between “service user” and “patient,” or are they identical?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, the term “service user” refers to a patient, a client, a mental health survivor or a person in crisis. Any of them will fall under the term “service user”. In fact, the term “service user” has come to be the most current and politically-correct term used within the mental health services because it is neutral and it simply describes the relationship with the service. Keeping in mind that the Comprehensive Mental Health Act or the comprehensive health treatment is exactly that—it is comprehensive and it is in a spectrum—it treats people who are suffering from mental health disorders, also people who might be just under temporary stress and are not able to deal with the everyday challenges of life. It could also deal with people who are somewhere in between. So, not everybody with a mental health issue is a mental health patient or is somebody with a mental health disorder and thus, the use of the term “service user.”

If it will please the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman, we can include the definition of the term “service user” because it seems like it was not. While it is now being widely used within the mental health community or within the mental health services, it is not, apparently, as well known to the general public. So, we are amenable to specify the definition of the term “service user” in the Bill.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

Section 4 (r) states: “Patient” refers to a person receiving or utilizing mental health care and treatment from a mental health care facility or clinic. This would encompass already a service user, would it not?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Let me read again Section 4 (r), “Patient” refers to a person receiving or utilizing mental health care and treatment from a mental health care facility or clinic. Yes, it does.

REP. LAGMAN. This would encompass ...

REP. ROA-PUNO. It would ...

REP. LAGMAN. ... service user because the term “service user” is not known to so many. It is a new nomenclature. The term “patient” is also politically and medically correct, but if there is a distinction between “patient” and “service user”—because I think, there was only one provision where “patient” was included

and there were so many provisions using “service user”—then I would be amenable to using the term “service user” provided there is a categorical provision under the Definition of Terms.

REP. ROA-PUNO. I think that would be best. Again, just to clarify, all patients are service users, but not all service users are patients. I guess that would be the best way to describe it, maybe, just to further explain the usefulness of the term “service user.”

REP. LAGMAN. Okay.

REP. ROA-PUNO. It is actually good news that psychologists, as well as the psychiatrists, had been part in the crafting of this Bill. Psychologists, as they are not medical doctors, would prefer—if I can represent them—to call their patients, if you will, their “clients”. Then, there are others who have mental health disorders, but who do not like to think of themselves as ill or as patients.

So, to satisfy everybody, those who are concerned about this Bill, and it being a rights-based Bill, we have to respect everybody’s rights—both the patient or service user and the service provider. We felt that the terms “service user” and “service provider,” while these may not be known to the general public, are already widely used in the mental health circle or world, and I think the best compromise here would be to define “service user” as the Gentleman initially suggested, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

Now, let me go to the National Center for Mental Health, formerly known as the National Mental Hospital. The distinguished Sponsor must be aware that the National Mental Hospital has been renamed as the National Center for Mental Health. Is that correct?

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

REP. LAGMAN. What will be the role of the National Center for Mental Health once this Bill is enacted into law?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, the National Center for Mental Health, although there had been plans before or since 1968 for its sale, is still in existence and as its Director would say, in his words, “it is still alive and kicking and it is very much used.” In fact, its bed capacity is always packed to the limit, and besides the hospital services that it provides, the National Mental Health Center is also the only existing forensic psychiatric facility there is in the country. This is important as we know many of the crimes today have to do with issues that come into play when we

talk about mental health, and a lot of criminals often have to be examined and have to be investigated with the mental health angle in mind. That is the usefulness of the forensic psychiatric unit found at the Mental Health Center.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Aside from that, Mme. Speaker, we also mentioned yesterday that there was an effort to increase the number of practitioners in the mental health field, and the Mental Health Center is also an educational institution that provides further study for psychiatrists who want to enter that field.

REP. LAGMAN. May I know, distinguished Sponsor, if there is any provision in the Bill on the National Center for Mental Health?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Not specifically, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Why is that so? Why is there no specific provision on the National Center for Mental Health and its role once this Bill is enacted into law?

REP. ROA-PUNO. The International Mental Health Center as well as the others—the Mariveles Mental Hospital in Bataan and the many other psychiatric wards that are already in existence, are all considered as hospitals existing that provide mental health services. In Section 12 of the Bill, which reads “Duties and Responsibilities of all Mental Health Facilities and Mental Health Services Providers,” it enumerates about almost 10 provisions, 10 items that cover the National Mental Health Center as well as the Mariveles Mental Hospital and the other psychiatric facilities found in government hospitals, in the wards, et cetera. Also, because there is still the desire for the Mental Health Center to be moved to a new location, I understand there was an attempt to move it to Trece Martires, Cavite, but because of the floods or something that was unexpected, it did not push through and now, they are looking at another area in Cavite.

REP. LAGMAN. Pending that transfer, the Mental Health Hospital, now known as the National Center for Mental Health, should be accorded some role in this Bill and there is no such provision therein. We should not be relying on inferences, but there should be specific provisions. Most probably, many are not aware that the Mental Health Hospital, the premiere mental health hospital in the Philippines, now known as the National Center for Mental Health, has an appropriation. For the current year, the National Center for Mental Health has an appropriation of P964, 244,000 and a

proposed budget for 2018 in the increased amount of P1, 022,798,000. With this ample appropriation, I think the National Center for Mental Health should at least merit a specific provision in the Bill. At the proper time, distinguished Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, I will make a proposal to give recognition to the premiere mental health hospital in the Philippines, now known as the National Center for Mental Health.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Yes, Mme. Speaker. While we appreciate what the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman had just said, we also want to stress once again, that the objective or the essence of the Comprehensive Mental Health Act is to decentralize everything, or to just bring the services to the communities where mental health cases are best served. Like we said, we cannot isolate a sufferer of a mental health disorder and treat him and only him or her, as it may be. It is imperative that the families—the communities are also included in the treatment, and it also works best when the service user is left to thrive in a community or an environment they are already used to.

Mental health centers, like the National Center for Mental Health, are traditional institutions and that, I guess, we are trying to or that we recognize them as the only ones that are in existence before but now, much emphasis is being given to the importance of community-based services. While we recognize the importance of the National Center for Mental Health and the other facilities that we already mentioned, we do not want to take away the importance and the heart of the Comprehensive Mental Health Act, which is to stress the importance of a community-based treatment.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, we appreciate that trajectory with respect to the de-institutionalization of medical care and services from the confines of a hospital to the community-based mental health care facilities. In the meanwhile that there is this appropriation for the National Center for Mental Health, then we should duly acknowledge this institution and, most probably, think about its appropriation and how it can be gradually transferred to the funding for community-based mental health facilities.

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

REP. LAGMAN. Now, let me go to the role of the Commission on Human Rights. There are a number of provisions in the Bill concerning the role of the Commission on Human Rights, more particularly Section 6, Chapter II, on the rights of a person with mental illnesses or who is being treated for mental illness.

Section 6, subparagraphs (n) and (u) mentioned the Commission on Human Rights and its role. Under

Chapter III on the Duties and Responsibilities of Government Agencies and all Mental Health Service Providers, Section 11 thereof enumerates the duties and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights. In Chapter II, Section 6, letter (u), the second paragraph states that the Commission on Human Rights and the Department of Justice have concurrent jurisdiction to "...investigate, conduct inspections and commend..."—most probably, the word is not "commend." This is a typographical error. It should be "recommend"—"...appropriate administrative, civil, and penal actions to ensure full compliance with domestic and international standards governing the legal basis for treatment and detention, quality of medical care and living standards."

My question is, in order to pinpoint responsibility and accountability, does the distinguished Sponsor agree that only one of these agencies should have jurisdiction? It must be either the Department of Justice or the Commission on Human Rights. I would suggest strongly that it should be the Department of Justice which has a more expansive jurisdiction and is fully funded.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, as it has been mentioned several times, the Bill is a rights-based bill and, therefore, there are many provisions that are of interest to the Commission on Human Rights. In fact, they have been present and very vocal throughout the process of crafting this Bill; they have been present in all the TWGs and their points are well-made. There are so many ways to infringe on the human rights of service users without going into criminal liabilities, and I think that is mainly for that reason that we want the Commission on Human Rights to have a stake and be given the power to investigate and to make sure that all service users, in fact, all Filipinos, who have the right to mental health service and treatment, should be given what they are due.

It will be difficult to take them out of the picture because, like we said, with jails, crime scenes and court trials, these are places that you might want to consider as catch basins for mental health issues: when you have parents fighting for their children, when you have couples who cannot get along, when you have crimes that are committed, when somebody is under the influence or is under duress or is not able to cope well with stress or is suffering an episode of his mental disorder—all of these commingle, they always happen together. Like we said, courts and crime scenes are places where we find mental health issues all the time and that being the case, really, we cannot separate the two, and we believe that the Commission on Human Rights does play a vital role in ensuring that every Filipino is given their rights-based mental health or mental wellness treatment if needed.

REP. LAGMAN. We are not in any way trying to remove any important role of the Commission on Human Rights. We are just concerned about a concurrent jurisdiction wherein we cannot pinpoint responsibility and accountability between two agencies, like the Commission on Human Rights and the Department of Justice, but most probably, there could be some middle ground in order to remove this concurrent jurisdiction.

With respect to investigations relating to violations of human rights committed by the government or the State or agents of the State, then most probably, the investigation can be properly conducted by the Commission on Human Rights, but with respect to other violations not perpetrated by the State or agents of the State, then the Department of Justice can take jurisdiction.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I would like to add that while the Commission on Human Rights also needs to comply with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, as persons suffering mental disorders or mental issues are considered persons with disability, then, that gives them jurisdiction. It also underscores the importance of their ability to investigate and to be on top of these cases that have to be mentioned in this measure.

The DOJ is also mentioned here in light of the fact that drug abuse, gambling abuse, and for that matter, all kinds of abuses, especially at this time when the war on drugs is very much observed and it is still being waged. Drug abuse is considered a mental health condition, substance abuse to be exact, and as we know, many of these cases fall in the hands of the Dangerous Drugs Board. In fact, they have a provision in the Bill that says that anybody who voluntarily submits himself to the Dangerous Drugs Board should be given a mental health test to see if he has a mental health disorder and will be treated accordingly, and will be given rights according to or as provided for in this Bill. Again, there is the need to acknowledge the DOJ as one of the agencies that have the right to investigate these complaints about the abuses on mental health.

REP. LAGMAN. We have no problem with the jurisdiction of the Department of Justice within its sphere of authority and the jurisdiction of the Commission on Human Rights within its mandated authority.

Article XIII, Section 18, paragraph (1) of the Constitution provides that "The Commission on Human Rights shall investigate, on its own or on complaint by any party, all forms of human rights violations involving civil and political rights"—this means the rights of a person safeguarded under the Constitution. The Constitution also guarantees political and civil rights against violations of the State or agents of the State, so

much so that we would like to make a delimitation of the jurisdiction of the Commission on Human Rights consistent with its mandate under the Constitution. At the proper time, we are going to provide for that delineation and propose the consequential amendments.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, before we move on, I would just like to add that, citing the position of the Commission on Human Rights as we were crafting this Bill, in the Statement that they submitted, they said, and may I quote:

With respect to the grant of the responsibility to the Commission to inspect all places where psychiatric service-users are held for involuntary treatment or otherwise, we respectfully submit that such does not fall upon the Commission alone. The Commission will be saddled with inspection of all such places without distinction...

I think it is important to note that even the Commission on Human Rights acknowledged the fact that they cannot do it alone. That is the position they took and we took that into consideration when we crafted the Bill.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, Mme. Speaker. We are aware of that position paper submitted by the Commission on Human Rights, but its position as submitted should always be under the guidance of the constitutional mandate given to this agency, which I had already stated.

Now, let me go to my last query. Will the distinguished Sponsor consider including drugs specific to the treatment of mental illness in the Philippine National Drug Formulary?

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

REP. LAGMAN. That would terminate my interpellation, and I would be ready to submit to the sponsoring Committee and to the distinguished Sponsor my proposed amendments first hour in the morning on Monday. I will also await the formulation of the Committee amendments considered by the Committee, more particularly on the composition of the Council as we have discussed yesterday.

Thank you so much, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor for the opportunity of allowing this Representation to ask some questions towards perfecting this measure.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we

recognize the Lady from the Third District of Nueva Ecija, Rep. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The Hon. Rosanna "Ria" Vergara is recognized.

REP. VERGARA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. I just have two questions to the distinguished Sponsor.

On page 5 of the Bill, specifically under the definition of "mental illness," there is no mention of addiction. Although it is alluded to when it says the dysfunction in the individual, but when we read the definition of "mental illness" in its totality, comprehensive as it is, the word "addiction" is not present anywhere. Is the distinguished Sponsor willing to include the word "addiction" under the definition of mental illness?

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, yesterday, during the interpellation of the Honorable Lagman, we decided that we would mention in the amendments certain conditions that are common to all just to give light to the scope of this particular Bill and by all means, addiction like substance addiction, gambling addiction, we will make sure that all of these conditions will be included in the Bill, and that it will be named as is so that there will be no question as to whether or not drug addiction is within the scope of comprehensive mental illness.

REP. VERGARA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Yes, it is not just drug addiction but I would also like to specify online addiction, Internet addiction, sex addiction...

REP. ROA-PUNO. Sexual addiction, shopping addiction, and all sorts of addiction.

REP. VERGARA. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. VERGARA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. The next question refers to the paragraph (2) of Section 23, this is on page 15. It states: "Those covered by Section 62 of the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 may be entitled to the same rights and privileges under this Bill." Section 62 of the Dangerous Drugs Act speaks of persons charged with an offense where the imposable penalty is less than six years and one day. Given this, why does this provision make a distinction between those charged with an offense punishable for less than six years and one day versus those punishable for more than six years. Do we not have the responsibility to help all drug dependents who may be mentally ill regardless of the offense charged?

May we seek a clarification on this point, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ROA-PUNO. We have the responsibility to uphold the rights of all Filipinos, drug addict or any other kind of addict. However, with the Dangerous Drugs Act already in place, and the way we phrased it in the Bill, if you voluntarily or in any other way subject yourself or you become subjected to the Dangerous Drugs Act and you face the Board, it is mandated that you be examined for possible mental illness and if you are found to be suffering from mental illness, then it will be incumbent that this person will be covered by everything that is stated in the Bill, in the Comprehensive Mental Health Act.

REP. VERGARA. Mme. Speaker, that means, even if the penalty for the offense is more than six years and one day, then that individual will be protected under this Mental Health Act. Is that correct?

REP. ROA-PUNO. I guess this has to do with the kind of crime that was committed and what possible findings there might be when this person is found to have a mental illness. I guess this is going to be a case-to-case basis. It is beyond this Bill to determine if somebody with a mental health condition who commits a crime that merits six years or more, will have to stay in jail or will be allowed to go out. That is something that the Dangerous Drugs Board, I guess, will have to decide on. What we need to make sure of is that these individuals are given the testing, first of all, to determine, through the assessment, whether or not they need treatment and if that is determined, then they get the proper treatment. Now, on whether or not this is going to be done within the confines of a jail is something that we did not specify because what this Bill is concerned with is the treatment of the mental illness of the person.

REP. VERGARA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. So would the distinguished Sponsor be willing to accept a submission to amend or to further clarify these concerns, so that even those who have offenses punishable beyond six years, but who are mentally ill will be protected by this House Bill.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Inasmuch as treatment is concerned, they will be given the treatment that they need as prescribed after the assessment that they get and as far as that is concerned, they are covered by this Bill.

REP. VERGARA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor, I move that we terminate 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. PIMENTEL. 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. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Rep. Edcel Lagman.

REP. LAGMAN. I have several important individual amendments, many of which had been acknowledged by the distinguished Sponsor as truly important, but I would need some time to formulate the amendments. That is why earlier, I manifested that I will submit to the sponsoring Committee my proposed amendments first hour of Monday morning. If the committee has amendments, then the Committee can proceed, but I will submit my individual amendments on Monday.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the manifestation of the Honorable Lagman regarding his amendments is very well-taken.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments to consider Committee amendments. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, to propound the Committee amendments, I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Health, the Hon.

Angelina “Helen” D.L. Tan, M.D. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The honorable Chairperson, Rep. Angelina “Helen” Tan is recognized.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

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

The Committee would like to introduce the following amendments to House Bill No. 6452:

1. On page 10, Section 10 (g), line 29, to change the words “National Commission on Mental Health” to the words PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HEALTH;

2. On page 12, to change the title of CHAPTER IV from “INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE MENTAL HEALTH COUNCIL” to INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HEALTH;

3. On page 12, Section 14, Mandate, lines 39 to 43, to change the whole paragraph to read as follows:

SEC. 14. Mandate. – THE PHILIPPINE COUNCIL FOR MENTAL HEALTH, HEREIN REFERRED TO AS THE COUNCIL, IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED AS AN ATTACHED AGENCY UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, TO PROVIDE FOR A COHERENT, RATIONAL AND UNIFIED RESPONSE TO MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS, CONCERNS, AND EFFORTS THROUGH THE FORMULATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SERVICES.

4. On page 13, lines 1 to 4, to delete the whole paragraph and in lieu thereof, to insert a new Section 15, to read as follows:

SEC. 15. DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS. – THE COUNCIL SHALL EXERCISE THE FOLLOWING DUTIES:

(a) REVIEW AND FORMULATE POLICIES AND GUIDELINES ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES AND CONCERNS;

(b) DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE AND INTEGRATED NATIONAL PLAN AND PROGRAM ON MENTAL HEALTH;

(c) CONDUCT REGULAR MONITORING AND EVALUATION IN SUPPORT OF POLICY FORMULATION AND PLANNING ON MENTAL HEALTH;

(d) PROMOTE AND FACILITATE COLLABORATION AMONG SECTORS AND DISCIPLINES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MENTAL HEALTH RELATED PROGRAMS WITHIN THESE SECTORS;

(e) PROVIDE OVER-ALL TECHNICAL SUPERVISION AND ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH

POLICIES, PROGRAMS, AND PROJECTS WITHIN THE COMPREHENSIVE FRAMEWORK OF THE NATIONAL MENTAL HEALTH CARE DELIVERY SYSTEM AND OTHER SUCH ACTIVITIES RELATED TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT, THROUGH THE REVIEW OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND THE ADOPTION OF LEGAL AND OTHER REMEDIES PROVIDED BY LAW;

(f) PLAN AND IMPLEMENT THE NECESSARY AND URGENT CAPACITY BUILDING, REORIENTATION AND TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR ALL MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS, MENTAL HEALTH WORKERS AND ALL PROFESSIONALS AS ARTICULATED IN THIS ACT;

(g) REVIEW ALL EXISTING LAWS RELATED TO MENTAL HEALTH AND RECOMMEND LEGISLATION WHICH WILL SUSTAIN AND STRENGTHEN PROGRAMS, SERVICES AND OTHER MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVES;

(h) CONDUCT OR FACILITATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF STUDIES AND RESEARCHES ON MENTAL HEALTH, WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON STUDIES THAT WOULD SERVE AS BASIS FOR DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE COMMUNITY;

(i) CREATE INTER-AGENCY COMMITTEES, PROJECT TASK FORCES, AND OTHER GROUPS NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE POLICY AND PROGRAM FRAMEWORK OF THIS ACT;

(j) COLLABORATE WITH VARIOUS AGENCIES; AND

(k) PERFORM OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS NECESSARY TO CARRY OUT THE PURPOSES OF THIS ACT.

5. On page 13, after the new Section 15, to insert a new Section 16 to read as follows:

SEC. 16. COMPOSITION. – THE COUNCIL SHALL BE COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING:

(1) THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH, AS EX OFFICIO CHAIRMAN;

(2) THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AS VICE CHAIRMAN AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER;

(3) TWO (2) REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE GOVERNMENT SECTOR;

(4) TWO (2) REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PRIVATE HEALTH SECTOR OR CONSUMER GROUPS;

(5) ONE (1) REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ACADEME/RESEARCH;

(6) TWO (2) REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION; AND

(7) TWO (2) REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE ALLIED NONGOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS INVOLVED IN MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES, AS MEMBERS. THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL SHALL

SERVE FOR THREE (3) YEARS. IN CASE A VACANCY OCCURS IN THE COUNCIL, ANY PERSON CHOSEN TO FILL THE VACANCY SHALL SERVE ONLY FOR THE UNEXPIRED TERM OF THE MEMBER WHOM HE/SHE SUCCEEDS.

“WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS FROM THE DATE OF THIS ACT, THE PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINES SHALL APPOINT THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.”

That is all, Mr. Speaker. Thank you.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we accept the amendments as proposed by the Sponsor.

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

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF H.B. NO. 6452

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

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 6452 is hereby suspended.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

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

It was 5:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:47 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 5799
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we

vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 5799 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. Villarica). 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 August 3, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 5799, entitled: AN ACT REVERTING FISH PONDS WHICH HAVE BEEN UNUTILIZED OR ABANDONED FOR A PERIOD OF THREE (3) YEARS TO FORESTLANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 43 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 705, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED FORESTRY REFORM CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

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. 33, dated October 4, 2017:

Affirmative

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------|
| Abaya | Bag-ao |
| Abayon | Bagatsing |
| Abellanos | Banal |
| Abu | Barbers |
| Abueg | Barzaga |
| Acharon | Bataoil |
| Acop | Batocabe |
| Acosta-Alba | Belaro |
| Advincula | Belmonte (F.) |
| Aggabao | Belmonte (J.C.) |
| Albano | Bertiz |
| Alejano | Biazon |
| Almario | Billones |
| Almonte | Biron |
| Alonte | Bolilia |
| Alvarez (F.) | Bondoc |
| Alvarez (P.) | Bordado |
| Amatong | Bravo (A.) |
| Angara-Castillo | Brosas |
| Aquino-Magsaysay | Bulut-Begtang |
| Aragones | Calderon |
| Arcillas | Calixto-Rubiano |
| Aumentado | Caminero |

Campos	Hofer	Rodriguez (M.)	Tan (S.)
Canama	Javier	Roman	Tejada
Cari	Kho	Romualdez	Teves
Casilao	Labadlabad	Romualdo	Tiangco
Castelo	Lacson	Roque (H.)	Tinio
Castro (F.L.)	Lagman	Roque (R.)	Tugna
Castro (F.H.)	Lanete	Sacdalan	Tupas
Cayetano	Laogan	Sagarbarria	Ty
Celeste	Lazatin	Sahali	Umali
Cerilles	Leachon	Salceda	Unabia
Chavez	Lee	Salo	Ungab
Chipeco	Lopez (B.)	Salon	Uy (J.)
Cojuangco	Lopez (C.)	Sambar	Uy (R.)
Cortes	Lopez (M.L.)	Sandoval	Vargas-Alfonso
Crisologo	Maceda	Sarmiento (C.)	Velarde
Cua	Madrona	Sarmiento (E.M.)	Velasco
Cuaresma	Malapitan	Savellano	Velasco-Catera
Cueva	Mangaoang	Sema	Veloso
Dalipe	Mangudadatu (Z.)	Siao	Vergara
Datol	Marcoleta	Silverio	Villanueva
De Venecia	Marcos	Singson	Villaraza-Suarez
De Vera	Marquez	Suansing (E.)	Villarin
Defensor	Martinez	Suansing (H.)	Violago
Del Rosario	Matugas	Suarez	Yap (V.)
Deloso-Montalla	Mellana	Sy-Alvarado	Yu
Dimaporo (A.)	Mercado	Tambunting	Zarate
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Mirasol	Tan (A.)	Zubiri
Duavit	Montoro	Tan (M.)	
Durano	Nava		
Elago	Nieto	<i>Negative</i>	
Erice	Noel		
Eriguel	Nogralas (J.J.)	None	
Ermita-Buhain	Nolasco		
Escudero	Nuñez-Malanyaon	<i>Abstention</i>	
Espina	Oaminal		
Espino	Ortega (P.)	None	
Eusebio	Ortega (V.N.)		
Evardone	Pacquiao		
Fariñas	Paduano		
Ferrer (J.)	Palma		
Ferrer (L.)	Pancho		
Ferriol-Pascual	Panganiban		
Flores	Panotes		
Fortuno	Papandayan		
Garcia (J.E.)	Pichay		
Garin (R.)	Pimentel		
Garin (S.)	Pineda		
Gasataya	Plaza		
Geron	Primicias-Agabas		
Go (M.)	Quimbo		
Gomez	Radaza		
Gonzaga	Ramos		
Gonzales (A.D.)	Relampagos		
Gonzalez	Revilla		
Hernandez	Roa-Puno		
Herrera-Dy	Rodriguez (I.)		

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 5799
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica).
With 213 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no
abstention, House Bill No. 5799 is approved on Third
Reading.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6391
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we
vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6391 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. Villarica). 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 25, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6391, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE ROAD STRETCHING FROM BARANGAY ANDUYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TUBAO, PROVINCE OF LA UNION TO BARANGAY SAN PASCUAL, MUNICIPALITY OF TUBA, PROVINCE OF BENGUET INTO A NATIONAL ROAD 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. 33, dated October 4, 2017:

Affirmative

Abaya	Belaro	Crisologo	Maceda
Abayon	Belmonte (F.)	Cua	Madrona
Abellanos	Belmonte (J.C.)	Cuaresma	Malapitan
Abu	Bertiz	Cueva	Mangaoang
Abueg	Biazon	Dalipe	Mangudadatu (Z.)
Acharon	Billones	Datol	Marcoleta
Acop	Biron	De Venecia	Marcos
Acosta-Alba	Bolilia	De Vera	Marquez
Advincula	Bondoc	Defensor	Martinez
Aggabao	Bordado	Del Rosario	Matugas
Albano	Bravo (A.)	Deloso-Montalla	Mellana
Alejano	Brosas	Dimaporo (A.)	Mercado
Almario	Bulut-Begtang	Dimaporo (M.K.)	Mirasol
Almonte	Calderon	Duavit	Montoro
Alonte	Calixto-Rubiano	Durano	Nava
Alvarez (F.)	Caminero	Elago	Nieto
Alvarez (P.)	Campos	Erice	Noel
Amatong	Canama	Eriguel	Nogralas (J.J.)
Angara-Castillo	Cari	Ermita-Buhain	Nolasco
Aquino-Magsaysay	Casilao	Escudero	Nuñez-Malanyaon
Aragones	Castelo	Espina	Oaminal
Arcillas	Castro (F.L.)	Espino	Ortega (P.)
Aumentado	Castro (F.H.)	Eusebio	Ortega (V.N.)
Bag-ao	Cayetano	Evardone	Pacquiao
Bagatsing	Celeste	Fariñas	Paduano
Banal	Cerilles	Ferrer (J.)	Palma
Barbers	Chavez	Ferrer (L.)	Pancho
Barzaga	Chipeco	Ferriol-Pascual	Panganiban
Bataoil	Cojuangco	Flores	Panotes
Batocabe	Cortes	Fortuno	Papandayan
		Garcia (J.E.)	Pichay
		Garin (R.)	Pimentel
		Garin (S.)	Pineda
		Gasataya	Plaza
		Geron	Primicias-Agabas
		Go (M.)	Quimbo
		Gomez	Radaza
		Gonzaga	Ramos
		Gonzales (A.D.)	Relampagos
		Gonzalez	Revilla
		Hernandez	Roa-Puno
		Herrera-Dy	Rodriguez (I.)
		Hofer	Rodriguez (M.)
		Javier	Roman
		Kho	Romualdez
		Labadlabad	Romualdo
		Lacson	Roque (H.)
		Lagman	Roque (R.)
		Lanete	Sacdalán
		Laogan	Sagarbarria
		Lazatin	Sahali
		Leachon	Salceda
		Lee	Salo
		Lopez (B.)	Salon
		Lopez (C.)	Sambar
		Lopez (M.L.)	Sandoval

Sarmiento (C.)	Ty
Sarmiento (E.M.)	Umali
Savellano	Unabia
Sema	Ungab
Siao	Uy (J.)
Silverio	Uy (R.)
Singson	Vargas-Alfonso
Suansing (E.)	Velarde
Suansing (H.)	Velasco
Suarez	Velasco-Catera
Sy-Alvarado	Veloso
Tambunting	Vergara
Tan (A.)	Villanueva
Tan (M.)	Villaraza-Suarez
Tan (S.)	Villarin
Tejada	Violago
Teves	Yap (V.)
Tiangco	Yu
Tinio	Zarate
Tugna	Zubiri
Tupas	

Negative

None

Abstention

None

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6391
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). With 213 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6391 is approved on Third Reading.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 2097
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 2097 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. Villarica). 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 28, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 2097, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 2 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF PASAY TO BE KNOWN AS THE “FOUNDATION DAY OF PASAY CITY.”

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. 33, dated October 4, 2017:

Affirmative

Abaya	Bravo (A.)
Abayon	Brosas
Abellanosa	Bulut-Begtang
Abu	Calderon
Abueg	Calixto-Rubiano
Acharon	Caminero
Acop	Campos
Acosta-Alba	Canama
Advincula	Cari
Aggabao	Casilao
Albano	Castelo
Alejano	Castro (F.L.)
Almario	Castro (F.H.)
Almonte	Cayetano
Alonte	Celeste
Alvarez (F.)	Cerilles
Alvarez (P.)	Chavez
Amatong	Chipeco
Angara-Castillo	Cojuangco
Aquino-Magsaysay	Cortes
Aragones	Crisologo
Arcillas	Cua
Aumentado	Cuaresma
Bag-ao	Cueva
Bagatsing	Dalipe
Banal	Datol
Barbers	De Venecia
Barzaga	De Vera
Bataoil	Defensor
Batocabe	Del Rosario
Belaro	Deloso-Montalla
Belmonte (F.)	Dimaporo (A.)
Belmonte (J.C.)	Dimaporo (M.K.)
Bertiz	Duavit
Biazon	Durano
Billones	Elago
Biron	Erice
Bolilia	Eriguel
Bondoc	Ermita-Buhain
Bordado	Escudero

Espina	Oaminal	Tupas	Veloso
Espino	Ortega (P.)	Ty	Vergara
Eusebio	Ortega (V.N.)	Umali	Villanueva
Evardone	Pacquiao	Unabia	Villaraza-Suarez
Fariñas	Paduano	Ungab	Villarin
Ferrer (J.)	Palma	Uy (J.)	Violago
Ferrer (L.)	Pancho	Uy (R.)	Yap (V.)
Ferriol-Pascual	Panganiban	Vargas-Alfonso	Yu
Flores	Panotes	Velarde	Zarate
Fortuno	Papandayan	Velasco	Zubiri
Garcia (J.E.)	Pichay	Velasco-Catera	
Garin (R.)	Pimentel		
Garin (S.)	Pineda	<i>Negative</i>	
Gasataya	Plaza		
Geron	Primicias-Agabas	None	
Go (M.)	Quimbo		
Gomez	Radaza	<i>Abstention</i>	
Gonzaga	Ramos		
Gonzales (A.D.)	Relampagos	None	
Gonzalez	Revilla		
Hernandez	Roa-Puno		APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 2097
Herrera-Dy	Rodriguez (I.)		ON THIRD READING
Hofer	Rodriguez (M.)		
Javier	Roman		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica).
Kho	Romualdez		With 213 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no
Labadlabad	Romualdo		abstention, House Bill No. 2097 is approved on Third
Lacson	Roque (H.)		Reading.
Lagman	Roque (R.)		
Lanete	Sacdalán		NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 3979
Laogan	Sagarbarria		ON THIRD READING
Lazatin	Sahali		
Leachon	Salceda		REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we
Lee	Salo		vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 3979 and
Lopez (B.)	Salon		direct the Secretary General to read the title of the
Lopez (C.)	Sambar		measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.
Lopez (M.L.)	Sandoval		I so move.
Maceda	Sarmiento (C.)		
Madrona	Sarmiento (E.M.)		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). Is
Malapitan	Savellano		there any objection? (<i>Silence</i>) The Chair hears none;
Mangaoang	Sema		the motion is approved.
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Siao		
Marcoleta	Silverio		<i>Thereupon, the Secretary General read the</i>
Marcos	Singson		<i>title of the measure, printed copies of which were</i>
Marquez	Suansing (E.)		<i>distributed to the Members on September 28, 2017,</i>
Martinez	Suansing (H.)		<i>pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.</i>
Matugas	Suarez		
Mellana	Sy-Alvarado		THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No.
Mercado	Tambunting		3979, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING TWO (2)
Mirasol	Tan (A.)		PARCELS OF LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN
Montoro	Tan (M.)		LOCATED IN THE CITY OF NAGA, PROVINCE
Nava	Tan (S.)		OF CEBU AS AGRICULTURAL LAND OPEN
Nieto	Tejada		TO DISPOSITION FOR AGRICULTURAL,
Noel	Teves		RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, INDUSTRIAL
Nogralés (J.J.)	Tiangco		OR OTHER PRODUCTIVE PURPOSES.
Nolasco	Tinio		
Nuñez-Malanyaon	Tugna		<i>The Chair directed the Secretary General to call</i>

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. 33, dated October 4, 2017:

Affirmative

Abaya	Cari	Go (M.)	Quimbo
Abayon	Casilao	Gomez	Radaza
Abellanos	Castelo	Gonzaga	Ramos
Abu	Castro (F.L.)	Gonzales (A.D.)	Relampagos
Abueg	Castro (F.H.)	Gonzalez	Revilla
Acharon	Cayetano	Hernandez	Roa-Puno
Acop	Celeste	Herrera-Dy	Rodriguez (I.)
Acosta-Alba	Cerilles	Hofer	Rodriguez (M.)
Advincula	Chavez	Javier	Roman
Aggabao	Chipeco	Kho	Romualdez
Albano	Cojuangco	Labadlabad	Romualdo
Alejano	Cortes	Lacson	Roque (H.)
Almario	Crisologo	Lagman	Roque (R.)
Almonte	Cua	Lanete	Sacdalan
Alonte	Cuaresma	Laogan	Sagarbarria
Alvarez (F.)	Cueva	Lazatin	Sahali
Alvarez (P.)	Dalipe	Leachon	Salceda
Amatong	Datol	Lee	Salo
Angara-Castillo	De Venecia	Lopez (B.)	Salon
Aquino-Magsaysay	De Vera	Lopez (C.)	Sambar
Aragones	Defensor	Lopez (M.L.)	Sandoval
Arcillas	Del Mar	Maceda	Sarmiento (C.)
Aumentado	Del Rosario	Madrona	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Bag-ao	Deloso-Montalla	Malapitan	Savellano
Bagatsing	Dimaporo (A.)	Mangaoang	Sema
Banal	Dimaporo (M.K.)	Mangudadatu (Z.)	Siao
Barbers	Duavit	Marcoleta	Silverio
Barzaga	Durano	Marcos	Singson
Bataoil	Elago	Marquez	Suansing (E.)
Batocabe	Erice	Martinez	Suansing (H.)
Belaro	Eriguel	Matugas	Suarez
Belmonte (F.)	Ermita-Buhain	Mellana	Sy-Alvarado
Belmonte (J.C.)	Escudero	Mercado	Tambunting
Bertiz	Espina	Mirasol	Tan (A.)
Biazon	Espino	Montoro	Tan (M.)
Billones	Eusebio	Nava	Tan (S.)
Biron	Evardone	Nieto	Tejada
Bolilia	Fariñas	Noel	Teves
Bondoc	Ferrer (J.)	Nogralas (J.J.)	Tiangco
Bordado	Ferrer (L.)	Nolasco	Tinio
Bravo (A.)	Ferriol-Pascual	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Tugna
Brosas	Flores	Oaminal	Tupas
Bulut-Begtang	Fortuno	Ortega (P.)	Ty
Calderon	Garcia (J.E.)	Ortega (V.N.)	Umali
Calixto-Rubiano	Garin (R.)	Pacquiao	Unabia
Caminero	Garin (S.)	Paduano	Ungab
Campos	Gasataya	Palma	Uy (J.)
Canama	Geron	Pancho	Uy (R.)
		Panganiban	Vargas-Alfonso
		Panotes	Velarde
		Papandayan	Velasco
		Pichay	Velasco-Catera
		Pimentel	Veloso
		Pineda	Vergara
		Plaza	Villanueva
		Primicias-Agabas	Villaraza-Suarez

Villarín
Violago
Yap (V.)

Yu
Zarate
Zubiri

Negative

None

Abstention

None

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 3979
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). With 214 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 3979 is approved on Third Reading. The Floor Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6316
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6316 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. Villarica). 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 28, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6316, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING NORTHEASTERN BROADCASTING SERVICES, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN ISABELA PROVINCE AND REGION II.

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. 33, dated October 4, 2017:

Affirmative

Abaya
Abayon
Abellanos

Abu
Abueg
Acharon

Acop
Acosta-Alba
Advincula
Aggabao
Albano
Alejano
Almario
Almonte
Alonte
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (P.)
Amatong
Angara-Castillo
Aquino-Magsaysay
Aragones
Arcillas
Aumentado
Bag-ao
Bagatsing
Banal
Barbers
Barzaga
Bataoil
Batocabe
Belaro
Belmonte (F.)
Belmonte (J.C.)
Bertiz
Biazon
Billones
Biron
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bordado
Bravo (A.)
Brosas
Bulut-Begtang
Calderon
Calixto-Rubiano
Caminero
Campos
Canama
Cari
Casilao
Castelo
Castro (F.L.)
Castro (F.H.)
Cayetano
Celeste
Cerilles
Chavez
Chipeco
Cojuangco
Cortes
Crisologo
Cua

Cuaresma
Cueva
Dalipe
Dato
De Venecia
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Del Rosario
Deloso-Montalla
Dimaporo (A.)
Dimaporo (M.K.)
Duavit
Durano
Elago
Erice
Eriguel
Ermita-Buhain
Escudero
Espina
Espino
Eusebio
Evardone
Fariñas
Ferrer (J.)
Ferrer (L.)
Ferriol-Pascual
Flores
Fortuno
Garcia (J.E.)
Garin (R.)
Garin (S.)
Gasataya
Geron
Go (M.)
Gomez
Gonzaga
Gonzales (A.D.)
Gonzalez
Hernandez
Herrera-Dy
Hofer
Javier
Kho
Labadlabad
Lacson
Lagman
Lanete
Laogan
Lazatin
Leachon
Lee
Lopez (B.)
Lopez (C.)
Lopez (M.L.)
Maceda

Madrona
 Malapitan
 Mangaoang
 Mangudadatu (Z.)
 Marcoleta
 Marcos
 Marquez
 Martinez
 Matugas
 Mellana
 Mercado
 Mirasol
 Montoro
 Nava
 Nieto
 Noel
 Nograles (J.J.)
 Nolasco
 Nuñez-Malanyaon
 Oaminal
 Ortega (P.)
 Ortega (V.N.)
 Pacquiao
 Paduano
 Palma
 Pancho
 Panganiban
 Panotes
 Papandayan
 Pichay
 Pimentel
 Pineda
 Plaza
 Primicias-Agabas
 Quimbo
 Radaza
 Ramos
 Relampagos
 Revilla
 Roa-Puno
 Rodriguez (I.)
 Rodriguez (M.)
 Roman
 Romualdez
 Romualdo
 Roque (H.)
 Roque (R.)
 Sacdalan

Sagarbarria
 Sahali
 Salceda
 Salo
 Salon
 Sambar
 Sandoval
 Sarmiento (C.)
 Sarmiento (E.M.)
 Savellano
 Sema
 Siao
 Silverio
 Singson
 Suansing (E.)
 Suansing (H.)
 Suarez
 Sy-Alvarado
 Tambunting
 Tan (A.)
 Tan (M.)
 Tan (S.)
 Tejada
 Teves
 Tiangco
 Tinio
 Tugna
 Tupas
 Ty
 Umali
 Unabia
 Ungab
 Uy (J.)
 Uy (R.)
 Vargas-Alfonso
 Velarde
 Velasco
 Velasco-Catera
 Veloso
 Vergara
 Villanueva
 Villaraza-Suarez
 Villarin
 Violago
 Yap (V.)
 Yu
 Zarate
 Zubiri

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6316
 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica).
 With 214 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no
 abstention, House Bill No. 6316 is approved on Third
 Reading.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6418
 ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that
 we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6418
 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. Villarica). 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 28,
 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House
 Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No.
 6418, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING OCTOBER
 26 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING
 HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES
 TO BE KNOWN AS THE “FOUNDATION DAY OF
 CATANDUANES.”

*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. 33, dated
 October 4, 2017:*

Affirmative

Abaya	Almario
Abayon	Almonte
Abellanos	Alonte
Abu	Alvarez (F.)
Abueg	Alvarez (P.)
Acharon	Amatong
Acop	Angara-Castillo
Acosta-Alba	Aquino-Magsaysay
Advincula	Aragones
Aggabao	Arcillas
Albano	Aumentado
Alejano	Bag-ao

Negative

None

Abstention

None

Bagatsing	Escudero	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Savellano
Banal	Espina	Oaminal	Sema
Barbers	Espino	Ortega (P.)	Siao
Barzaga	Eusebio	Ortega (V.N.)	Silverio
Bataoil	Evardone	Pacquiao	Singson
Batocabe	Fariñas	Paduano	Suansing (E.)
Belaro	Ferrer (J.)	Palma	Suansing (H.)
Belmonte (F.)	Ferrer (L.)	Pancho	Suarez
Belmonte (J.C.)	Ferriol-Pascual	Panganiban	Sy-Alvarado
Bertiz	Flores	Panotes	Tambunting
Biazon	Fortuno	Papandayan	Tan (A.)
Billones	Garcia (J.E.)	Pichay	Tan (M.)
Biron	Garin (R.)	Pimentel	Tan (S.)
Bolilia	Garin (S.)	Pineda	Tejada
Bondoc	Gasataya	Plaza	Teves
Bordado	Geron	Primicias-Agabas	Tiangco
Bravo (A.)	Go (M.)	Quimbo	Tinio
Brosas	Gomez	Radaza	Tugna
Bulut-Begtang	Gonzaga	Ramos	Tupas
Calderon	Gonzales (A.D.)	Relampagos	Ty
Calixto-Rubiano	Gonzalez	Revilla	Umali
Caminero	Hernandez	Roa-Puno	Unabia
Campos	Herrera-Dy	Rodriguez (I.)	Ungab
Canama	Hofer	Rodriguez (M.)	Uy (J.)
Cari	Javier	Roman	Uy (R.)
Casilao	Kho	Romualdez	Vargas-Alfonso
Castelo	Labadlabad	Romualdo	Velarde
Castro (F.L.)	Lacson	Roque (H.)	Velasco
Castro (F.H.)	Lagman	Roque (R.)	Velasco-Catera
Cayetano	Lanete	Sacdalan	Veloso
Celeste	Laogan	Sagarbarria	Vergara
Cerilles	Lazatin	Sahali	Villanueva
Chavez	Leachon	Salceda	Villaraza-Suarez
Chipeco	Lee	Salo	Villarin
Cojuangco	Lopez (B.)	Salon	Violago
Cortes	Lopez (C.)	Sambar	Yap (V.)
Crisologo	Lopez (M.L.)	Sandoval	Yu
Cua	Maceda	Sarmiento (C.)	Zarate
Cuaresma	Madrona	Sarmiento (E.M.)	Zubiri
Cueva	Malapitan		
Dalipe	Mangaoang	<i>Negative</i>	
Datol	Mangudadatu (Z.)		
De Venecia	Marcoleta	None	
De Vera	Marcos		
Defensor	Marquez	<i>Abstention</i>	
Del Mar	Martinez		
Del Rosario	Matugas	None	
Deloso-Montalla	Mellana		
Dimaporo (A.)	Mercado		
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Mirasol		
Duavit	Montoro		
Durano	Nava		
Elago	Nieto		
Erice	Noel		
Eriguel	Nogralas (J.J.)		
Ermita-Buhain	Nolasco		

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6418
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica).
With 214 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no
abstention, House Bill No. 6418 is approved on Third
Reading.
The Floor Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H. JT. RES. NO. 15
ON THIRD READING

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Joint Resolution No. 15 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. Villarica). 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 28, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Joint Resolution No. 15, entitled: JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY TO AWARD TO OTHER QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES THE UNAWARDED HOUSING UNITS IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP)/PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP)/BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP)/BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP)/BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR) HOUSING PROJECTS, AWARDED HOUSING UNITS THAT ARE NOT YET OCCUPIED AND WHOSE OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION ARE SURRENDERED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE AWARDEES, AND HOUSING UNITS WHOSE RESPECTIVE AWARDS WERE CANCELLED BY REASON OF DEFAULT IN THE PAYMENT OF AMORTIZATION OR FOR ANY VIOLATION OF THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE INDIVIDUAL LOAN AGREEMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING LAWS.

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. 33, dated October 4, 2017:

Affirmative

Abaya	Advincula
Abayon	Aggabao
Abellanosa	Albano
Abu	Alejano
Abueg	Almario
Acharon	Almonte
Acop	Alonte
Acosta-Alba	Alvarez (F.)

Alvarez (P.)	Dimaporo (A.)
Amatong	Dimaporo (M.K.)
Angara-Castillo	Duavit
Aquino-Magsaysay	Durano
Aragones	Elago
Arcillas	Erice
Aumentado	Eriguel
Bag-ao	Ermita-Buhain
Bagatsing	Escudero
Banal	Espina
Barbers	Espino
Barzaga	Eusebio
Bataoil	Evardone
Batocabe	Fariñas
Belaro	Ferrer (J.)
Belmonte (F.)	Ferrer (L.)
Belmonte (J.C.)	Ferriol-Pascual
Bertiz	Flores
Biazon	Fortuno
Billones	Garcia (J.E.)
Biron	Garin (R.)
Bolilia	Garin (S.)
Bondoc	Gasataya
Bordado	Geron
Bravo (A.)	Go (M.)
Brosas	Gomez
Bulut-Begtang	Gonzaga
Calderon	Gonzales (A.D.)
Calixto-Rubiano	Gonzalez
Caminero	Hernandez
Campos	Herrera-Dy
Canama	Hofer
Cari	Javier
Casilao	Kho
Castelo	Labadlabad
Castro (F.L.)	Lacson
Castro (F.H.)	Lagman
Cayetano	Lanete
Celeste	Laogan
Cerilles	Lazatin
Chavez	Leachon
Chipeco	Lee
Cojuangco	Lopez (B.)
Cortes	Lopez (C.)
Crisologo	Lopez (M.L.)
Cua	Maceda
Cuaresma	Madrona
Cueva	Malapitan
Dalipe	Mangaoang
Datol	Mangudadatu (Z.)
De Venecia	Marcoleta
De Vera	Marcos
Defensor	Marquez
Del Mar	Martinez
Del Rosario	Matugas
Deloso-Montalla	Mellana

Mercado	Sambar
Mirasol	Sandoval
Montoro	Sarmiento (C.)
Nava	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Nieto	Savellano
Noel	Sema
Nogralles (J.J.)	Siao
Nolasco	Silverio
Nuñez-Malanyaon	Singson
Oaminal	Suansing (E.)
Ortega (P.)	Suansing (H.)
Ortega (V.N.)	Suarez
Pacquiao	Sy-Alvarado
Paduano	Tambunting
Palma	Tan (A.)
Pancho	Tan (M.)
Panganiban	Tan (S.)
Panotes	Tejada
Papandayan	Teves
Pichay	Tiangco
Pimentel	Tinio
Pineda	Tugna
Plaza	Tupas
Primicias-Agabas	Ty
Quimbo	Umali
Radaza	Unabia
Ramos	Ungab
Relampagos	Uy (J.)
Revilla	Uy (R.)
Roa-Puno	Vargas-Alfonso
Rodriguez (I.)	Velarde
Rodriguez (M.)	Velasco
Roman	Velasco-Catera
Romualdez	Veloso
Romualdo	Vergara
Roque (H.)	Villanueva
Roque (R.)	Villaraza-Suarez
Sacdalan	Villarin
Sagarbarria	Violago
Sahali	Yap (V.)
Salceda	Yu
Salo	Zarate
Salon	Zubiri

Negative

None

Abstention

None

APPROVAL OF H. JT. RES. NO. 15
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica).

With 214 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Joint Resolution No. 15 is approved on Third Reading.

The Floor Leader is recognized.

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS
ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation, I move that we refer the following House Resolutions to the appropriate Committees:

1. House Resolution No. 1325 – re the alleged hazing-related death of 22-year old first year University of Santo Tomas (UST) law student Horacio Castillo III, to the Committee on Justice;

2. House Resolution No. 1328 – re the death of University of Sto. Tomas law student Horacio Tomas Castillo III thru hazing with the end in view of amending the provisions of Republic Act No. 8049 otherwise known as the “Anti-Hazing Law,” to the Committee on Justice;

3. House Resolution No. 1329 – re the alleged extrajudicial killings and human rights violations against the people of Marawi during the martial law in Mindanao and the worsening attack against the lives and ancestral lands of Bangsamoro, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;

4. House Resolution No. 1330 – re the human rights violations committed against members of the country’s national minorities, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;

5. House Resolution No. 1331 – re the data cited by the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) in a report it submitted to the Senate on September 19, 2017 stating that some 3,827 Filipinos are languishing in jails across 52 countries and territories as of the end of 2016, to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

6. House Resolution No. 1332 – re Task Force Bangon Marawi to provide a briefing and presentation of the Rehabilitation Plan to the House Committee on Mindanao Affairs, to the Committee on Public Works and Highways; and

7. House Resolution No. 1336 – re the extra-judicial killings of basic political unit officers in Nueva Ecija, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Dep. Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we transmit to the Senate the Bills that we have approved on Third Reading.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

It was 6:35 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:36 p.m., the session was resumed.

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move to resume the session.

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

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. PIMENTEL. Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize Rep. Aniceto “John” D. Bertiz III from the Party-List ACTS-OFW.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The Hon. Aniceto “John” Bertiz III is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BERTIZ

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Dep. Majority Leader.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues:

I rise today to bring to your attention the alleged irregularities in the public bidding in relation to the LTO procurement of vehicle license plates for Calendar Year 2017 in the amount of P998, 800,000. On July 21, 2017, Mme. Speaker, the Land Transportation Office published an invitation to bid for the procurement of motor vehicle license plates for this Calendar Year 2017, stating therein that it intends to apply the sum of P998, 800,000 through the General Fund 101 for the Calendar Year 2017, being the approved budget for the contract as and for the payment of motor vehicle and motorcycle license plates.

During the pre-bid conference on July 31, 2017, the Bids and Awards Committee chaired by Atty. Romeo G. Vera Cruz was questioned on the source of funds for the said project in view of the absence of any appropriation under the General Appropriations Act of 2017 nor the presence of a special provision or an existing or continuing appropriation for the project. BAC Chairman Atty. Vera Cruz allegedly said that the General Fund and the GAA are similar and used synonymously and, thereupon pointed to page 164 under the heading “Motor Vehicle Registration and Driver’s License Regulatory Services” of the GAA 2017 as the source of funds for the project.

It was also raised during the pre-bid conference that the public bidding was “rigged and manipulated” as evidenced by the fact that the terms of reference has been patterned and copied almost verbatim, as you can see on the slide, in material respect from the proposal or brochure of a foreign participating bidder previously presented before the LTO with the intention to specifically suit a particular participating bidder, thereby causing irreparable damage, loss and prejudice to the paramount interest of the Filipino people and the Republic of the Philippines.

Despite the LTO’s failure and refusal to address the issues raised regarding the absence of funding and public bidding being allegedly rigged and manipulated, the LTO proceeded with the opening of bids on September 13, 2017. The LTO conducted the opening of bids on September 13, 2017 or a period of 48 days from the last day of posting of the Invitation to Bid up to the opening of the bids. This, Mme. Speaker, again, violates the mandatory 45- calendar day rule as the maximum period for the completion of the proceedings from the last posting of the Invitation to Bid up to the opening of the bids provided for under the provisions of Section 25, paragraph (4) of the Revised Implementing Rules and Regulations of Republic Act No. 9184.

There were three bidders for the project namely: Trojan Computer Forms/JH Tonnjes East GmbH; Utsch AG/Holy Family Printing Corporation Joint Venture; and iPay Commerce Enterprises/EHA Hoffman International GmbH and Madras Security Printers Private Limited Joint Venture. Utsch AG/Holy Family Printing Corporation Joint Venture was declared to be disqualified after the opening of the first envelope. Among the two remaining bidders, Trojan Computer Forms/J.H. Tonnjes East GmbH was declared the lowest winning bidder with a bid amount of P978, 800,000. The difference between the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) in the amount of P998,000,000 and the lowest bid of Computer Form/J.H. Tonnjes East GmbH in the amount of P978,800,000 was a mere P19,200,000 only.

Just for comparison purposes, Mme. Speaker, in the 2013 public bidding of license plates under the

Land Transportation Office–Motor Vehicle License Plates Standardization Program, the difference between the Approved Budget for the Contract in the amount of P3,852,000,000 and the lowest winning bid in the amount of P3,170,000,000 was P682,000,000.

Mme. Speaker, since 2013, the OFWs, like the rest of our people, have been complaining about the unprecedented delays not only on vehicle plates, but also drivers' licenses. Up to this date, complaints keep coming as our OFWs are easily subjected to unnecessary problems as a result of the LTO license delays. Given these alleged irregularities in the bidding process for the LTO Procurement of Motor Vehicle License Plates, I think it is very important to call on the LTO to revisit the aforementioned public bidding to ensure that proper legal processes are adhered to and to determine and validate whether there was a rigged and manipulated public bidding and whether there were violations of Republic Act No. 9184.

In the spirit of transparency, Mme. Speaker, and in line with the government's fight against corruption, it is imperative that we look into the governmental processes involved in the production of these motor vehicles and motor license plates and determine if there were instances of corruption and help eliminate it accordingly.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker. Thank you so much, Dep. Majority Leader, and thank you so much, my honorable colleagues.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD, to interpellate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). The Hon. Tony Bravo is recognized.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Dep. Majority Floor Leader. Will the distinguished Representative from ACTS-OFW yield to some questions from this Representation?

REP. BERTIZ. Yes, Mme. Speaker and yes, to the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD.

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

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

REP. BRAVO (A.). As I have been listening to the privilege speech that was propounded by the Representative from ACTS-OFW, I deduced about

the General Fund that was the basis or the source of the procurement relative to the plates as mentioned by the Representative of ACTS-OFW. Am I correct, distinguished colleague?

REP. BERTIZ. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). The Invitation to Bid, as you had mentioned, for the procurement of vehicle license plates for calendar year 2017 indicated General Fund 101 for calendar year 2017 as the source of fund. What does General Fund 101 for calendar year 2017 mean as contemplated in the law?

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you. Mme. Speaker, the General Fund has been defined by the GAA 2017, to wit:

Section 4. Receipts and Revenues Collected by Agencies.—As a general rule, all fees, charges, assessment, and other receipts or revenues collected by departments, bureaus, offices, and instrumentalities of the National Government, including constitutional offices enjoying fiscal autonomy in the exercise of their mandated functions at such rates as are now or may be approved by the appropriate approving authority shall be deposited with the National Treasury as income of the General Fund pursuant to Section 44, Chapter 5, Book 6 of Executive Order No. 292, 1987 and Section 65 of Presidential Decree No. 1445.

Disbursements or expenditures by agency from use and retention of income absent legal authority and/or from income deposited outside the National Treasury without legal basis shall be void and shall subject erring official and employees to disciplinary actions in accordance with Section 43, Chapter 5 and Section 80, Chapter 7, Book 6 of Executive Order No. 292 and to appropriate criminal actions under existing law.

In short, Mme. Speaker, the General Fund is a fund which is available for any purpose to which Congress may choose to apply and is composed of all receipts or revenues which are not otherwise accruing to other funds, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you for that answer, distinguished colleague. Therefore, can the General Fund be used by agencies and instrumentalities of government for their expenditure like in this case, the procurement of vehicle plates?

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you, the Hon. Tony Bravo.

Mme. Speaker, yes, provided there had been a previously enacted law authorizing the expenditure in the form of an existing or continuing appropriation which continues to remain valid as an appropriation authority for the expenditures of public funds. There are two types of existing appropriations, Mme. Speaker, continuing and automatic. Continuing appropriations refer to appropriations available to support obligations for a specified purpose or project, such as multi-year construction projects which require the incurrence of obligations even beyond the budget year. Examples, Mme. Speaker, of continuing appropriations are those from existing laws such as Republic Act No. 8150, otherwise known as the Public Works Act of 1995; and Republic Act No. 6657 and Republic Act No. 8532 which set funds specifically for the Agrarian Reform Program. Currently, appropriations for Capital Outlays and Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses are considered as continuing appropriations but only for a period of two years, Mme. Speaker. Automatic appropriations, on the other hand, Mme. Speaker, refer to the appropriations programmed annually or for some other period prescribed by law, by virtue of outstanding legislation which does not require periodic actions by Congress. Falling under this category are expenditures authorized under Presidential Decree No. 1967, Republic Act No. 4860, and Republic Act No. 245, as amended, for the servicing of domestic and foreign debts; Commonwealth Act No. 186 and Republic Act No. 660, for the retirement and insurance premiums of government employees; Presidential Decree No. 1177 and Executive Order No. 292, for net lending to the government corporations; and Presidential Decree No. 1234, for various special accounts and funds, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). In other words, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, if the House of Representatives failed to include particular expenditures in 2017, as you have mentioned, if there are funds that are under Continuing and Automatic Appropriations, the agency can proceed, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague. Along that line, would he know if there had been an existing or continuing appropriation for purposes of the expenditure for this procurement?

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you, Hon. Tony Bravo. Mme. Speaker, none that I know of.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague, in the 2017 budget that we approved last year and in fact, I photocopied one page, page 164 of the General Appropriations Act of 2017, and there appears an appropriation, under the heading “Motor Vehicle Registration and Driver’s Licensing Regulatory Services,” the amount of P1.690 billion.

Can this be the possible source of funds for the procurement of vehicle plates, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague?

REP. BERTIZ. Mme. Speaker, the said item of appropriations under the heading “Motor Vehicle Registration and Driver’s Licensing Regulatory Services” cannot include the procurement of license plates since motor vehicle registration is distinctly different from the procurement of license plates, Mme. Speaker. In the 2013 General Appropriations Act, there was a specific item of appropriations for the procurement of license plates under the heading Motor Vehicle Plate-Making Project, Mme. Speaker.

At the same time, there was a separate and distinct item of appropriations under the heading Processing of Registration Applications, Inspections of Motor Vehicles for Identity, Safety, Weight, Classification, Roadworthiness and Others, which is similar to the Motor Vehicle Registration. If it was the intention of Congress to appropriate funds for the procurement of license plates, then, it would have specifically provided for such an item of appropriations in the GAA 2017 as it did in 2013. For this reason alone, Mme. Speaker, the appropriations for Motor Vehicle Registration cannot be used for the procurement of plates, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Along that line, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, what is the basis or authority for such statement that it cannot be used under such heading?

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you, Mr. Tony Bravo, pahirap ng pahirap ang tanong mo.

Mme. Speaker, in the Supreme Court En Banc case, *Dela Cruz and Tambunting vs. Ochoa, Jr., et al*, GR No. L-219683 which involved the 2013 procurement of LTO license plates in the amount of P3.8 billion, the Office of the Solicitor General (OSG), acting its role as the tribune of the people, stated categorically and in no uncertain terms its manifestation in lieu of comment, pages 28 to 32 thereat, that the procurement of license plates is not included in the appropriations under the heading “Motor Vehicle Registration and Driver’s Licensing Regulatory Services.”

Mme. Speaker, in that case, the OSG adopted the position of our colleagues, petitioners Congressmen Dela Cruz and Tambunting, and which effectively denied legal representation for the public respondent. Mme. Speaker, I have joined our colleagues, petitioners Congressmen Dela Cruz and Tambunting, in preventing and stopping the agency particularly in this case, the LTO, in committing reprehensible infringement and upfront on the powers of this august Chamber to appropriate under the provisions of Section 29, Article VI of the Philippine Constitution.

The LTO has initially committed such an upfront when it merely represented to use the General Fund as indicated in the recent Invitation to Bid for the procurement of the LTO's driver's license cards in the amount of P836 million. The anomalous public bidding was without lawful appropriations by Congress. We will not permit the LTO to infringe again on the constitutional powers of Congress as provided for under the said Section 29, Article VI of the Philippine Constitution by unlawfully using the General Fund for the procurement of vehicle license plates for calendar year 2017 in the amount of P998 million, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you very much for that very comprehensive answer, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleague.

This Representation truly believes that the Gentleman has a valid reason to call the attention of this honorable Body, and I would like to commend the distinguished Representative from ACTS-OFW for having that courage to reveal such alleged irregularities in terms of procurement by the government agency. With that, Mme. Speaker, I support the position of the honorable Representative of ACTS-OFW in requesting for an investigation on the matter.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, the good Gentleman Representative from ACTS-OFW.

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you.

Mme. Speaker, we will present this document and other incriminating proofs of criminal involvement during the investigation/inquiry in aid of legislation to pinpoint not only the fact of collusion and manipulation but, likewise, the culpability of the personalities and characters who appear to be responsible for this attempt to plunder the coffers of the government.

Thank you so much, Mme. Speaker. Thank you so much, Hon. Anthony "Tony" M. Bravo, PhD. Iba ka, Bravo. Thank you so much, Mme. Speaker. Thank you so much, Majority Leader Fariñas.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Aniceto "John" D. Bertiz, III including the interpellation, to the Committee on Rules.

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

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 6:58 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:59 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until Monday, October 9, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until Monday, October 9, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 6:59 p.m.