



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION
House of Representatives

Vol. 3

Monday, November 20, 2017

No. 37

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is now called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Everybody is requested to rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem led by the Vides Philippines.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Everybody is requested to remain standing for the Invocation to be delivered by the Virlanie Foundation.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation by the Virlanie Foundation.

INVOCATION

(Virlanie Foundation children singing)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

REP. DEFENSOR. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). 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. 37, dated November 20, 2017:

PRESENT

Abaya
Abayon
Abellanos
Abu
Abueg
Acharon
Acop
Acosta-Alba
Advincula
Agarao
Aggabao
Aglipay-Villar
Albano
Alejano
Almario
Almonte
Alonte
Alvarez (F.)
Alvarez (P.)
Amatong
Andaya
Angara-Castillo
Antonio
Aquino-Magsaysay
Aragones
Arcillas
Arenas
Atienza
Bag-ao
Bagatsing
Banal
Barbers
Barzaga
Bataoil
Batocabe
Bautista-Bandigan
Belaro
Belmonte (F.)
Belmonte (J.C.)
Belmonte (R.)
Bernos
Billones
Bolilia
Bondoc
Bordado
Bravo (A.)
Bravo (M.V.)
Brosas
Bulut-Begtang
Cagas
Calderon
Calixto-Rubiano
Caminero
Campos
Canama
Casilao
Castelo
Castro (F.L.)
Castro (F.H.)
Cayetano
Celeste
Cerilles
Chavez
Chipeco
Collantes
Cortes
Cortuna
Cosalan
Crisologo
Cuaresma
Dalipe
Datul
Daza
De Jesus
De Vera
Defensor
Del Mar
Del Rosario
Deloso-Montalla
Dimaporo (A.)
Dimaporo (M.K.)
Durano
Dy
Elago

Enverga	Martinez	Suansing (H.)	Uy (R.)
Eriguel	Matugas	Suarez	Uybarreta
Ermita-Buhain	Mellana	Tambunting	Vargas
Escudero	Mendoza	Tan (A.)	Velarde
Espina	Mercado	Tan (M.)	Velasco-Catera
Espino	Mirasol	Teves	Veloso
Estrella	Montoro	Tiangco	Vergara
Evardone	Nava	Ting	Villafuerte
Fariñas	Nieto	Tinio	Villanueva
Fernando	Noel	Tolentino	Villaraza-Suarez
Ferrer (L.)	Nogralas (K.A.)	Treñas	Villarica
Floirendo	Nolasco	Tugna	Villarin
Fortun	Oaminal	Tupas	Violago
Fortuno	Ocampo	Ty	Yap (A.)
Fuentebella	Olivarez	Unabia	Yu
Garbin	Ong (E.)	Ungab	Zamora (R.)
Garcia (G.)	Ong (H.)	Unico	Zarate
Garin (S.)	Ortega (P.)	Uy (J.)	Zubiri
Gasataya	Ortega (V.N.)		
Gatchalian	Pacquiao		
Geron	Paduano		
Go (A.C.)	Palma		
Go (M.)	Pancho		
Gonzaga	Panganiban		
Gonzales (A.P.)	Panotes		
Gonzales (A.D.)	Papandayan		
Gonzalez	Pichay		
Gullas	Pimentel		
Herrera-Dy	Pineda		
Hofer	Primicias-Agabas		
Jalosjos	Radaza		
Kho	Ramirez-Sato		
Khonghun	Ramos		
Labadlabad	Relampagos		
Lacson	Revilla		
Lagman	Roa-Puno		
Lanete	Rocamora		
Lazatin	Rodriguez (I.)		
Leachon	Romualdez		
Limkaichong	Romualdo		
Lobregat	Roque (R.)		
Lopez (B.)	Sacdalán		
Lopez (C.)	Sagarbarria		
Lopez (M.L.)	Salimbangon		
Loyola	Salo		
Macapagal-Arroyo	Salon		
Maceda	Sandoval		
Madrona	Santos-Recto		
Malapitan	Sarmiento (C.)		
Manalo	Sarmiento (E.M.)		
Mangaoang	Savellano		
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Sema		
Marcoleta	Siao		
Marcos	Silverio		
Mariño	Singson		
Marquez	Suansing (E.)		

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.

Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 232 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 232 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

APPROVAL OF JOURNALS

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 35, dated October 10, 2017, and also Journal No. 36, dated October 11, 2017.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez from the Municipal Budget Office of Tagum City. They are as follows: Arcadia Ylanan, Norhaniah Disoma, Jeorgia Lyn Romanillos, Eduardo Eugenio Jr., Lilah Reymundo, Jesusa Asidoy, Jeannette Quijada, Emmelyn Tusay, Evelyn Tapa, Karen Gentiles, Rowena Briz, Estela Suaybaguio, Claire Ann Maghinay, Arnold Asoy, Florente Barrera, Isadore Guangco, Manuel Handugan Jr., Max Alvin Adcol, Jolito Sarno, Elsa Tapat, Maryknoll May Sanchez, Reynaldo Tapat, and Christ Carl Tapat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro F.H.). The guests of the honorable Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez are hereby requested to rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, likewise, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the distinguished Lady from the Second District of Zambales, the Hon. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla. This is a delegation from the Taga Iba Ka Kung..., and they are led by Ebalan Nhes, Luilen Echiverre, Mel Cinco Bilbao, Allyza Draguin Bautista, Carlo Josafat and Jose Mose.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

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

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6606, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SIARGAO DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE INTO A LEVEL 3 GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS THE SIARGAO ISLANDS MEDICAL CENTER”

By Representatives Matugas and Alvarez (P.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6609, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING BENEFITS AND PROGRAMS TO STRENGTHEN, PROMOTE, AND DEVELOP THE PHILIPPINE STARTUP ECOSYSTEM”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6610, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING AS AGGRAVATING

CIRCUMSTANCE WHEN THE VICTIM OF A CRIME IS A SENIOR CITIZEN AND MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCE WHEN THE OFFENDER IS A SENIOR CITIZEN AND AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3815 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE REVISED PENAL CODE”

By Representatives Dato, Daza and De Vera
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 6611, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 17 AS AN OFFICIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE IN COMMEMORATION OF THE VICTIMS OF THE LANDSLIDE IN BARANGAY GUINSAUGON, MUNICIPALITY OF ST. BERNARD, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE GUINSAUGON DAY”

By Representative Mercado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 6612, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIPS TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS IN ALL MUNICIPALITIES, ESTABLISHING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE ONE TOWN: ONE DOCTOR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 6614, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING MORE STRINGENT POLICY ON GRANTING INDIVIDUALS PERMIT TO CARRY FIREARMS AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6615, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 285 OF R.A. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6616, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY POBLACION B IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MLANG, PROVINCE OF COTABATO”

By Representative Tejada
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6622, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBILITY TO GOVERNMENT-PAID PERSONNEL WHO HAVE RENDERED AT LEAST TWELVE CONSECUTIVE YEARS OF EFFICIENT SERVICE UNDER TEMPORARY STATUS”

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

House Bill No. 6623, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOLS FROM DISALLOWING STUDENTS WITH DELINQUENT TUITION FEES TO TAKE THE MID-TERM OR FINAL EXAMINATIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lopez (C.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6624, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING THE CONVERSION OF A MUNICIPALITY INTO A COMPONENT CITY IN A PROVINCE THAT DOES NOT HAVE AN EXISTING COMPONENT CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 450 OF RA 7160, AS AMENDED BY RA 9009, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Ramirez-Sato
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6626, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE ORANI DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ORANI, PROVINCE OF BATAAN INTO A GENERAL HOSPITAL TO BE KNOWN AS ANTONINO ‘TONY’ P. ROMAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FROM FIFTY (50) TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Roman
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6627, entitled:

“AN ACT UPGRADING THE BENEFITS AND INCENTIVES OF BARANGAY TANOD MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENDERED AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF SERVICE IN THE BARANGAY GOVERNMENT”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6628, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REQUIRE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING ON PRESCRIPTION AND OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6629, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING ALL GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, INSTRUMENTALITIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND -CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCs) AND PRIVATE ESTABLISHMENTS TO USE SECURITY WATER-MARKED PAPER IN ALL RECEIPTS AND INVOICES, PERMITS, LICENSES, CLEARANCES, OFFICIAL PAPERS OR DOCUMENTS”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 6630, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A HIGHWAY SAFETY PROGRAM IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6631, entitled:

“AN ACT TO INCLUDE PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE IN THE LIST OF PUBLIC OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED UNDER THE LOCAL ABSENTEE VOTING, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 12 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS, ‘AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 6635, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 46 OF REPUBLIC ACT 8749, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE CLEAR AIR ACT OF 1999”

By Representative Mariño
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

OF BISHOP BRO. EDUARDO ‘EDDIE’ C. VILLANUEVA ON THE CELEBRATION OF ITS 39TH ANNIVERSARY ON OCTOBER 27, 2017”

By Representatives Villanueva, Lazatin and Yap (V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1408, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AND THE ARMM TO FURTHER INCREASE THE BUDGET OF ARMM’S LINE AGENCIES”

By Representative Dimaporo (M.K.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON MUSLIM AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 1415, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF FORMER DEPUTY SPEAKER AND REPRESENTATIVE HENEDINA RAZON ABAD OF THE LONE DISTRICT OF BATANES”

By Representatives Quimbo, Belmonte (J.C.), Abaya, Amatong, Bag-ao, Banal, Billones, Bordado, Daza, De Venecia, Del Mar, Deloso-Montalla, Lagman, Limkaichong, Mariño, Ramirez-Sato, Relampagos, Santos-Recto and Sarmiento (E.M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1409, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO ASSESS THE ADMINISTRATIVE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN DEPED ARMM AND DEPED CENTRAL OFFICE”

By Representative Dimaporo (M.K.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1416, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOTR), PHILIPPINE NATIONAL RAILWAYS (PNR), NORTHERN LUZON RAILWAY CORPORATION (NLRC), TO IMMEDIATELY RESTORE, REHABILITATE AND RESUME THE OPERATIONS OF RAILWAY SYSTEM FROM MANILA TO NORTHERN LUZON ROUTE”

By Representatives Bataoil, Espino, Sy-Alvarado, Pancho, Silverio, Villarica, Lazatin, Macapagal-Arroyo, Gonzales (A.D.), Yap (V.), De Venecia, Ortega (P.) and Eriguel

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Resolution No. 1410, entitled:

“RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE PROPOSED RULES OF PROCEDURE IN THE FILING, REVIEW AND DISCLOSURE OF, AND ACCESS TO, THE STATEMENTS OF ASSETS, LIABILITIES AND NET WORTH (SALNs) OF MEMBERS, OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas, Bondoc and Umali
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1417, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED MASS MIGRATION OF PRIVATE SCHOOL TEACHERS TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON ACCOUNT OF HIGHER COMPENSATION WITH THE END IN VIEW OF ENACTING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO ADDRESS THE SAME”

By Representative Vergara
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1412, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF BATANES CONGRESSWOMAN HENEDINA R. ABAD”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1414, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE JESUS IS LORD CHURCH WORLDWIDE (‘JIL CHURCH’) UNDER THE LEADERSHIP

House Resolution No. 1420, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE

COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE UTILIZATION OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND (SEF) BY THE PROVINCIAL, MUNICIPAL AND CITY LOCAL SCHOOL BOARDS (LSB)”

By Representative Roman
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1422, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (UP DILIMAN) COLLEGE OF LAW FOR WINNING THE 2017 NATIONAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION ON INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW (IHL) HELD AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BGC CAMPUS FROM OCTOBER 2 TO 6, 2017”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 1423, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (DND) THRU ITS SECRETARY HON. DELFIN N. LORENZANA AND THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) THRU CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL EDUARDO AÑO FOR NEUTRALIZING TERRORIST LEADERS ISNILON HAPILON AND OMAR MAUTE”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Resolution No. 1424, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONFERRING THE CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF ACHIEVEMENT TO BUSINESS ICON, MR. WASHINGTON ‘WASH’ SYCIP”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1425, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES TO BUSINESS ICON, MR. WASHINGTON ‘WASH’ SYCIP”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1426, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE PROPER HOUSE COMMITTEES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE FIFTY (50) PESOS ADDITIONAL CHARGE FOR PAPER BILLING OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANIES”

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

House Resolution No. 1427, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE APPRECIATION OF A GRATEFUL NATION TO RICARDO CARDINAL J. VIDAL, ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS OF CEBU, AND THE GRIEF OF ITS PEOPLE OVER THE PASSING AWAY OF THE GOOD CARDINAL-PRIEST LAST OCTOBER 18, 2017, RECOGNIZING AND LAUDING HIS THIRTY-FIVE (35) YEARS OF SERVICE AS SPIRITUAL LEADER AND PEACEMAKER, TO CEBUANOS AND TO THE NATION”

By Representative Del Mar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1428, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF THE FIRST FEMALE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION, DR. LOURDES REYNES QUISUMBING”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1429, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF MOVIE TELEVISION REVIEW AND CLASSIFICATION BOARD (MTRCB) BOARD MEMBER ‘MR. EMMANUEL ‘MANING’ BORLAZA’ ”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1430, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF VETERAN ACTOR MR. RAMON GIL ‘CHINGGOY’ ALONSO”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1431, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CEBU ARCHBISHOP EMERITUS RICARDO CARDINAL VIDAL”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1432, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE LEGALITY OF DEPED ORDER NO. 38, SERIES OF 2017 WHICH REDUCED THE NET TAKE HOME PAY OF THE TEACHING PERSONNEL AND OTHER EMPLOYEES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION BELOW P4,000”

By Representative Tinio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1433, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES TO IMMEDIATELY CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE RECENTLY REPORTED IMPROPER AND ALLEGEDLY ILLEGAL ACT OF STOCKS TRADING OF CERTAIN KEY OFFICIALS OF SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM (SSS) LEADING TO INVESTMENTS OPPORTUNITY LOSSES OF THE SSS TO THE PREJUDICE OF THE CORPORATION AND ITS MEMBERS, AND TO RECOMMEND APPROPRIATE LEGISLATION”

By Representative Evardone
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1434, entitled:

“RESOLUTION FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED CONFLICT OF INTERESTS AND PROFITEERING OF SSS EXECUTIVES”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Joint Resolution No. 16, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE IN BASE PAY OF MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bertiz
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Joint Resolution No. 17, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE IN BASE PAY OF MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Joint Resolution No. 18, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE IN BASE PAY OF MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas, Suarez and Nograles (K.A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Joint Resolution No. 19, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE IN BASE PAY OF MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Yap
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

11 October 2017

SPEAKER PANTALEON D. ALVAREZ

House Speaker
House of Representatives
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

Dear Speaker Alvarez:

Pursuant to the provisions of Article VI, Section 26 (2) of the 1987 Constitution, I hereby certify to the necessity of the immediate enactment of Senate Bill No. 1592 (the proposed Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Act), entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 24, 25, 31, 34, 51, 79, 84, 86, 89, 90, 97, 99, 100, 101, 106, 107, 108, 109, 112, 114, 116, 148, 149, 150, 151, 155, 171, 196, 232, 237, 249, 264 AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 148-A, 150-A, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B AND 265-A; ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

to address the immediate need for tax reforms in order to achieve a simpler, fairer, and more efficient tax

system characterized by lower personal income tax rates, a broader value-added tax (VAT) base, and higher excise taxes on oil products and automobiles, among others. The benefits to be derived from this tax reform measure will sustainably finance the Government’s envisioned massive investments in infrastructure to encourage economic activity and job creation, as well as increase the public budget for health, education and social programs to alleviate poverty.

Best regards.

Very truly yours,

(SGD.) RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

Copy Furnished:

Sen. Aquilino “Koko” Pimentel III
Senate President
The Philippine Senate
Pasay City

Sec. Adelino B. Sitoy
Head
Presidential Legislative Liaison Office
2/F New Executive Bldg.
Malacañang, Manila

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated October 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1466, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE IMPOSITION OF EXPIRY DATES ON GIFT CHECKS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

and House Bill No. 6016, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE ISSUANCE, USE AND REDEMPTION OF GIFT CHECKS, GIFT CERTIFICATES AND GIFT CARDS”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated October 12, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on October 11, 2017, approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1465, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FREE IRRIGATION SERVICE TO SMALL FARMERS, REVOKING FOR THE PURPOSE THE CORPORATE STATUS OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION

ADMINISTRATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

and House Bill No. 5670, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING ASSISTANCE TO ALL FARMERS BY PROVIDING FREE IRRIGATION SERVICE FEE AND ALL OTHER SIMILAR OR RELATED FEES OR CHARGES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 552 AND PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1702, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION ACT, AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8435, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MODERNIZATION ACT OF 1997, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated 9 September 2017 of Niño Raymond B. Alvina, OIC Executive Director, Bureau of Local Government Finance, Department of Finance, furnishing the House of Representatives with the 2017 Quarterly Reports on Income and Expenditures of Local Government Units (LGUs) covering the period of Q1 and Q2.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 14 September 2017 of Diwa C. Guinigundo, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting the data/Report on outstanding Philippine external debt as of 30 June 2017 which were noted by the Monetary Board on even date.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 14 September 2017 of Diwa C. Guinigundo, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives with a Report on Economic and Financial Developments in the Philippines, Second

Quarter 2017, pursuant to Section 39(a), Chapter I, Article V of Republic Act No. 7653.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

2016 Accomplishment Report of the Department of Foreign Affairs per letter dated 15 September 2017 of Denis Yap Lepatan, Assistant Secretary, Office of Policy Planning and Coordination, Department of Foreign Affairs.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN
AFFAIRS

Letter dated September 19, 2017 of Lydia S. Adoremos, Director III, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Regional Director, Regional Office No. V, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with the CY 2016 Annual Audit Reports on the following Water Districts in Region V:

1. Baras Water District, Baras, Catanduanes;
2. Bato Water District, Bato, Catanduanes;
3. Iriga City Water District, Rufino Llagas St., San Roque, Iriga City;
4. Masbate-Mobo Water District, Masbate City;
5. Nabua Water District, Nabua, Camarines Sur; and
6. Pili Water District, Pili, Camarines Sur.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated September 20, 2017 of Michael R. Bacani, OIC-Regional Director, Regional Office No. I, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with the CY 2016 Annual Audit Reports, Management Letter, Narrative Report on the following Water Districts in Region I:

1. Ilocos Norte Water District, Laoag City;
2. Batac Water District, Batac, Ilocos Norte;
3. Dingras Water District, Dingras, Ilocos Norte;
4. Nueva Era Water District, Neuva Era, Ilocos Norte;
5. Pagudpud Water District, Pagudpud, Ilocos Norte;
6. Bangui Water District, Bangui, Ilocos Norte;
7. San Nicolas Water District, San Nicolas, Ilocos Norte;
8. Sarrat Water District, Sarrat, Ilocos Norte;
9. Metro Vigan Water District, Vigan City, Ilocos Sur;
10. Sinait Water District, Sinait, Ilocos Sur;
11. Santa Water District, Santa, Ilocos Sur;
12. Narvacan Water District, Narvacan, Ilocos Sur;
13. Candon City Water District, Candon City, Ilocos Sur;
14. Sta. Lucia Water District, Sta. Lucia, Ilocos Sur;

15. Tagudin Water District, Tagudin, Ilocos Sur;
16. Metro San Fernando Water District, City of San Fernando, La Union;
17. Balaoan Water District, Balaoan, La Union;
18. Naguilian Water District, Naguilian, La Union;
19. Rosario Water District, Rosario, La Union;
20. Poro Point Management Corporation, City of San Fernando, La Union;
21. Alaminos City Water District, Alaminos, Pangasinan;
22. Bani Water District, Bani, Pangasinan;
23. Basista Water District, Basista, Pangasinan;
24. Bayambang Water District, Bayambang, Pangasinan;
25. Binmaley Water District, Binmaley, Pangasinan;
26. Bugallon Water District, Bugallon, Pangasinan;
27. Dagupan City Water District, Dagupan City, Pangasinan;
28. Dasol Water District, Dasol, Pangasinan;
29. Lingayen Water District, Lingayen, Pangasinan;
30. San Carlos City Water District, San Carlos City, Pangasinan;
31. Urbiztondo Water District, Urbiztondo, Pangasinan;
32. Asingan Water District, Asingan, Pangasinan;
33. Manaoag Water District, Manaoag, Pangasinan;
34. Mangaldan Water District, Mangaldan, Pangasinan;
35. Mapandan Water District, Mapandan, Pangasinan;
36. Pozorrubio Water District, Pozorrubio, Pangasinan;
37. San Manuel Water District, San Manuel, Pangasinan;
38. Sto. Tomas Water District, Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan;
39. Binalonan Water District, Binalonan, Pangasinan;
40. Alcala Water District, Alcala, Pangasinan;
41. Balungao Water District, Balungao, Pangasinan;
42. Villasis Water District, Villasis, Pangasinan;
43. Metro Tayug Water District, Tayug, Pangasinan;
44. Rosales Water District, Rosales, Pangasinan;
45. San Nicolas Water District, San Nicolas, Pangasinan;
46. San Quintin Water District, San Quintin, Pangasinan;
47. Santa Maria Water District, Sta. Maria, Pangasinan;

48. Umingan Water District, Umingan, Pangasinan;
and
49. Urdaneta City Water District, Urdaneta City,
Pangasinan.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 456), re H.B. No. 6607, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE LAWA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY LAPUAN, MUNICIPALITY OF DON MARCELINO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL FROM THE LAWA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS LUISA JOYCE MALLARI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5144

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.) and Bautista-Bandigan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 457), re H.B. No. 6608, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE FISHING VILLAGE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY MANA, MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL FROM THE FISHING VILLAGE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BENJAMIN VELASCO BAUTISTA SR. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5142

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.) and Baustista-Bandigan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare (Committee Report No. 458), re H.R. No. 1411, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND APPRECIATION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON BEHALF OF THE VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II,

TO THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS FOR THE PASSAGE OF THE MEASURE AUTHORIZING THE CONFERMENT OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO THE FILIPINO VETERANS OF WORLD WAR II COLLECTIVELY IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR DEDICATED SERVICE DURING WORLD WAR II”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 608

Sponsor: Representative Bataoil

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 459), re H.B. No. 6613, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 20 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE IN HONOR OF DOÑA JOSEFA LLANES ESCODA, THE WORLD WAR II HEROINE AND FOUNDER OF THE GIRL SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES, AND CALLING IT ‘DOÑA JOSEFA LLANES ESCODA DAY’”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2028

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Marcos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism (Committee Report No. 460), re H.R. No. 1418, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT), THROUGH THE TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENTERPRISE ZONE AUTHORITY (TIEZA), TO ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC RESTROOMS ALONG THE EASTERN AND WESTERN NAUTICAL HIGHWAYS OF THE PHILIPPINES”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 951

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez and Sandoval

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 461), re H.R. No. 243, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING HIS EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO ISSUE AN EXECUTIVE ORDER AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER 248 DATED MAY 29, 1995, EXECUTIVE ORDER 248-A DATED AUGUST 14, 1995 AND

EXECUTIVE ORDER 298 DATED MARCH 23, 2004 TO IMPLEMENT AN INCREASE IN TRAVEL ALLOWANCES FOR LOCAL TRAVELS OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PERSONNEL”

recommending its adoption

Sponsors: Representatives Nograles (K.A.) and De Vera

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 462), re H.B. No. 6617, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE COMPREHENSIVE POLICY ON HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV) AND ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) PREVENTION, TREATMENT, CARE AND SUPPORT, AND ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL HIV AND AIDS PLAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8504, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘PHILIPPINE AIDS PREVENTION AND CONTROL ACT OF 1998’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 53, 253, 538, 581, 663, 1106, 1804, 1973, 2023, 2511, 2674, 3146, 3161, 3536, 3978, 4276 and 5145

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Bag-ao, Roque (H.) and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 463), re H.B. No. 6618, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A ONE HUNDRED (100)-BED CAPACITY HOSPITAL IN BARANGAY HABAY 2 IN THE CITY OF BACOR, PROVINCE OF CAVITE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BACOR DISTRICT HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1678

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Revilla and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 464), re H.B. No. 6619, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER FROM FIVE

HUNDRED (500) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5442

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Go (M.) and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 465), re H.B. No. 6620, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF ST. ANTHONY MOTHER AND CHILD HOSPITAL IN CEBU CITY, FROM TWENTY-FIVE (25) TO ONE HUNDRED (100), AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4824

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Abellanosa and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 466), re H.B. No. 6621, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE ADELA SERRA TY MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER IN TANDAG CITY, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL SUR, FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO ONE THOUSAND (1,000) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4679

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Pichay, Pimentel and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 467), re H.B. No. 2849, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF VETERANS REGIONAL HOSPITAL IN BAYOMBONG, NUEVA VIZCAYA FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500), UPGRADING ITS SERVICES, FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, CHANGING ITS NAME TO REGION II TRAUMA AND MEDICAL CENTER, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendment
Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Cuaresma and
Nogralas (K.A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee
on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 468), re
H.B. No. 639, entitled:

“ANACTESTABLISHINGADISTRICTHOSPITAL
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA ELENA,
PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, TO BE
KNOWN AS THE SANTA ELENA DISTRICT
HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendment
Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Unico, Garbin
and Nogralas (K.A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee
on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 469), re
H.B. No. 1955, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY
OF RIZAL MEDICAL CENTER IN PASIG
CITY FROM THREE HUNDRED (300)
TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval without amendment
Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Eusebio and
Nogralas (K.A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee
on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 470), re
H.B. No. 1574, entitled:

“ANACTPROVIDINGFOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF A SUPER HEALTH CENTER AND LYING-
IN CLINIC IN BARANGAY SAN AGUSTIN,
QUEZON CITY AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval with amendments
Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Vargas and
Nogralas (K.A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical
Education (Committee Report No. 471), re H.R.
No. 1419, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND
COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY
OF SAN CARLOS (USC)-SCHOOL OF
LAW AND GOVERNANCE IN CEBU
CITY AND ITS BAR TOPNOTCHERS
AND PASSERS FOR EXEMPLARY
PERFORMANCE IN THE 2016 PHILIPPINE
BAR EXAMINATION”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House
Resolutions Numbered 968 and 979
Sponsors: Representatives Hofer and Garcia (G.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Natural Resources (Committee
Report No. 472), re H.B. No. 6625, entitled:

“AN ACT CLASSIFYING BAMBOO AS AN
UNREGULATED FOREST PRODUCT AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bill No. 4577

Sponsors: Representatives Ty and Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism (Committee
Report No. 473), re H.R. No. 1421, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE
DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) TO
INSTITUTIONALIZE AND PROMOTE THE
KALAPATI FESTIVAL OF BARANGAY
HOLY SPIRIT IN QUEZON CITY”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House
Resolution No. 450

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez and Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and
Highways (Committee Report No. 474), re H.B.
No. 6632, entitled:

“ANACTRENAMING THE PUERTO PRINCESA
CITY SOUTH ROAD, STRETCHING FROM
THE NATIONAL ROAD AT JUNCTION
1, PUERTO PRINCESA CITY PASSING
THROUGH THE MUNICIPALITIES
OF ABORLAN, NARRA, SOFRONIO
ESPAÑOLA, BARANGAY RIO TUBA IN
THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATARAZA AT
THE EAST COAST, AND TURNING BACK
TO PUERTO PRINCESA CITY FROM THE
WEST COAST, AGAIN PASSING THOSE
MUNICIPALITIES UP TO BARANGAY
BACUNGAN, PUERTO PRINCESA CITY,
PROVINCE OF PALAWAN, AS GOVERNOR
ALFREDO M. ABUEG NATIONAL
CIRCUMFERENTIAL ROAD”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bill No. 4764

Sponsors: Representatives Lobregat and Abueg
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and
Highways and the Committee on Appropriations
(Committee Report No. 475), re H.B. No. 6633,
entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AREA

EQUIPMENT SERVICES OFFICE IN THE SECOND DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE OF THE PROVINCE OF SULU, TO BE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LUUK, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2751

Sponsors: Representatives Lobregat, Nograles (K.A.) and Arbison

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 476), re H.B. No. 6634, entitled:

“AN ACT RE-NUMBERING THE CEBU 1ST, 2ND AND 4TH DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICES TO CONFORM AND CORRESPOND, RESPECTIVELY, WITH THE NUMBERING OF THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5171

Sponsors: Representatives Lobregat, Salimbangon, Gullas, Caminero, Cortes, Garcia (G.), Durano, Calderon and Del Mar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs (Committee Report No. 477), re H.B. No. 6649, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS TO INCLUDE FINANCIAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 1072 and 1330

Sponsor: Representative Manalo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HERRERA-DY. I move that we acknowledge the presence of my guests who are in the gallery this afternoon, US State Senator from Georgia, Sen. Emanuel Davie Jones, together with his son Emanuel Davie II. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Welcome to the House of Representatives.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, we would like also to recognize the guests of the Representative from AKBAYAN Party-List, Rep. Tomasito “Tom” S. Villarain, the delegation coming from different organizations: Youth for Mental Health Coalition; Student Council Alliance of the Philippines; National Youth Commission; National Police Commission; Philippine Psychiatric Association; Psychological Association of the Philippines; Alliance of Filipino Families for Mental Health; and other advocates of mental health from various schools, universities, and organizations in the Philippines.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please rise. *(Applause)* Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we include additional coauthors to House Bills No. 6589, 6578, 6288, 6452, 6425, 6517, 6573 and 6574 as contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, with leave of the House, I move that we take up Bills on Third Reading.

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

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6452
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6452 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 November 8, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

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

The 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. 37, dated November 20, 2017:

Affirmative

Abaya	Belmonte (R.)	Dimaporo (A.)	Mariño
Abayon	Bernos	Dimaporo (M.K.)	Marquez
Abellanos	Billones	Durano	Martinez
Abu	Bolilia	Dy	Matugas
Abueg	Bondoc	Elago	Mellana
Acharon	Bordado	Enverga	Mendoza
Acop	Bravo (A.)	Eriguel	Mercado
Advincula	Bravo (M.V.)	Ermита-Buhain	Mirasol
Agarao	Brosas	Escudero	Montoro
Aggabao	Bulut-Begtang	Espina	Nava
Aglipay-Villar	Cagas	Espino	Nieto
Alejano	Calderon	Estrella	Noel
Almario	Calixto-Rubiano	Evardone	Nogralas (K.A.)
Almonte	Caminero	Fariñas	Nolasco
Alonte	Campos	Fernando	Oaminal
Alvarez (F.)	Canama	Ferrer (L.)	Olivarez
Alvarez (P.)	Casilao	Floirendo	Ong (E.)
Amatong	Castelo	Fortun	Ong (H.)
Andaya	Castro (F.L.)	Fortuno	Ortega (P.)
Angara-Castillo	Cayetano	Fuentebella	Ortega (V.N.)
Antonio	Celeste	Garbin	Pacquiao
Aquino-Magsaysay	Cerilles	Garcia (G.)	Paduano
Aragones	Chavez	Garin (S.)	Palma
Arcillas	Collantes	Gasataya	Pancho
Arenas	Cortes	Geron	Panganiban
Atienza	Cortuna	Go (A.C.)	Panotes
Bag-ao	Cosalan	Go (M.)	Papandayan
Bagatsing	Crisologo	Gonzaga	Pichay
Banal	Dalipe	Gonzales (A.P.)	Pimentel
Barbers	Datol	Gonzales (A.D.)	Pineda
Barzaga	Daza	Gonzalez	Plaza
Bataoil	De Jesus	Gullas	Primicias-Agabas
Batocabe	De Vera	Herrera-Dy	Radaza
Bautista-Bandigan	Defensor	Hofer	Ramos
Belaro	Del Mar	Kho	Relampagos
Belmonte (F.)	Del Rosario	Khonghun	Revilla
Belmonte (J.C.)	Deloso-Montalla	Labadlabad	Roa-Puno
		Lacson	Rocamora
		Lagman	Rodriguez (I.)
		Lanete	Romualdez
		Lazatin	Romualdo
		Leachon	Roque (R.)
		Limkaichong	Sacdalán
		Lobregat	Sagarbarria
		Lopez (B.)	Salimbangon
		Lopez (C.)	Salo
		Lopez (M.L.)	Salon
		Macapagal-Arroyo	Sandoval
		Maceda	Santos-Recto
		Madrona	Sarmiento (C.)
		Malapitan	Sarmiento (E.M.)
		Manalo	Savellano
		Mangaoang	Sema
		Mangudadatu (Z.)	Siao
		Marcoleta	Silverio
		Marcos	Singson

Suansing (E.) Uybarreta
 Suansing (H.) Vargas
 Suarez Velarde
 Tambunting Velasco-Catera
 Tan (A.) Veloso
 Tan (M.) Vergara
 Tan (S.) Villafuerte
 Teves Villanueva
 Tiangco Villaraza-Suarez
 Ting Villarica
 Tinio Villarin
 Tugna Violago
 Tupas Yap (A.)
 Ty Yap (V.)
 Unabia Yu
 Ungab Zamora (R.)
 Unico Zarate
 Uy (J.) Zubiri
 Uy (R.)

vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6571 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 November 8, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6571, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP AND RETURN SERVICE PROGRAM FOR DESERVING STUDENTS 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. 37, dated November 20, 2017:

Negative

None

Abstention

None

Affirmative

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Edcel C. Lagman is hereby recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. I vote “Yes” on this measure and I reserve my right to file in writing the explanation of my affirmative vote.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6452
 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro F.H.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6452 is approved on Third Reading. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6571
 ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we

Abaya	Atienza
Abayon	Bag-ao
Abellanos	Bagatsing
Abu	Banal
Abueg	Barbers
Acharon	Barzaga
Acop	Bataoil
Advincula	Batocabe
Agarao	Bautista-Bandigan
Aggabao	Belaro
Aglipay-Villar	Belmonte (F.)
Alejano	Belmonte (J.C.)
Almario	Belmonte (R.)
Almonte	Bernos
Alonte	Billones
Alvarez (F.)	Bolilia
Alvarez (P.)	Bondoc
Amatong	Bordado
Andaya	Bravo (A.)
Angara-Castillo	Bravo (M.V.)
Antonio	Brosas
Aquino-Magsaysay	Bulut-Begtang
Aragones	Cagas
Arcillas	Calderon
Arenas	Calixto-Rubiano

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Caminero	Herrera-Dy	Radaza	Teves
Campos	Hofer	Ramos	Tiangco
Canama	Kho	Relampagos	Ting
Casilao	Khonghun	Revilla	Tinio
Castelo	Labadlabad	Roa-Puno	Tugna
Castro (F.L.)	Lacson	Rocamora	Tupas
Cayetano	Lagman	Rodriguez (I.)	Ty
Celeste	Lanete	Romualdez	Unabia
Cerilles	Lazatin	Romualdo	Ungab
Chavez	Leachon	Roque (R.)	Unico
Collantes	Limkaichong	Sacdalan	Uy (J.)
Cortes	Lobregat	Sagarbarria	Uy (R.)
Cortuna	Lopez (B.)	Salimbangon	Uybarreta
Cosalan	Lopez (C.)	Salo	Vargas
Crisologo	Lopez (M.L.)	Salon	Velarde
Dalipe	Macapagal-Arroyo	Sandoval	Velasco-Catera
Datol	Maceda	Santos-Recto	Veloso
Daza	Madrona	Sarmiento (C.)	Vergara
De Jesus	Malapitan	Sarmiento (E.M.)	Villafuerte
De Vera	Manalo	Savellano	Villanueva
Defensor	Mangaoang	Sema	Villaraza-Suarez
Del Mar	Mangudadatu (Z.)	Siao	Villarica
Del Rosario	Marcoleta	Silverio	Villarin
Deloso-Montalla	Marcos	Singson	Violago
Dimaporo (A.)	Mariño	Suansing (E.)	Yap (A.)
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Marquez	Suansing (H.)	Yap (V.)
Durano	Martinez	Suarez	Yu
Dy	Matugas	Tambunting	Zamora (R.)
Elago	Mellana	Tan (A.)	Zarate
Enverga	Mendoza	Tan (M.)	Zubiri
Eriguel	Mercado	Tan (S.)	
Ermita-Buhain	Mirasol		
Escudero	Montoro	<i>Negative</i>	
Espina	Nava		
Espino	Nieto	None	
Estrella	Noel		
Evardone	Nogralas (K.A.)	<i>Abstention</i>	
Fariñas	Nolasco		
Fernando	Oaminal	None	
Ferrer (L.)	Olivarez		
Floirendo	Ong (E.)		
Fortun	Ong (H.)		
Fortuno	Ortega (P.)		
Fuentebella	Ortega (V.N.)		
Garbin	Pacquiao		
Garcia (G.)	Paduano		
Garin (S.)	Palma		
Gasataya	Pancho		
Geron	Panganiban		
Go (A.C.)	Panotes		
Go (M.)	Papandayan		
Gonzaga	Pichay		
Gonzales (A.P.)	Pimentel		
Gonzales (A.D.)	Pineda		
Gonzalez	Plaza		
Gullas	Primicias-Agabas		

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6571
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. CASTRO, F.H.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6571 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker, this Representation from KABATAAN Party-List would like to manifest her intent to submit a written explanation of our “Yes” vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.) The Chair cannot act simply on manifestation. If you want the Chair to act that you be given the opportunity to submit your written explanation, it should be in the form of a motion.

REP. ELAGO. All right.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.) The Chair now wants to hear the motion.

REP. ELAGO. Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, with that, may I move that the Lady, Mr. Speaker, be given the opportunity to file her written explanation on her vote on the just-approved measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.) Is there any objection to the motion of the Majority Leader? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.*

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6579
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Thank you, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6579 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 November 8, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6579, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL POLICY ON EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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. 37, dated November 20, 2017:

Affirmative

Abaya	Abu
Abayon	Abueg
Abellanosa	Acharon

Acop	Collantes
Advincula	Cortes
Agarao	Cortuna
Aggabao	Cosalan
Aglipay-Villar	Crisologo
Alejano	Dalipe
Almario	Datol
Almonte	Daza
Alonte	De Jesus
Alvarez (F.)	De Vera
Alvarez (P.)	Defensor
Amatong	Del Mar
Andaya	Del Rosario
Angara-Castillo	Deloso-Montalla
Antonio	Dimaporo (A.)
Aquino-Magsaysay	Dimaporo (M.K.)
Aragones	Durano
Arcillas	Dy
Arenas	Elago
Atienza	Enverga
Bag-ao	Eriguel
Bagatsing	Ermita-Buhain
Banal	Escudero
Barbers	Espina
Barzaga	Espino
Bataoil	Estrella
Batocabe	Evardone
Bautista-Bandigan	Fariñas
Belaro	Fernando
Belmonte (F.)	Ferrer (L.)
Belmonte (J.C.)	Floirendo
Belmonte (R.)	Fortun
Bernos	Fortuno
Billones	Fuentebella
Bolilia	Garbin
Bondoc	Garcia (G.)
Bordado	Garin (S.)
Bravo (A.)	Gasataya
Bravo (M.V.)	Gatchalian
Brosas	Geron
Bulut-Begtang	Go (A.C.)
Cagas	Go (M.)
Calderon	Gonzaga
Calixto-Rubiano	Gonzales (A.P.)
Caminero	Gonzales (A.D.)
Campos	Gonzalez
Canama	Gullas
Casilao	Herrera-Dy
Castelo	Hofer
Castro (F.L.)	Javier
Cayetano	Kho
Celeste	Khonghun
Cerilles	Labadlabad
Chavez	Lacson

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Lagman	Rodriguez (I.)	<i>Negative</i>
Lanete	Romualdez	
Lazatin	Romualdo	None
Leachon	Roque (R.)	
Limkaichong	Sacdalan	<i>Abstention</i>
Lobregat	Sagarbarria	
Lopez (B.)	Salimbangon	None
Lopez (C.)	Salo	
Lopez (M.L.)	Salon	
Macapagal-Arroyo	Sandoval	
Maceda	Santos-Recto	
Madrona	Sarmiento (C.)	
Malapitan	Sarmiento (E.M.)	
Manalo	Savellano	
Mangaoang	Sema	
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Siao	
Marcoleta	Silverio	
Marcos	Singson	
Mariño	Suansing (E.)	
Marquez	Suansing (H.)	
Martinez	Suarez	
Matugas	Tambunting	
Mellana	Tan (A.)	
Mendoza	Tan (M.)	
Mercado	Tan (S.)	
Mirasol	Teves	
Montoro	Tiangco	
Nava	Ting	
Nieto	Tinio	
Noel	Tugna	
Nogralas (K.A.)	Tupas	
Nolasco	Ty	
Oaminal	Unabia	
Olivarez	Ungab	
Ong (E.)	Unico	
Ong (H.)	Uy (J.)	
Ortega (P.)	Uy (R.)	
Ortega (V.N.)	Uybarreta	
Pacquiao	Vargas	
Paduano	Velarde	
Palma	Velasco-Catera	
Pancho	Veloso	
Panganiban	Vergara	
Panotes	Villafuerte	
Papandayan	Villanueva	
Pichay	Villaraza-Suarez	
Pimentel	Villarica	
Pineda	Villarin	
Plaza	Violago	
Primicias-Agabas	Yap (A.)	
Radaza	Yap (V.)	
Ramos	Yu	
Relampagos	Zamora (R.)	
Revilla	Zarate	
Roa-Puno	Zubiri	
Rocamora		

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6579
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 225 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6579 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Gentlemen from COOP NATCCO, the Hon. Sabiniano S. Canama and the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD. They are Doris Canares, Delia Suplig, Veronica Paclibar, Annabelle Perez, Jocelyn Inot, Alan Merida, Franz Joshua Merida, William Inot, Erwin Alcober, Rodulfo Dakay Jr., Elfred Layam, Larry Banes, Colin Diano, and Buenaventura Canares Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6589
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6589, and please direct the Secretary General to read the title of this measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). 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 November 8, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6589, entitled: AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE REQUIREMENTS IMPOSED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM REGARDING LAND

REGISTRATION TO FACILITATE SPEED AND EFFICIENCY IN LAND REGISTRATION.

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. 37, dated November 20, 2017:

Affirmative

Abaya	Bravo (A.)	Fortuno	Ong (E.)
Abayon	Bravo (M.V.)	Fuentebella	Ong (H.)
Abellanos	Bulut-Begtang	Garbin	Ortega (P.)
Abu	Cagas	Garcia (G.)	Ortega (V.N.)
Abueg	Calderon	Garin (S.)	Pacquiao
Acharon	Calixto-Rubiano	Gasataya	Paduano
Acop	Caminero	Gatchalian	Palma
Advincula	Campos	Geron	Pancho
Agarao	Canama	Go (A.C.)	Panganiban
Aggabao	Castelo	Go (M.)	Panotes
Aglipay-Villar	Cayetano	Gonzaga	Papandayan
Alejano	Celeste	Gonzales (A.P.)	Pichay
Almario	Cerilles	Gonzales (A.D.)	Pimentel
Almonte	Chavez	Gonzalez	Pineda
Alonte	Collantes	Gullas	Plaza
Alvarez (F.)	Cortes	Herrera-Dy	Primicias-Agabas
Alvarez (P.)	Cortuna	Hofer	Radaza
Amatong	Cosalan	Javier	Ramos
Andaya	Crisologo	Kho	Relampagos
Angara-Castillo	Dalipe	Khonghun	Revilla
Antonio	Datol	Labadlabad	Roa-Puno
Aquino-Magsaysay	Daza	Lacson	Rocamora
Aragones	De Vera	Lagman	Rodriguez (I.)
Arcillas	Defensor	Lanete	Romualdez
Arenas	Del Mar	Lazatin	Romualdo
Atienza	Del Rosario	Leachon	Roque (R.)
Bag-ao	Deloso-Montalla	Limkaichong	Sacdalán
Bagatsing	Dimaporo (A.)	Lobregat	Sagarbarria
Banal	Dimaporo (M.K.)	Lopez (B.)	Salimbangon
Barbers	Durano	Lopez (C.)	Salo
Barzaga	Dy	Lopez (M.L.)	Salon
Bataoil	Enverga	Macapagal-Arroyo	Sandoval
Batocabe	Eriguel	Maceda	Santos-Recto
Bautista-Bandigan	Ermita-Buhain	Madrona	Sarmiento (C.)
Belaro	Escudero	Malapitan	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Belmonte (F.)	Espina	Manalo	Savellano
Belmonte (J.C.)	Espino	Mangaoang	Sema
Belmonte (R.)	Estrella	Mangudadatu (Z.)	Siao
Bernos	Evardone	Marcoleta	Silverio
Bertiz	Fariñas	Marcos	Singson
Billones	Fernando	Mariño	Suansing (E.)
Bolilia	Ferrer (L.)	Marquez	Suansing (H.)
Bondoc	Floirendo	Martinez	Suarez
Bordado	Fortun	Matugas	Tambunting
		Mellana	Tan (A.)
		Mendoza	Tan (M.)
		Mercado	Tan (S.)
		Mirasol	Teves
		Montoro	Tiangco
		Nava	Ting
		Nieto	Tugna
		Noel	Tupas
		Nogralas (K.A.)	Ty
		Nolasco	Unabia
		Oaminal	Ungab
		Olivarez	Unico

Uy (J.) Villaraza-Suarez
 Uy (R.) Villarica
 Uybarreta Villarín
 Vargas Violago
 Velarde Yap (A.)
 Velasco-Catera Yap (V.)
 Veloso Yu
 Vergara Zamora (R.)
 Villafuerte Zubiri
 Villanueva

Negative

Brosas Elago
 Casilao Tinio
 Castro (F.L.) Zarate
 De Jesus

Abstention

None

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6589
 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 219 affirmative votes, seven negative votes and no abstention, House Bill No. 6589 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6590
 ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6590 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 November 8, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6590, entitled: AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3019, AS AMENDED, ENTITLED THE “ANTI-GRAFT AND CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT.”

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. 37, dated November 20, 2017:

Affirmative

Abaya Cagas
 Abayon Calderon
 Abellanosa Calixto-Rubiano
 Abu Caminero
 Abueg Campos
 Acharon Canama
 Acop Casilao
 Acosta-Alba Castelo
 Advincula Castro (F.L.)
 Agarao Cayetano
 Aggabao Celeste
 Aglipay-Villar Cerilles
 Alejano Chavez
 Almario Chipeco
 Almonte Collantes
 Alonte Cortes
 Alvarez (F.) Cortuna
 Alvarez (P.) Cosalan
 Amatong Crisologo
 Andaya Cuaresma
 Angara-Castillo Dalipe
 Antonio Datol
 Aquino-Magsaysay Daza
 Aragones De Jesus
 Arcillas De Vera
 Arenas Defensor
 Atienza Del Mar
 Bag-ao Del Rosario
 Bagatsing Deloso-Montalla
 Banal Dimaporo (A.)
 Barbers Dimaporo (M.K.)
 Barzaga Durano
 Bataoil Dy
 Batocabe Elago
 Bautista-Bandigan Enverga
 Belaro Eriguel
 Belmonte (F.) Ermita-Buhain
 Belmonte (J.C.) Escudero
 Belmonte (R.) Espina
 Bernos Espino
 Bertiz Estrella
 Billones Evardone
 Bolilia Fariñas
 Bondoc Fernando
 Bordado Ferrer (L.)
 Bravo (A.) Floirendo
 Bravo (M.V.) Fortun
 Brosas Fortuno
 Bulut-Bentang Fuentebella

Garbin	Ortega (P.)	Uy (J.)	Villaraza-Suarez
Garcia (G.)	Ortega (V.N.)	Uy (R.)	Villarica
Garin (S.)	Pacquiao	Uybarreta	Villarin
Gasataya	Paduano	Vargas	Violago
Gatchalian	Palma	Velarde	Yap (A.)
Geron	Pancho	Velasco-Catera	Yap (V.)
Go (A.C.)	Panganiban	Veloso	Yu
Go (M.)	Panotes	Vergara	Zamora (R.)
Gonzaga	Papandayan	Villafuerte	Zarate
Gonzales (A.P.)	Pichay	Villanueva	Zubiri
Gonzales (A.D.)	Pimentel		
Gonzalez	Pineda	<i>Negative</i>	
Gullas	Plaza		
Herrera-Dy	Primicias-Agabas	None	
Hofer	Radaza		
Javier	Ramirez-Sato	<i>Abstention</i>	
Kho	Ramos		
Khonghun	Relampagos	None	
Labadlabad	Revilla		
Lacson	Roa-Puno		
Lagman	Rocamora		
Lanete	Rodriguez (I.)		
Lazatin	Romualdez		
Leachon	Romualdo		
Limkaichong	Roque (R.)		
Lobregat	Sacdalán		
Lopez (B.)	Sagarbarria		
Lopez (C.)	Salimbanon		
Lopez (M.L.)	Salo		
Macapagal-Arroyo	Salon		
Maceda	Sandoval		
Madrona	Santos-Recto		
Malapitan	Sarmiento (C.)		
Manalo	Sarmiento (E.M.)		
Mangaoang	Savellano		
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Sema		
Marcoleta	Siao		
Marcos	Silverio		
Mariño	Singson		
Marquez	Suansing (E.)		
Martinez	Suansing (H.)		
Matugas	Suarez		
Mellana	Tambunting		
Mendoza	Tan (A.)		
Mercado	Tan (M.)		
Mirasol	Tan (S.)		
Montoro	Teves		
Nava	Tiangco		
Nieto	Ting		
Noel	Tinio		
Nogralés (K.A.)	Tugna		
Nolasco	Tupas		
Oaminal	Ty		
Olivarez	Unabia		
Ong (E.)	Ungab		
Ong (H.)	Unico		

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6590
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 230 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6590 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 3492
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 3492 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 November 8, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 3492, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE THIRD JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED AT MACABEBE, PAMPANGA, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(C) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, 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. 37, dated November 20, 2017:

Affirmative

Abaya	Brosas	Ferrer (L.)	Nolasco
Abayon	Bulut-Begtang	Floirendo	Oaminal
Abellanosa	Cagas	Fortun	Olivarez
Abu	Calderon	Fortuno	Ong (E.)
Abueg	Calixto-Rubiano	Fuentebella	Ong (H.)
Acharon	Caminero	Garbin	Ortega (P.)
Acop	Campos	Garcia (G.)	Ortega (V.N.)
Acosta-Alba	Canama	Garin (S.)	Pacquiao
Advincula	Casilao	Gasataya	Paduano
Agarao	Castelo	Gatchalian	Palma
Aggabao	Castro (F.L.)	Geron	Pancho
Aglipay-Villar	Cayetano	Go (A.C.)	Panganiban
Alejano	Celeste	Go (M.)	Panotes
Almario	Cerilles	Gonzaga	Papandayan
Almonte	Chavez	Gonzales (A.P.)	Pichay
Alonte	Chipeco	Gonzales (A.D.)	Pimentel
Alvarez (F.)	Collantes	Gonzalez	Pineda
Alvarez (P.)	Cortes	Gullas	Plaza
Amatong	Cortuna	Herrera-Dy	Primicias-Agabas
Andaya	Cosalan	Hofer	Radaza
Angara-Castillo	Crisologo	Javier	Ramirez-Sato
Antonio	Cua	Kho	Ramos
Aquino-Magsaysay	Cuaresma	Khonghun	Relampagos
Aragones	Dalipe	Labadlabad	Revilla
Arcillas	Datol	Lacson	Roa-Puno
Arenas	Daza	Lagman	Rocamora
Atienza	De Jesus	Lanete	Rodriguez (I.)
Bag-ao	De Vera	Lazatin	Romualdez
Bagatsing	Defensor	Leachon	Romualdo
Banal	Del Mar	Limkaichong	Roque (R.)
Barbers	Del Rosario	Lobregat	Sacdalan
Barzaga	Deloso-Montalla	Lopez (B.)	Sagarbarria
Bataoil	Dimaporo (A.)	Lopez (C.)	Salimbangon
Batocabe	Dimaporo (M.K.)	Lopez (M.L.)	Salo
Bautista-Bandigan	Durano	Macapagal-Arroyo	Salon
Belaro	Dy	Maceda	Sandoval
Belmonte (F.)	Elago	Madrona	Santos-Recto
Belmonte (J.C.)	Enverga	Malapitan	Sarmiento (C.)
Belmonte (R.)	Eriguel	Manalo	Sarmiento (E.M.)
Bernos	Ermita-Buhain	Mangaoang	Savellano
Bertiz	Escudero	Mangudadatu (Z.)	Sema
Billones	Espina	Marcoleta	Siao
Bolilia	Espino	Marcos	Silverio
Bondoc	Estrella	Mariño	Singson
Bordado	Evardone	Marquez	Suansing (E.)
Bravo (A.)	Fariñas	Martinez	Suansing (H.)
Bravo (M.V.)	Fernando	Matugas	Suarez
		Mellana	Tambunting
		Mendoza	Tan (A.)
		Mercado	Tan (M.)
		Mirasol	Tan (S.)
		Montoro	Teves
		Nava	Tiangco
		Nieto	Ting
		Noel	Tinio
		Nogralles (K.A.)	Tugna

Tupas
 Ty
 Unabia
 Ungab
 Unico
 Uy (J.)
 Uy (R.)
 Uybarreta
 Vargas
 Velarde
 Velasco-Catera
 Veloso
 Vergara

Negative

None

Abstention

None

Villafuerte
 Villanueva
 Villaraza-Suarez
 Villarica
 Villarin
 Violago
 Yap (A.)
 Yap (V.)
 Yu
 Zamora (R.)
 Zarate
 Zubiri

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. 37, dated November 20, 2017:

Affirmative

Abaya
 Abayon
 Abellanos
 Abu
 Abueg
 Acharon
 Acop
 Acosta-Alba
 Advincula
 Agarao
 Aggabao
 Aglipay-Villar
 Alejano
 Almario
 Almonte
 Alonte
 Alvarez (F.)
 Alvarez (P.)
 Amatong
 Andaya
 Angara-Castillo
 Antonio
 Aquino-Magsaysay
 Aragones
 Arcillas
 Arenas
 Atienza
 Bag-ao
 Bagatsing
 Banal
 Barbers
 Barzaga
 Bataoil
 Batocabe
 Bautista-Bandigan
 Belaro
 Belmonte (F.)
 Belmonte (J.C.)
 Belmonte (R.)
 Bernos
 Bertiz
 Billones
 Bolilia
 Bondoc
 Bordado
 Bravo (A.)
 Bravo (M.V.)
 Brosas
 Bulut-Begtang
 Cagas
 Calderon
 Calixto-Rubiano
 Caminero
 Campos
 Canama
 Casilao
 Castelo
 Castro (F.L.)
 Cayetano
 Celeste
 Cerilles
 Chavez
 Chipeco
 Collantes
 Cortes
 Cortuna
 Cosalan
 Crisologo
 Cua
 Cuaresma
 Dalipe
 Datol
 Daza
 De Jesus
 De Vera
 Defensor
 Del Mar
 Del Rosario
 Deloso-Montalla
 Dimaporo (A.)
 Dimaporo (M.K.)
 Durano
 Dy
 Elago
 Enverga
 Eriguel
 Ermita-Buhain
 Escudero
 Espina
 Espino
 Estrella
 Evardone
 Fariñas
 Fernando

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 3492
 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 231 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 3492 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6578
 ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6578 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. Castro, F.H.). 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 November 8, 2017, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6578, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RETIREMENT BENEFIT SYSTEM IN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, AUGMENTING ITS EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

Ferrer (L.)	Nolasco	Tupas	Villafuerte
Floirendo	Oaminal	Ty	Villanueva
Fortun	Olivarez	Unabia	Villaraza-Suarez
Fortuno	Ong (E.)	Ungab	Villarica
Fuentebella	Ong (H.)	Unico	Villarin
Garbin	Ortega (P.)	Uy (J.)	Violago
Garcia (G.)	Ortega (V.N.)	Uy (R.)	Yap (A.)
Garin (S.)	Pacquiao	Uybarreta	Yap (V.)
Gasataya	Paduano	Vargas	Yu
Gatchalian	Palma	Velarde	Zamora (R.)
Geron	Pancho	Velasco-Catera	Zarate
Go (A.C.)	Panganiban	Veloso	Zubiri
Go (M.)	Panotes	Vergara	
Gonzaga	Papandayan		
Gonzales (A.P.)	Pichay	<i>Negative</i>	
Gonzales (A.D.)	Pimentel		
Gonzalez	Pineda	None	
Gullas	Plaza		
Herrera-Dy	Primicias-Agabas	<i>Abstention</i>	
Hofer	Radaza		
Javier	Ramirez-Sato	None	
Kho	Ramos		
Khonghun	Relampagos		APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6578
Labadlabad	Revilla		ON THIRD READING
Lacson	Roa-Puno		
Lagman	Rocamora		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 231
Lanete	Rodriguez (I.)		affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention,
Lazatin	Romualdez		House Bill No. 6578 is hereby approved on Third
Leachon	Romualdo		Reading.
Limkaichong	Roque (R.)		The Majority Leader is recognized.
Lobregat	Sacdalan		
Lopez (B.)	Sagarbarria		RATIFICATION OF CONF. CTTEE. RPT.
Lopez (C.)	Salimbangon		ON H.B. NO. 5670 AND S.B. NO. 1465
Lopez (M.L.)	Salo		
Macapagal-Arroyo	Salon		REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, we are in receipt
Maceda	Sandoval		of the Bicameral Conference Committee Report
Madrona	Santos-Recto		reconciling the disagreeing provisions of House Bill
Malapitan	Sarmiento (C.)		No. 5670 and Senate Bill No. 1465.
Manalo	Sarmiento (E.M.)		May I ask that the Secretary General be directed to
Mangaoang	Savellano		read only the titles of the measures.
Mangudadatu (Z.)	Sema		
Marcoleta	Siao		THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is
Marcos	Silverio		there any objection? (<i>Silence</i>) The Chair hears none;
Mariño	Singson		the motion is approved.*
Marquez	Suansing (E.)		The Secretary General is directed to read only the
Martinez	Suansing (H.)		titles of the measures.
Matugas	Suarez		
Mellana	Tambunting		<i>With the permission of the Body, and since copies of</i>
Mendoza	Tan (A.)		<i>the Conference Committee Report have been previously</i>
Mercado	Tan (M.)		<i>distributed, the Secretary General read only the titles</i>
Mirasol	Tan (S.)		<i>of the measures without prejudice to inserting the text</i>
Montoro	Teves		<i>of the report in the Congressional Record.</i>
Nava	Tiangco		
Nieto	Ting		THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill
Noel	Tinio		No. 5670, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING
Nogralas (K.A.)	Tugna		ASSISTANCE TO ALL FARMERS BY PROVIDING

FREE IRRIGATION SERVICE FEE AND ALL OTHER SIMILAR OR RELATED FEES OR CHARGES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 552, PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1702, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION ACT AND REPUBLIC ACT 8435, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES MODERNIZATION ACT, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and Senate Bill No. 1465, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FREE IRRIGATION SERVICE TO SMALL FARMERS, REVOKING FOR THE PURPOSE THE CORPORATE STATUS OF THE NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we ratify the said Conference Committee Report.

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

The Bicameral Conference Committee Report is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, the House and the Senate have approved on Third Reading House Bill No. 6136 and Senate Bill No. 209 respectively, which seek to declare the 25th day of August every year as the National Technical-Vocational Day.

We have been informed that the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, sponsor of House Bill No. 6136, as well as the authors thereof, are in concurrence with the provisions of Senate Bill No. 209. In accordance with our Rules, I move that we adopt Senate Bill No. 209 as an amendment to House Bill No. 6136.

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

Accordingly, Senate Bill No. 209, as amendment to House Bill No. 6136, is hereby adopted.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, first to speak is the distinguished Lady from the First District of Zamboanga del Sur, the Hon. Divina Grace C. Yu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Lady, the Hon. Divina Grace Yu is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. YU

REP. YU. Mr. Speaker, honorable Members of this august Body, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

November is Children's Month in the Philippines. I rise today to champion the cause of the Filipino child who is now beleaguered by the birthing pains of a drug-free Philippines.

Allow me first to thank the children from Vides Philippines who sang our Lupang Hinirang and the children from the Virilanie Foundation for the prayer in today's session. The children-members of the Child Rights Network are also in the gallery. Maraming salamat sa inyong pagpunta dito.

Today, November 20, is the 28th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. This month of November is declared as Children's Month all over the country by virtue of Republic Act No. 10661. The Philippines, being a signatory to this Convention, is duty-bound to protect the rights of the child to survival and development, protection from abuse and discrimination, and participation in matters concerning them. In fact, our nation was way ahead of this Convention in enumerating the rights of the Filipino child. In December of 1974, 15 years prior to the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1989, Section 3 of Presidential Decree No. 603, otherwise known as the Child and Youth Welfare Code, already identified these rights of the child: right to dignity from conception to birth; right to a wholesome family life with love, care, understanding and moral and material security; right to education and development of full potential; right to protection from hazards of environment; and the right to grow up as a free individual in an atmosphere of peace and understanding, and tolerance. Under this law, a Filipino child is entitled to "an efficient and honest government that will deepen his faith in democracy."

Mr. Speaker, honorable Members of this Chamber, we are bound to make this happen – to make an environment for our children which will make them safe and protected. This week, Mr. Speaker, we in the Committee on Welfare of Children, together with the Child Rights Network, are celebrating Children's Month here at the House of Representatives. We do this in the hope of getting the attention of more of our esteemed colleagues to become child advocates supporting the welfare of the Filipino child. Earlier this afternoon, we launched a three-day activity with the theme "Karahasan

Wakasan, Bata Protektahan,” including a photo exhibit and advocacy campaigns at the North Wing lobby. Some of our non-government partners in the CRN also accompanied children, going from one Congressman’s room to another, to distribute materials relating to legislation needed by children.

We shall also sponsor the following forums: 1. Sexual Consent in the Eyes of the Child: A Policy Forum on Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and Increasing the Age to Determine Sexual Consent; 2. Civil Registration and Vital Statistics; and 3. Legal Discussions on Violence Against Women and Girls, including Child, Early and Forced Marriage. We invite you and your respective staff to listen to these discussions at the Zulueta Room of the South Wing Annex tomorrow and on Wednesday in order to realize and appreciate the other issues surrounding children. The theme of this year’s celebration is also in consonance with the theme of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Council for the Welfare of Children, which is “BATA: Iligtas sa Droga”—very apt, very fitting at this time when the drug war is not yet won.

When deaths, arrests and violence abound, we need to protect the child. All of us here have children or grandchildren of our own, and we do not want any of them to fall prey to the menace of illegal drugs. We do not want any of them to be victims of hazing or any other violent episode. We do not want them roaming in the streets at night, falling prey to criminals and syndicates.

As Chairman of the Committee on Welfare of Children, I am honored to share with you that the Committee had also done its part in keeping the child safe and protected. Thanks to this Body, we have taken steps to ensure that children below five years old are cared for by competent, efficient and focused daycare workers as we will hopefully approve today the Third Reading version of the Magna Carta of the Day Care Workers. In the gallery here today are the Marikina day care workers. *(Applause)* Thank you very much for coming.

Likewise for approval on Third Reading is the bill making it illegal to leave children below eight years old unattended inside a motor vehicle as there had been instances of death and serious injuries because of this neglect by parents. The measure on the regulation of children’s products containing hazardous chemicals has also been reported out. The Committee has also approved the following: protection for children in situations of armed conflict, the Safe Hours for Children Act, granting of financial benefits to children with special needs, and the promotion of positive and non-violent discipline. These are still with other committees as we seek either budgetary requirements or tax relief for children’s welfare. The Committee is also currently working on bills seeking to create rehabilitation centers for children with disabilities and a bill to simplify the

processes of alternative child care, including fostering, adoption and residential care, so that we can minimize the number of neglected children and match them with families awaiting to have children.

Mr. Speaker, honorable Members, there is more that needs to be done after our Committee deliberations. This is where we seek your help. The Committee’s efforts will be fruitful if we gather all your support for these bills at the proper time. I once again invite Your Honors to look at our exhibit at the North Lobby and to join us for a mini concert on Wednesday afternoon to close the event.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, honorable colleagues. Let us all continuously strive and seek for the best interests of the child.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the distinguished Lady from Zamboanga del Sur to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, next to speak is the Gentleman from ANAKPAWIS. I move that we recognize the Hon. Ariel Casilao.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CASILAO

REP. CASILAO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Itaguyod ang interes ng magsasakang Pilipino! Dakilain and pakikibaka ng mga Katipunero laban sa pyudal na kolonyalismong Kastila!

Honorable Speaker, mga kasamang Mambabatas, pagbati ng hustisyang panlipunan at demokrasya ang ipinapahatid ng Kinatawang ito. Hinggil po ito sa darating na November 30, ang Araw ng Kabayanihan, araw ng kaarawan ni Gat Andres Bonifacio.

Noong nakaraang buwan, aktibong lumahok ang ANAKPAWIS Party-List sa pagmarka sa ika-45 anibersaryo ng Presidential Decree No. 27 sa buong bansa sa pamamagitan ng panawagang tunay na reporma sa lupa o libreng pamamahagi ng lupa sa mga maralitang magsasaka. Gayundin, sa darating na November 30 ay ang ika-96 na Bonifacio Day o Araw ng Paggunita sa Supremo ng Katipunan na si Gat Andres Bonifacio, na nagbigkis sa mga mamamayang Pilipino para sa rebolusyonaryong pagpapataalsik sa kolonyal na paghahari ng Kastila sa ating bansa.

Mga kasamahang Mambabatas, ayon mismo sa datos ng gobyerno sa kasalukuyan, mahigit kalahati o 55 percent ng kabuuang populasyon sa bansa ay nakabase sa mga rural areas o kanayunan. Sa 100 milyong Pilipino noong 2015, pumalo sa 55 milyon ang naninirahan sa kanayunan, nangangahulugan lamang na napakalaking bahagi ng ating lipunan ang umaasa sa lupa bilang kanilang kabuhayan, gayundin bilang tirahan o mga komunidad. Sila ay ang mayorya sa ating bansa—sila ang mga magsasakang Pilipino.

Gayunpaman, ang kanilang demokratikong interes, ang pagkamit ng lupang kanilang sinasaka, na sinasalaming ng tunay na reporma sa lupa, ay hindi makikita sa kung anumang programa ng ating gobyerno o anumang umiiral na batas sa kasalukuyan. Marahil, ayon sa ilan, mayroon namang Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program o CARP, na nag-expire na noong Hunyo 2014 kung kaya wala itong kapangyarihang sumaklaw pa ng mga lupa para sa land distribution, habang malinaw sa buong bansa na milyun-milyong magsasakang Pilipino ang nananatiling walang lupa. Mr. Speaker, mga kasama kong Mambabatas, kung ano ang kalagayang kawalan ng lupa ng mga magsasakang Pilipino noong panahon ni Gat Andres Bonifacio sa ilalim ng kolonyalismong Kastila, gayundin ang kawalang lupa ng mga magsasaka na dapat sana ay pinagsisilbihan ng ating gobyerno o estadong binubuo ng mga mismong mamamayang Pilipino.

Ang Katipunang pinamunuan ni Andres Bonifacio ay mayoryang binuo ng mga magsasakang Pilipino. Ito ang rebolusyong kanilang inilunsad na pambansa-demokratiko. Itanggi man ng iba na ito ay inspirado ng mga pambansang-demokratiko o liberal burgess na madugong rebolusyon sa Europa laban sa pyudal na kaayusan ng lipunan noong ika-18 at 19 na siglo, ang rebolusyong ito ay mayoryang nilahukan ng mga magsasaka o peasants na ilang siglong pinagsamantalahan ng mga panginoong maylupa o feudal lords, kaya sa kanilang galit ay kanilang pinagpapatay ang mga ito at ang ulo nila ay itinusok sa mga sibat at dinisplay para makita ng malawak na publiko. Ito ang madugong rebolusyong dumurog sa pyudal na kaayusan ng lipunang nagluwal sa bagong sistema, ang pagbubuo ng Republika kontra sa diktaduryang monarkiya, at sa pagsisimula ng kapitalistang ekonomiya kontra sa pyudal na pinaghaharian ng mga panginoong maylupa.

Ang Rebolusyong Pilipino, Mr. Speaker, ay naglayong palayain ang ating bansa, itayo ang Republika, at ipamahagi ang lupang kinamkam ng mga *encomiendas* at *haciendas* ng Kastila, gayundin ang tinaguriang “friar lands,” sa mga maralitang magsasakang Pilipino. Gayunpaman, hindi ito nakamit dahil sa pagpasok ng bagong superpower, ang imperyalistang Amerikano na may maunlad na kapitalistang ekonomiya at nag-take-over sa mga dating

kolonya ng Kastila. Kaya mula noon hanggang ngayong 2017, wala pa sa kasaysayan ng bansa na nagpatupad ng tunay na reporma sa lupa. Ang kapitalistang pag-unlad sa Europa na ibinunga ng mga madudugong rebolusyon ay hindi naganap at hindi pa nagaganap sa Pilipinas, kaya ang mga magsasakang Pilipino sa kasalukuyan ay walang pinagkaiba sa mga magsasakang alipin ng mga mauunlad na bansa. Ang kalupaan sa bansa ay kontrolado ng iilang mga *haciendero* o mga kasosyong komprador, mga naglalawakan na mga plantasyon ng agribusiness.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa Mambabatas, sa mga patakaran at programa ngayon, walang nakikitang pag-asa ang masang magsasaka dahil kung ano ang papel ng bansa noon bilang taga-supply lamang ng hilaw na materyales sa mga mauunlad na bansa, ganoon pa rin ngayon. Ang malala, ang mga dayuhan ay nandito na mismo sa ating bansa na nagbunga ng mga malawakang pagpapalayas sa mga magsasakang Pilipino. Mula kolonyalismong Kastila at Amerikano hanggang sa mga nagdaang rehimen, walang pundamental na repormang naaasahan ang magsasakang Pilipino kung kaya sila ay natutulak sa mas maigting na pakikibaka para sa kanilang karapatan sa lupa.

Noong 2014, sinabi pa noong Davao City Mayor, si Mayor Duterte: “Mahihirap ang mga sumusuporta sa mga rebelde, hindi matatalo,” at “Sinabihan ko sila, ang mga militar sa Paquibato district, Davao City, kailangan mong ituring na mahal ng lahat ng mga tao ang NPA. Iyan ang buhay nila. Naging tao na sila diyan, sa paghihirap, at tinutulungan sila ng NPA.” Noong nanalo na sa pagkapangulo at naging pangulo na si Pangulong Duterte, siya ay nangakong itutuloy ang peace talks sa National Democratic Front of the Philippines, at noong Agosto 2016 naman, sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte, “I can accommodate all of them, at iyong mga NPA, I will release money and lands for them, iyong totohanan na land reform.” Maging nitong Agosto 2017, sinabi ni Pangulong Duterte, “Kung iyong mga NPA mag-surrender, mayroon kaming housing project. If they want to stop fighting, iyong gusto, all you have to do is to drop your weapon, give it to your leader and come down.” Ito po mismo ang mga salita ni Pangulong Duterte na nagsabi na ang NPA ay suportado ng mga mahihirap na magsasaka. Inalok pa nga niya ng lupa, trabaho at pabahay.

Gayunpaman, bakit ang mga hindi NPA na mga magsasaka, mga maralitang lungsod at mga manggagawa ay hindi mabigyan ng lupa, pabahay at trabaho? Siya mismo ang nagpatunay na ang misyon ng NPA ay lupa sa pamamagitan ng rebolusyong agraryo. Kung ang mga Katipunero, Mr. Speaker, ay nakibaka para sa lupa kontra sa mga dayuhang *haciendero*, *encomienda*, hindi ba mas malala na ang NPA ngayon ay lumalaban kontra sa mga Pilipinong *haciendero*? Dahil pinapatunayan nito na hindi kayang tugunan

ng mismong mga kababayan ang demokratikong interes ng napakaraming magsasaka o milyun-milyong magsasakang Pilipino.

Kaya, Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa Mambabatas, ang isyu ng repormang agraryo ay hindi simpleng usapin. Ito ang naglalantad sa atin kung kaninong interes ang ating itinatangayod. Interes ng iilang mayayaman o interes ng milyun-milyong magsasaka? Interes ng dayuhan o interes ng magsasakang Pilipino? Karugtong nito, dahil ang kasalukuyang administrasyon, sa kabila ng mga pangako niyang mga reporma para sa mga magsasaka noong panahon ng kampanya, ay wala pa ring pundamental na repormang ipinapatupad, lalo pa sa kasalukuyan, sa usapin ng tunay na reporma sa lupa.

Mr. Speaker, kabahagi po ng pangako ni Pangulong Duterte noong nangangampanya siya, na kapag siya ay nanalo, nasa diskresyon ng Pangulo ang pag-distribute ng mga agricultural public lands. Sa kasalukuyang datos, umaabot po sa 6,000,000 ektaryang public agricultural lands ang nasa disposal dapat ni Pangulong Duterte. Sa kasamaang palad, ni isang ektarya mula dito sa 6,000,000 agricultural public lands ay hindi pa naipamamahagi. Worse, Mr. Speaker, sa katatapos lamang na pulong ni President Trump at Pangulong Duterte, baka nakareserba na ang mga pampublikong lupang agricultural na ito sa mga negosyong makadayuhan. Kung hindi naman natin ipa-prioritize sa Kongreso ay huwag na tayong magtaka na dadami na naman ang mga protesta ng mga magsasaka sa mga probinsiya, sa kanilang mga lakbayan, ang kanilang mga bungkalan, gayundin ang kanilang pagsama o pagsapi sa New People's Army dahil wala naman silang nakikitang pag-asa. Kung pananatilihin natin ang ating mga pansariling interes ay maghanda na lamang tayo sa hinaharap kung saan nasa harapan na natin ang napakaraming magsasakang gutom, galit at handang lumaban.

Sa kabilang banda naman, hinahamon ko ang bawat kasamahan ko sa Kongresong ito na manindigan para sa tunay na pagbabago at ang mga pambansang demokratikong reporma, simula sa tunay na reporma sa lupa at ang kakambal nito na genuine rural development. Isadiwa at isabuhay natin ang mga pakikibaka at sakripisyo ni Gat Andres Bonifacio, ang buong Katipunan at ang masang kasapiang ng Katipunan para sa tunay na pambansang demokrasya at kalayaan.

Muli, kami sa ANAKPAWIS Party-List, Mr. Speaker at mga kasamahang Mambabatas, ay nananawagan para sa tunay na reporma sa lupa. Isabatas ang House Bill No. 555 o Genuine Agrarian Reform at tutulan ang anumang panukala para sa 100 porsiyentong pagbubukas sa dayuhang pagmamay-ari sa lupa ng ating bansa.

Maraming salamat at magandang hapon po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Casilao to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Next to speak, Mr. Speaker, is the Gentleman from MAGDALO. I move that we recognize the Hon. Gary C. Alejano.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Gary C. Alejano is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ALEJANO

REP. ALEJANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Hurrah!—that was the battle cry of the Philippine Marine Corps.

Mr. Speaker, my esteemed colleagues, and our countrymen, a pleasant afternoon.

Today, I rise on the occasion of the celebration of the 67th birthday of the Philippine Marine Corps. The Marine Corps calls their anniversaries as birthdays. Sixty-seven years ago, the Philippine government organized the Philippine Marine Corps. It was during the incumbency of then President Elpidio Quirino when the history of the Philippine Marines unfolded and the Marines' tradition of excellence and dedication started. By virtue of General Order No. 319 dated November 2, 1950, the Alpha Company, which was to be known as Marines, was created and on November 7, 1950, then Secretary of National Defense Ramon Magsaysay formally activated it at the Naval Operating Base in Cavite.

The Philippine Marines was envisioned to be a force that is light, highly mobile and composed of disciplined and dedicated officers and men who are capable to aggressively and persistently pursue and engage lawless elements all over the archipelago. Considering the dangers attached to the duty, only volunteers were accepted to join the special unit forming the core of this newly-formed unit of six officers and 200 enlisted personnel who were mostly veterans of World War II. The Philippine Marines' first commanding officer was Lieutenant Senior Grade Manuel Gomez, an alumnus of the Philippine Military Academy of Class 1941 and a graduate of Armored Tactics from Fort Knox in Kentucky. It rested upon the shoulder of Lieutenant Senior Grade Gomez the direct responsibility of training, equipping and organizing the newly established unit. During his first meeting with his staff, Lieutenant Senior Grade Gomez uttered, and I quote: "The task of training these young men into the Marines is vested upon us: today, as we start training

them, we will be striking the first hammer blow in forging the ‘cutting edge’ of the Armed Forces.” True enough, 67 years after, the Philippine Marine Corps has become the barometer of excellence and dedication in the Armed Forces of the Philippines.

The members of the Philippine Marine Corps have religiously observed its code of “Honor, Duty, and Valor.” The members of the Marine Corps are considered men and women of valor. They are soldiers who have placed the country, their values and their fellow citizens higher than themselves. Should the need arise, they are ready and willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. The Marines’ belief in the ideals of the Corps has been displayed evidently during the recent siege in Marawi. Many of our troops endured long days and nights of fighting trying to flush out the ISIS-inspired Maute and the Abu Sayyaf.

For almost five months, the members of the Philippine Marine Corps, along with other units from the Armed Forces and the PNP, showed great resolve and immense commitment in suppressing the enemies of the State and in regaining control of Marawi City. The liberation of Marawi, unfortunately, came with a great cost. Thirty-five members of the Marines were killed, along with the 357 that were wounded. Though their duty has ended, their tales will be added to the countless stories of bravery, gallantry and sacrifice that came to define the Corps.

I would like to enjoin everyone to watch the succeeding video, courtesy of the Philippine Marine Corps, to give everyone in this Chamber an idea regarding the exploits, challenges and triumphs that the members of the Philippine Marine Corps face in the battlefield in pursuit of their mandate. Likewise, the video is a tribute to the 35 warriors who perished in Marawi.

Please, let us watch the video. *(Video Presentation)*
Thank you, my dear colleagues, for the indulgence.

We give honor and admire the leadership, courage and determination that the Marines showed during their stint in Marawi. For nearly seven decades, the Philippine Marine Corps has played a very significant role in securing the entire Philippine archipelago through its rapid mobilization and amphibious operations. In fact, they are there right now, manning our islands in the Spratlys to ensure that our sovereignty and territorial integrity are not compromised. The Corps has played an integral part in our nation’s development as well as in our nation’s history. It is very unfortunate, however, that the existence of the Philippine Marine Corps rests on a shaky foundation, on an uncertain legal ground.

As I have mentioned earlier, the legal basis of the Marines’ existence is a mere Armed Forces of the Philippines’ General Order. A General Order may be rescinded or revoked anytime by the Executive Department through the Chief of Staff, hence, putting

their existence in peril. It is, quite frankly, unjust if not totally dishonorable that after almost seven decades of dedicated service with the highest standards of discipline, after countless triumphs and sacrifices, we have failed to legally establish the existence of the Philippine Marine Corps.

My office is currently drafting a proposed measure that will institutionalize the establishment of the Philippine Marine Corps in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. The said proposed measure will likewise recommend full fiscal autonomy to the Philippine Marine Corps apart from that of the Philippine Navy. At present, the Philippine Marine Corps is under the Philippine Navy. Fiscal autonomy would allow the Marines to chart their own future as to the number and promotion of their personnel, type and number of logistics they need to procure, among others, in order to modernize and ensure the continuity of their indispensable service to the Filipino people. I hope that my honorable colleagues in this Chamber will support my proposed measure once it is filed.

As a former active and now reserve marine officer, I call on this august Chamber for support in order to provide a strong legal ground for the Marine Corps to stand on, and a discretion on their finances so they may be able to plan properly according to their mandate. Your Marines are not only defenders of our country’s sovereignty and territorial integrity, but also rapid responders during times of natural and man-made calamities and disasters.

Before I end, I would like to request my dear colleagues present now to stand up and offer a moment of silence to honor our fallen marines, as well as our soldiers, who died in the service of our country.

May I request our colleagues to please stand up.
Everybody rose for a moment of silence.

Thank you very much.

Again, I would like to commend the cutting edge of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, representatives of the best in soldiery, defenders of our country and Filipino people, the so-called “the few, the proud,” the Philippine Marine Corps on the occasion of our 67th birthday. Hurrah!

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat. *(Applause)*

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Alejano to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, next on our list is the Hon. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr. but before I make

the proper motion, may we know first if the Gentleman is in the Session Hall.

With that, Mr. Speaker, may I proceed to the next listed speaker. Fifth is the Hon. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo and likewise, Mr. Speaker, before I make the proper motion, may we find out first if the Gentleman is in the Session Hall.

With both not being around, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the sixth Member to speak. I move that we recognize the distinguished Gentleman from the Second District of Pangasinan, the Hon. Leopoldo N. Bataoil.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The honorable Cong. Leopoldo Bataoil is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BATAOIL

REP. BATAOIL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, dear colleagues.

Mr. Speaker and my dear colleagues, I stand on a matter of caring for and honoring our veterans and military and police retirees. This is a very timely privilege speech and can be considered as a rejoinder to the privilege speech of our dear colleague, Cong. Gary Alejandro.

On my trip to Washington D.C. on October 25, 2017, this humble Representation, upon the invitation of the United States Congress, received the Congressional Gold Medal on behalf of the 260,715 Filipino veterans of World War II. Truly, I was blessed and privileged, being the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare, to be part of that historic event.

The Congressional Gold Medal is one of America's highest civilian awards bestowed on persons, regardless of citizenship, who have made an impact on American history and culture for their long and outstanding achievement. Among the recipients of this award were Mother Teresa, Nelson Mandela and the 65th Infantry Regiment who fought during the Korean War. Though it was long overdue, the US Congress has finally granted and paid tribute to the service and sacrifice of Filipino World War II veterans. It was a dream come true for the surviving veterans and their dependents who, for more than six decades, have consistently pursued the battle to gain such recognition. The benefits thereto attached could surely help ameliorate their living conditions.

I feel proud that my uncle and my namesake, the late 3rd Lieutenant Leopoldo De Guzman Bataoil, is one among the Filipino veterans, thus, entitled to the Congressional Gold Medal. Uncle Leopoldo was among the first casualties in Bataan during World War II. His body was never found. He was supposed to graduate as a member of the Philippine Military Academy Class of 1943 when the war broke out. It was he who inspired me

to pursue the same career in the same military academy. My uncle's story is just one among many untold stories of Filipino soldiers who had witnessed and suffered the untold horrors of war, yet, courageously fought for the cause of freedom and democracy. They were either killed in action, missing in action or survived the cruel war. Many of the aging survivors have passed away.

Historically, Filipinos have been recognized worldwide as brave fighters. Even Gen. Douglas MacArthur was so taken by the resilience and strength of native guerrilla forces against the Japanese invaders that prompted him to say, "give me ten thousand Filipinos, and I shall conquer the world." Mr. Speaker, if the US Congress could accord due recognition to the heroic deeds of Filipino war veterans, should it not be more fitting for the Philippine government itself to pay tribute to its own?

As a nation, we have a moral obligation to render due respect and recognition to our veteran soldiers as well as retired police personnel. As a nation, we are obliged to honor them, not only by holding occasional ceremonies, but also by providing them utmost care and best benefits just like in many other countries. We must deeply understand that, because of our veterans, we now enjoy peace, freedom and democracy. Because of our soldiers and peacekeeping forces who secured the nation, fought lawless elements and terrorists and stood guard in defense of our freedom, we now live in peace.

Our freedom and peace did not and does not come cheap. It paid and it pays a high price, that is, the lives of many soldiers and policemen who have died or have been disabled or at the least, risked their lives and limbs in the line of duty. We remember the Mamasapano clash which cost the lives of 44 Special Action Force personnel. Likewise, we note the very recent Marawi siege where the government lost more than 150 soldiers and policemen before regaining the territory. With such a high price, it is our moral obligation to render our soldiers and policemen due respect, care and the best quality benefits the government could ever provide for their socio-economic security and general welfare.

Just as we are able to spend to buy high-powered firearms, tanks and military hardware, we must also spend to take utmost care of the men and women who fought in the war and poured out their blood, sweat and tears. We have to take utmost care of: number one, the veterans, police and military retirees who are aging, sickly and have only a few years more to live; two, those having difficulty paying their bills and are struggling to make both ends meet; three, those with multiple amputations, who lost their eyesight or have post-traumatic stress disorder; and four, the spouses and children who are suffering the loss of a love one.

In many countries, the agency that functions to support and provide the needs of veterans in their

time after service is a whole department, unlike in our country where we only have an office, the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office, under a department which is the Department of National Defense.

In the United States, they have the Department of Veterans Affairs, a federal Cabinet-level agency that provides near-comprehensive healthcare services to eligible military veterans at medical centers and outpatient clinics located throughout the country. Under this department are three main subdivisions—an administration for veterans' health, administration for veterans' benefits, and national cemetery administration. They allocate about \$270 billion for compensation benefits, education benefits, and burial benefits. At present, they are still trying to improve and expand services to veterans as President Trump has proposed a six percent boost of the Department's budget for fiscal 2018.

In Canada, there is also a department-level agency responsible for pensions, benefits and services for war veterans, Canadian armed forces and police retirees and their families. There they have the Veterans' Bill of Rights that guarantees benefits, fairness and entrenches respect for and the dignity of veterans and their families.

In the government of Australia, there is likewise a department that administers income support, compensation, care and commemoration programs for their more than 400,000 veterans and their widows, widowers and dependents. Under this department are offices, commissions or boards, each focusing on a particular service or task like military rehabilitation and compensation, veterans' review, medical review, counselling, memorial and war graves.

In Taiwan (Republic of China), they have a Cabinet-level council with responsibility to assist in education assistance, employment assistance, medical care, home care and other general services for retired servicemen and women from the Republic of China Armed Forces. Under it are units with specific responsibilities for veterans' service and assistance, home care, education and employment, healthcare, retirement and management services.

In the countries mentioned, Mr. Speaker, we notice how comprehensive the support and assistance given by the respective governments to their veterans, to their military, and to their police personnel in their time after service. Through a high-level agency with defined sub-units focusing on a particular task, they are able to ensure inclusively the much-needed care, support, benefits and protection for the well-being of their veterans, police and military retirees. Moreover, care and support is boosted through the budget increase.

Whereas, in the Philippines, what we have is the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office under the Department of National Defense. It is a small office supposedly mandated to fulfill a state policy that "The State shall

provide immediate and adequate care, benefits, and other forms of assistance to war veterans and veterans of military campaigns, their surviving spouses and orphans. Funds shall be provided therefor..." That is provided for in Section 7, Article XVI of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Currently, the PVAO functions to ensure that our veterans receive the care and benefits they have earned. It functions to administer a program that will ensure timely and steady provision of pensions, including the settlement of unpaid pension obligations, provide healthcare in accredited hospitals nationwide, and extend pension benefits such as burial and educational assistance. In addition, the PVAO is in charge of the memorialization of veterans' heroic deeds through the promotion of military shrines and historical awareness.

Mr. Speaker, it appears that the PVAO has been delegated a very huge responsibility. Ensuring and providing adequate care, benefits and assistance to veterans is not a simple task. As we noticed in other countries, they address the needs of veterans in a very comprehensive manner with focus on every field of endeavor—healthcare services, non-healthcare benefits, retirement management, education and employment, and death benefits, among others. In view of this situation, perhaps the PVAO structure, being under a department, can be considered for review under the rightsizing program of the government.

On the Complaint of PNP and Military Retirees against the DBM Proposal

Meanwhile, Mr. Speaker, this Representation received a manifesto from the Philippine National Police Retirees Association, Inc. last November 6, 2017 opposing the draft joint resolution submitted by the DBM to Congress. The said joint resolution is about the compensation adjustment for cops and soldiers where they could enjoy a 100-percent pay hike as promised by Pres. Rodrigo R. Duterte. According to the DBM, the adjustment will result in 58.7 percent average increase in base pay for all military and uniformed personnel ranks by January 1, 2018.

In their manifesto, the Police Retirees Association, Inc. stated that: "It has noted with vigilance DBM's intention to exclude police retirees, their survivors and transferees in the proposed increase of base pay of active PNP members this coming Fiscal Year 2018". This includes the retirees from the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Indeed, the DBM intentionally excluded pensioners in the proposed pay adjustment. DBM Secretary Benjamin E. Diokno himself was quoted in the papers as saying, "There is a provision in the joint resolution, for the military salary hike, that the pension will be set at the 2017 level, it will not be automatically adjusted," as told to reporters during the 43rd Philippine Business Conference and Expo in Manila on October 20, 2017.

Under Republic Act No. 6975, as amended by Republic Act No. 8551, there is a provision stating that “retirement pay of the officers and non-officers of the PNP shall be subject to adjustments based on the prevailing scale of base pay of police personnel in the active service.” Likewise, in Section 17 of Presidential Decree No. 1638, it is provided that the retirement pay of an officer or enlisted man from the Armed Forces of the Philippines “shall be subject to adjustment on the prevailing scale of base pay of military personnel in the active service.”

In other words, the above-stated provisions mean that the increase in retirees’ pensions is indexed to the base pay of those in active service. Being so, the DBM wanted these retirement features repealed in the joint resolution as a move to arrest the ballooning pension. The interagency Development Budget Coordination Committee or DBCC has identified the rapidly increasing pension costs of all uniformed services as a fiscal risk in its Fiscal Risks Statement Report for 2015-2016. The DBCC said that, “In 2016, the pension budget amounts to P71 billion, which is projected to reach more than double in eight years at P187.9 billion.”

On the other side of the PRAI (Police Retirees Association, Inc.), it opposes the DBM’s move to suspend indexation for pensioners as they do not understand why they should bear the burden of the so-called fiscal risk. PRAI is of the position that, being stakeholders, the retirees must first be consulted on any compensation scheme for pensioners, and the point that there is a need for further study regarding any amendment to existing pension laws, and that without consultation the joint resolution would be violative of the retirees’ vested rights.

Mr. Speaker, this Representation is deeply saddened by the predicament of these police and military retirees. While their pension differentials have not been totally released, here comes another problem. They have advocated for the increase in basic pay of those in active service, knowing that based on existing laws, they would be automatically indexed. When the increase was granted, it became unfortunate for them to learn that they will be stripped off entitlement to indexation. They now feel they are being unfairly treated as second-class citizens. They feel that their long years of service in putting their lives at stake in the name of peace and freedom are being set in the background. Do they deserve such treatment?

We understand that these retirees are already in the last stages of their lives, most of them sickly and rely solely on their pensions to survive the rising cost of medicines and for their daily subsistence. Thus, they need more care, support and assistance, especially those with lower ranking position.

Mr. Speaker, there must be other means to address this fiscal risk than depriving police and military retirees

of their rights and privileges earned in their long years of service. This move of the DBM sounds unconstitutional if we refer to Section 7 under the Article on General Provisions of the Philippine Constitution. In closing, this Representation would like to move for a careful study of the DBM-drafted joint resolution for approval of the House and the Senate. Secretary Diokno of the DBM said that they are conducting studies for possible military pension reforms that would involve the GSIS.

I therefore move to maintain the base pay indexation of police and military retirees in the proposed joint resolution until the DBM could present a viable plan for pension reforms for our uniformed personnel.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Bataoil to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, next to speak is the Gentleman from the Lone District of Baguio City. I move that we recognize the Hon. Mark O. Go.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Mark O. Go is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. GO (M.)

REP. GO (M.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. Majority Leader.

To my esteemed colleagues here in the House of Representatives, and to all the guests who have graced us with their valued presence, a pleasant and fruitful evening.

Today, I stand before this august hall with utmost pride as I share with you an exciting news which our district received during the session recess. Last October 31, 2017, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization or UNESCO announced that 64 new cities were selected to be part of the prestigious UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Through the initiative of the Department of Tourism – the Cordillera Administrative Region, along with the rest of the members of the Technical Working Committee, including the University of the Philippines – Baguio, the City Government of Baguio and other government and non-governmental institutions, the city of Baguio now joins the ranks of Cairo (Egypt), Incheon (South

Korea), Kanazawa (Japan) and Santa Fe (USA) as an official member-city of the Creative Cities Network under the Crafts & Folk Art creative field.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network was instituted in 2004 to promote cooperation among cities around the world that have been recognized for fostering creativity as a driving tool for sustainable urban development. The creative city, according to scholar Charles Landry, is a city with a “diversified, sophisticated and internationally oriented cultural industries structure that nurtures and supports a wealth of local and international artistic activity that are commercial, subsidized and voluntary.” The Network is currently composed of 180 cities from 72 countries committed to developing and exchanging innovative best practices to promote creative industries, strengthening participation in cultural life, and integrating culture into sustainable urban development policies at both the local and international levels.

Apart from the Crafts and Folk Arts creative field where Baguio and the cities I have previously mentioned were included, the Network highlights the member-cities’ creativity in six other creative fields: Design for which Dubai and Istanbul were recognized; Film for Bristol and Terrassa (Spain); Gastronomy for Alba (Italy) and Buenaventura (Colombia); Literature for Utrecht (Netherlands) and Seattle; Media Arts for Braga (Portugal); and Music under which Chennai (India) and Morelia (Mexico) were included. Listed on the current slide being shown are the 64 new members of UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Before becoming a part of the Network, an applicant-city must choose among the seven creative fields for which it seeks to be recognized. The city is then evaluated on its cultural assets, its role in the city’s history and economic performance; the different communities and groups engaged in the creative field; the events, mechanisms and policies, and other programs devoted to creative industries; the presence of learning institutions and research centers specializing on the creative field; and the available facilities and infrastructure benefiting the creative sector among others.

Blessed with its defining climate and natural ecosystem, and strengthened by the cooperative synergy of the government, the business sector and the civil society, the city of Baguio has nurtured a rich melting pot of upland and lowland cultures that have shaped the city’s thriving local economy. Baguio was cited for its strong and noteworthy industries of traditional weaving, wood and masonry sculpting, and metal crafting. Not only do these industries preserve our indigenous cultures and showcase our diverse artistic talents, Baguio’s creative sector makes up much of the city’s local tourism and trade which contribute the lion’s share to the city’s Gross Domestic Product.

Amidst this fast-paced and technologically-dependent dynamic of the global economy, culture, heritage and the arts have often suffered in favor of other capital-intensive industries, to the detriment of local artists and cultural identity. The idea that this consumption-driven economy has effectively relegated the arts to the status of unnecessary expense has stifled the growth of many creative industries in the country. This is in spite of the fact that we, Filipinos, have so much to offer the world in terms of creativity and artistry. The late Lee Kwan Yew has once said, “Filipino professionals whom we recruited to work in Singapore are as good as our own. Indeed, their architects, artists, and musicians are more artistic and creative than ours.” Even foreign political and economic figures recognize our country’s comparative advantage over creative industries, thus, it is high time that we recognize it ourselves.

Even in the international arena, quantifying the actual social and economic contribution of creative industries is relatively young. A recent study conducted by Ernst & Young puts the combined global annual revenue of cultural and creative industries at \$2.2 billion, surpassing even the income of telecommunications services, and even the entire GDP of India. Here in our country, we have yet to fully tap the potential of our creative sector. I believe that through adequate government support, through linkages, policies, mechanisms and of course funding, we can effectively harness our people’s natural talents in raising our national productivity. We can transform mere sentimental value over our cultural products to actual economic value. What is now known as the “creative economy” is largely a product of the 21st century. This fast-evolving concept of generating economic growth and development from creative assets can be an effective tool in ensuring inclusive growth and development.

My friends, let us look at our country’s economic performance over the past few years. With a GDP growth of 6.9 percent, the Philippines has emerged as this region’s newest economic darling. Consequently, we have even achieved a credit rating a notch higher than investment grade and yet, what has been a consistent criticism over these notable experiences is the lack of trickle down. The Philippines’ economic growth in recent years has also highlighted our country’s serious problem on inequality. While the wealth of the 40 richest families in the Philippines account for 76.5 percent of our national GDP, around a quarter of our population still live on less than one dollar a day. Looking at it geographically, with the exception of many highly urbanized cities, we can see that some of the regions and provinces farthest from Manila also have the lowest GDPs. It just so happens that it is in these localities where the most beautiful cultural and creative products can be found, worthy of being showcased in the competitive global stage.

What we aspire for as a nation is more than just growth in the performance of our macroeconomic indices. What we aspire for is actual sustainable development, and sustainable development is rooted on the empowerment of our people and the strengthening of micro, small and medium enterprises—the backbone of our nation. In an archipelagic country like the Philippines where localities vary in resources, infrastructure, culture and tradition, providing creative industries with a better platform may serve as a way of sustaining countrywide development.

Over the years, society has developed a notion that culture and the arts are reserved for the affluent, a stark contrast to the goals of the Creative Cities Network. The Network recognizes the role of creativity in breeding action and innovation, notably for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Among the commitments of city-members of the Network are not only broadening the opportunities for local creators and professionals in the cultural sector, but also the improvement of access to and participation in cultural life, in particular for marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals. Sustainability is only possible if all members of society are involved. As the trusted leaders of our districts and sectors, it is our responsibility to provide opportunities for those who have fallen through the cracks of development.

Supporting creative industries is a concrete means towards achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, directly addressing many of its identified goals. Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable as part of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focuses on inclusive and sustainable urbanization and the protection and safeguarding of the world's cultural heritage. The SDGs recognize that it is not only possible but indeed imperative that urban development should be pursued, while preserving and promoting our culture and traditions. Placing both strategies under a single goal is indicative that our heritage and national identity need not suffer, giving way to modernization and the entry and propagation of other technological advancements. In fact, the proliferation of creative industries promotes the utilization of local raw materials and reinforces the necessity of preserving the natural sources of these materials not only among creators, but among the consuming public as well. In addition, creative industries do not leave the same environmental footprint as other industries, significantly reducing adverse and irreparable impact on the environment, sparing communities from the unrelenting wrath of natural disasters and calamities. Promoting sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, and full, productive employment and decent work for all is another priority of the SDGs. Magnified on a larger scale, success on this aspect could effectively address some of the other

SDGs, particularly reducing inequality within and among countries and ending poverty in all its forms. With a population of more than 103 million and a labor force participation rate of 60.7 percent, the Philippines is in a prime position to support creative industries.

The city of Baguio was recognized for its crafts and folk arts, but apart from our weaving and masonry traditions, we also take pride in many of our other creative outlets across the country. We in the Cordilleras have as much pride of our woven traditional patterns as our Moro brothers and sisters who also have their own distinct textile designs. I know that many of our islands support vibrant music scenes. All over the world, Filipino musicians are renowned for their undeniable talent and versatility. Recently, many cities are showcasing Filipino talents through film festivals and other multimedia platforms. Some districts are known for their mouth-watering cuisine while other districts inspire devotion through their religious murals and sculptures. From the mountaintops to the lowest valleys, in each and every habited island, the Philippines is filled with great potential from its creative sector, which must be unlocked through government support as a means to achieving sustainable growth.

In all these creative industries I had mentioned, one defining characteristic would be their propensity for diversity and inclusiveness. The Sustainable Development Goals value diversification and innovation as a key to economic productivity and recognizes that everyone has the capacity of becoming productive members of the society. Creativity is not exclusive to a specific gender, age bracket or even socio-economic background. A study has even shown that women participation in creative industries is better compared with traditional industries. It is also in these industries where persons with disabilities are provided avenues that allow them to contribute to national productivity. So, whether it is by promoting local products or cultural heritage, offering exciting gastronomic experiences or by supporting the research and development programs of local universities and institutions in producing breakthrough technologies and innovations, there are creative industries that best utilize the traditions, natural assets and demographic profile of each locality.

I looked into some practices of other newly inducted member-cities which facilitated the growth of their creative industries. Like Baguio, the city of Madaba, Jordan enters the Network this year under the Craft and Folk Arts field. The city is famous for its tradition of mosaic-making. Not only does the city provide trainings and workshops, the Madaba Institute of Mosaic Arts and Restoration even offers a diploma program on the scientific method of restoration and conservation of mosaic arts. In Gabrovo, Bulgaria, international trade fairs devoted to traditional crafts are held to provide entrepreneurs avenues to showcase their crafts and

expand their market. Meanwhile, in the city of Qingdao in Eastern China, the city government, in partnership with other private investors, has launched a fund that would subsidize film and television ventures that would be produced in the city. Apart from subsidies, the city's policies make for an attractive production location which, in turn, creates new jobs and business opportunities for the locals.

Here in the Philippines, whenever a city or community is featured in a film, the sudden influx of tourist arrivals soon follows. It shall then be the responsibility of the local government to ensure that the community is prepared to welcome these tourists with sufficient facilities and ultimately, to keep the beauty of the community preserved and protected from any possible abuse.

In 2013, the Dubai Design and Fashion Council was established by the city government to develop and nurture a sustainable design industry, as well as to recognize, support and promote designers based in the UAE and the greater Middle East. The city of Amarante in Portugal, which joined the Network through the Music creative field, has been holding regular music festivals for decades such as the Tamage Music Festival, drawing in thousands of music lovers to the city annually, providing substantial support and exposure to the musicians and also securing the livelihood of local business owners.

In all these, the goal is supporting productive activities, decent job creation and encouraging the formalization and growth of micro, small and medium enterprises. MSMEs are truly the key towards sustainable and inclusive growth. Even Pres. Rodrigo Duterte acknowledged the importance of these businesses to the national economy in his speech during last week's ASEAN Conference when he vowed to review the national budget with the intention of pouring billions to the benefit of MSMEs. Unfortunately, majority of these enterprises are currently concentrated only within three regions: NCR, CALABARZON and Central Luzon. To support countrywide development, we must find a way to encourage entrepreneurship in the rest of the archipelago, particularly on creative industries. In the city of Baguio, 56 establishments are directly devoted to crafts and folk art, generating gross receipts of more than P57 million and providing income to more than 300 households.

The UNESCO Creative Cities Network began in 2004. More than 10 years had passed before Baguio became the first Philippine city to be included. We are indeed honored and grateful for this recognition, but we know that recognizing one city does not fully represent the amount of talent and creativity that this nation truly has. Thriving across the country are many other creative communities worthy of our faith and worthy of our support. I implore my colleagues to explore the potential

of creative industries, and for us to seek the necessary support and assistance of our national government in this endeavor.

Pagtulungan po nating linangin ang likas na husay at pagkamalikhain ng mga Pilipino. Atin pong suportahan ang mga malikhaing industriya tungo sa patuloy at sama-samang pag-unlad.

Maraming salamat po at pagpalain tayong lahat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Mark Go to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, since the Privilege Hour has expired, I move that we extend the same for another 15 minutes.

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

The Privilege Hour is extended for another 15 minutes.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, next to avail of the Privilege Hour is the distinguished Lady from Zamboanga del Sur. I move that we recognize the Hon. Aurora Enerio Cerilles.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Aurora Cerilles is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CERILLES

REP. CERILLES. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, honorable Members of the House of Representatives, ladies and gentlemen, good evening.

I feel the need to bring to the attention of this august Body and to the public the blatant injustice committed by high-ranking officials of the National Police Commission headed by the acting Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government. Gov. Antonio Cerilles and our family are victims of ugly politics that led to fake news all over the country or should I say, all over the world. A week ago, a controversial news report broke out in several media outlets. On November 9, 2017, *Inquirer.net* made this headline: "DILG strips governor, 23 mayors of power over police for alleged drug links." *GMA Online News* also made this headline: "Due to Alleged Drug Links:

NAPOLCOM strips governor, 18 mayors of police power.” Other media outlets likewise reported the news.

Is the Governor of Zamboanga del Sur really among those referred to by the NAPOLCOM, headed by the acting Secretary of the DILG, to be involved in drugs as reported in the news? The answer is no. Of course, not. Never. But there was propaganda, and I believe the NAPOLCOM head was complicit to it.

In the evening of November 6, 2017, Governor Cerilles received a copy of NAPOLCOM Resolution No. 2017-571. It was served by the acting Regional Director of the DILG in a rush, upon instruction from the national office. For all we know, the NAPOLCOM is headed by the Secretary of the DILG, by this time, Acting Secretary Catalino Cuy.

Signed by the NAPOLCOM *en banc*— let me emphasize *en banc*— the Resolution is entitled: “Withdrawing the Power of Operational Supervision and Control Over the PNP of Governor Antonio Cerilles of Zamboanga del Sur.” But the Governor has no such power of operational control and supervision over the Philippine National Police units in his territorial jurisdiction. This power belongs only to the city and municipal mayors as provided for in Section 51, letter (b) of R.A. No. 6975, as amended. Even an elementary grader can understand this.

So how can the NAPOLCOM *en banc* make a mistake about it? How can the highest official of the present DILG of this country make a wrong understanding of the very clear provision of the law entitled: The DILG Act of 1990? Is this an example of gross ignorance of the law or gross incompetence? Did the NAPOLCOM, headed by Cuy, also copy the resolutions that are supposed to be for the mayors? Is this a product of “copy-pasting”? What an irresponsible act of high-ranking government officials, another case of gross incompetence. Nakakahiya kayo. But this is not the worst. Just as we suspected, the timing of the release of said NAPOLCOM Resolution against Governor Cerilles landed in the same news report about narco-mayors. Acting DILG Secretary Cuy was even quoted by *Inquirer.net* as saying: “The officials could no longer give order to the respective police forces and would no longer be entitled to security detail. He said the resolutions were based on the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency’s list of officials tagged as ‘narcopoliticians.’” Cuy further said, “The list was only forwarded to us by the PDEA, wala kaming dinagdag.”

Really, Mr. Cuy? Wala nga ba kayong dinagdag or pinadagdag? Dinagdag mo yata si Governor Cerilles. Cuy’s sweeping statements included Governor Cerilles, who was also deprived of his security detail following the withdrawal of his deputation over PNP units in operational control and supervision. His statements

included Governor Cerilles, whose case has nothing to do with drugs and who has no operation control and supervision over PNP units.

How many days have lapsed since acting DILG Secretary Cuy made such statements in the media? For 11 days now, have we heard any statement from Cuy as head of the NAPOLCOM clarifying this fake news concerning Governor Cerilles? He was the source as published. The lapse of several days without any action to correct the wrong report indicated his agreement to the publication. He wanted the fake news to remain as it is without him bothering to explain to the Filipino people for being misled and misinformed over a very serious matter. He does not seem to care about the reputation of Governor Cerilles. He does not care about the damage caused to the Cerilles family and the image of Zamboanga del Sur which, prior to its glory days now, was awarded as a peaceful province and ready for development jointly by the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine National Police and the DILG. A high-ranking government official, such as acting DILG Secretary Cuy, represents the government when he made his statement to the press. He should not be the source of fake news but looking closely into the events as they unfolded, it appears that there were concerted efforts to bring down the name of Governor Cerilles and his family.

Again, we already suspected the timing of the release of Resolution No. 2017-571 because it came out at a time when several mayors were imposed the same sanction for alleged drug links. Of course, we do not want Governor Cerilles to be mistaken as one of the alleged narco-politicians because the war on drugs in Zamboanga del Sur started even during the time of Pres. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2005. The case of Governor Cerilles is not about involvement in drugs. Let me repeat—it is not about involvement in drugs. As stated in the NAPOLCOM resolution, it is about “a confidential report outlining abuse of authority.” Yes, it is based on a confidential report accusing Governor Cerilles of abuse of authority, without giving him the opportunity to explain as to who made the report or what the content of the confidential report was all about. The Governor has no idea. Are these people even familiar with due process? As stated in the Resolution, the NAPOLCOM *en banc* has withdrawn the deputation of Governor Cerilles based on this report, not to mention that it is the law that gives the Governor such authority. The deputation is clear in Section 64 of R.A. No. 8551 which is entitled: “*Automatic Deputation of Local Government Executives as Commission Representatives.*” I do not think Congress enacted this law only to be withdrawn on the basis of a one-sided confidential report of abuse of authority without even disclosing the authority of the one conducting the investigation against the Governor and how it was being conducted.

So, I hope, Mr. Speaker, Members of this august Body, the present NAPOLCOM headed by the acting Secretary of the DILG does not support or subscribe to political intrigues. Huwag kayong magpapagamit sa mga pulitiko. Mas maaayos natin ang bayan kung wala kayong kikilingan. It was brought to my attention that an ambitious politician of Zamboanga del Sur questioned the PNP Provincial Command why this Representation and my son, who is Vice Governor Ace Cerilles, were not stripped off their police escorts. When explained to that person the substance of the Resolution or the rather fake news, she was quoted as saying, “Para mayroon akong mai-report sa taas.” This is, again, another disturbance of the PNP operations. Pinapanindigan ba ng mga detractors ni Governor Cerilles o ng DILG ang kamaliang ito?

To those who are using power to further their political ambitions, do not paint Zamboanga del Sur as a narco-province just because you do not like the Cerilles leadership. If you really love the province, destruction of its name and image should never be a medium of your ambitions. Please be informed and remember these: Governor Cerilles is a strong advocate of education. In our joint effort, we established a state college and brought tertiary education to all municipalities in the province. Governor Cerilles authored the establishment of almost all national high schools in his congressional district when he was still Congressman. Zamboanga del Sur, under the leadership of Governor Cerilles, is the only province that has a sports academy that produced good athletes who became champions in the country in many fields of sports. Zamboanga del Sur, under the leadership of Governor Cerilles, is also very active in the Boy Scouts of the Philippines and a multi-awardee of special awards. Governor Cerilles himself is a national figure of the organization.

These are just some of his programs for the children and the youth of the province—programs that will drive them away from illegal drugs, para hindi maging addict, as Governor Cerilles wants them to be good citizens of this country.

For your ill intention of portraying, associating and linking Governor Cerilles to drugs, shame on you. You are a disgrace to the province of Zamboanga del Sur. You better say something or explain this case of misinformation or disinformation, DILG Acting Secretary Cuy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Cerilles to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Next to speak, Mr. Speaker, is the Hon. France L. Castro. I move that the Lady be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. France Castro is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CASTRO (F.L.)

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Magandang gabi po sa ating lahat.

On November 20, 1959, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. On the same date, in 1989, the UN General Assembly also adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since 1954, 63 years ago, we have been celebrating the United Nations Universal Children’s Day every 20th of November to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children’s welfare. Since 1990, Universal Children’s Day also marks the anniversary of the date the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on the children’s rights. This year, the theme of the celebration is “2017: It’s a #KidsTakeOver,” where we empower children to support millions of their peers who are unschooled, unprotected and uprooted.

It is high time that we check how we rate as a nation in the promotion and protection of the rights and welfare of the Filipino children, specifically their right to education. Kanina lamang po ay nakiisa ang Representasyong ito sa programa at protesta ng mga kabataang Lumad sa harapan ng Department of Education Central Office. Apat na buwan na silang nasa Kamaynilaan, kasama ng kanilang mga guro sa mga paaralang Lumad mula sa Mindanao, ngunit hanggang ngayon ay hindi pa rin sila makauwi. Ngayong Pandaigdigang Araw ng mga Bata, wala silang ibang hiling kundi ang makatuntong muli sa kanilang mga komunidad at makapagpatuloy ng kanilang pag-aaral. Ngunit isang buwan bago matapos ang martial law sa Mindanao, patuloy pa rin na kinakampuhan at binobomba ng Armed Forces of the Philippines ang kanilang mga komunidad.

Matagal nang biktima ng militarisasyon ang mga Lumad sa Mindanao dulot ng kanilang mariing pagtutol sa pagpasok ng dayuhan at dambuhalang mga minahan, plantasyon at troso na sumisira sa kanilang lupaing ninuno at likas na yaman. Sapilitan din silang pinapalayas sa kanilang mga lupaing ninuno at kung hindi man, ay isa-isa silang pinagpapapaslang ng mga militar at paramilitar. Sa ilalim ng pamahalaang Duterte, tumitindi ang militarisasyon, lalo na nang

mapasailalim ang buong Mindanao sa batas militar. Lubhang apektado nito ang operasyon ng mga paaralang Lumad na noon pa man ay inaatake na ng mga militar dahil sa bisa ng DepEd Order No. 221, series of 2013, na nagpapahintulot sa pagkampo ng mga militar sa mga paaralan.

Sa loob ng halos anim na buwan, naitala ang mga kaso ng pamamaslang sa mga lider-Lumad, kabataan, walang habas na pambobomba sa mga komunidad, harassment at pananakot sa mga guro ng mga paaralang Lumad at iba pang porma ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao. Kabilang si Obello Bay-ao, isang Manobo at mag-aaral ng Salugpongan Community Learning Center, sa walang awang pinaslang ng mga militar at grupong paramilitar. Si Bay-ao ay nakatira sa komunidad at bulubundukin ng Pantaron Range sa Talaingod, Davao del Norte kung saan aktibo siyang lumalahok sa pagtutol at paglaban sa mga dambuhalang kompanya na gustong dambungin ang kanilang mga lupang ninuno.

Higit pang nagpalakas ng loob ng AFP ang pagbabanta ng Pangulo na bobombahin ang mga paaralang Lumad. Kinakasangkapan din ng AFP ang mga lokal na opisina ng DepEd at LGU sa Mindanao sa pagpapasara sa mga paaralang Lumad. Sa kasalukuyan, araw-araw na binobomba ng mga militar ang mga komunidad ng Lumad. Halos walang pinagkaiba sa pambobombang ginawa nila sa Marawi. Lantad ang labis na pagkasira ng mga kabundukan at mga ari-arian ng mga mamamayan. Lumikas din sa mga komunidad at naantala ang operasyon ng mga paaralang apektado. Sa datos ng Save our Schools Network, tinatayang sa 200 Lumad schools sa Mindanao, 89 dito ay isinara at hindi na makapag-operate dahil sa umano ay military harassment.

Kasalukuyang nakakampo ang mahigit na 300 na Lumad at mga miyembro ng Save our Schools Network sa harap ng DepEd Central Office, Pasig City upang igiit ang pakikipag-usap kay Secretary Leonor Briones at gumawa siya ng mga kongkretong hakbang upang mabigyang solusyon ang militarisasyon sa kanilang mga paaralan at mga komunidad. Ang balita nga natin, kailangan pa raw ng military permit ng mga schools na mga Lumad para ito ay makapag-proseso para sa DepEd permit. The DepEd's leadership has yet to condemn AFP attacks on Lumad schools and to investigate cases of connivance between the DepEd Regional Office, AFP and LGUs on closing down Lumad schools. Also, I support their demand for the DepEd to immediately grant permit-to-operate and certificate of recognition on all Lumad schools.

This Representation underscores the urgency of these demands as I fear for the lives of the Lumad children. President Duterte's threat to haunt down progressive groups would only intensify attacks in communities of national minority groups who are often targeted by the Oplan Kapayapaan, the

government's counterinsurgency campaign. We will not allow another Marawi tragedy in North Cotabato and other communities in Mindanao. We must join the Lumads and Moros in calling for the immediate end to aerial bombings and shelling of their communities to ultimately help bring them back home.

Ang panawagan po ng mga kabataan at mga komunidad ng Lumad sa Mindanao ay itigil ang mga pag-atake sa mga komunidad at paaralang Lumad. Itigil ang pambobomba sa mga komunidad ng mga Lumad at Moro sa Mindanao. Ang martial law at Oplan Kapayapaan ay dapat ibasura at isulong ang makabayan, siyentipiko at makamasang edukasyon.

Marami pong salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. France Castro to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, next to speak is the Gentleman from the First District of Lanao del Norte. I move that we recognize the Hon. Mohamad Khalid Q. Dimaporo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Mohamad Khalid Dimaporo is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. DIMAPORO (M.)

REP. DIMAPORO (M.). *Auzu billahi minash shaytan niraheem. Bismillah hirakman niraheem.* Mr. Speaker, colleagues, *Assalam alaikum warakmatullahi wa barakato.*

Elation is probably one of the words to describe the nation's sentiment when terrorist leaders Isnilon Hapilon and Omar Maute were reportedly killed in their attempt to escape last October 16. When DND Secretary Lorenzana confirmed the reports that Hapilon and Omar Maute have been killed, President Duterte then declared Marawi City liberated.

In Lanao del Norte, the provincial governor and her 22 mayors have been working tirelessly in support of our AFP and PNP in preventing the escape or spillover of terrorists from Lanao del Sur into Lanao del Norte and Iligan City. Likewise, they have been doing what they can to assist in the management of evacuation centers. That feeling of elation in the province of Lanao del Norte, when we heard the news of Hapilon and Omar Maute being killed, quickly spread. Finally, the

battle for Marawi was soon to end. The evacuees can return home. Martial law will be lifted and normalcy will return to the province and the region.

The liberation of Marawi is a critical achievement of the Duterte administration, a military achievement because Malacañang has succeeded in neutralizing the ISIS terrorist leadership and in effect, its growth and operational capability to conduct terror strikes in key cities of our Republic. Second, the success in Marawi is a political achievement for Malacañang because it exemplifies the political will of the President to rid Mindanao of its security threats, and provide Mindanaoans the promise that we have been longing for—a peaceful environment for our future generations to build on and prosper. Peace and security is a basic economic foundation for development. This would be the greatest legacy for his countrymen in the South should he achieve it.

So, on behalf of my province, the land of beauty and bounty, Lanao del Norte, this Representation extends our sincere congratulations to Pres. Rodrigo Roa Duterte in his administration's accomplishment of annihilating the threat of terrorists in the Lanao Region. In the same manner, we would like to acknowledge the courage and sacrifice of our security forces: the men and women of the AFP and PNP who fought in Marawi under the leadership of DND Secretary Lorenzana, Chief of Staff General Año and Chief PNP Dela Rosa. To the brave members of Marines, Rangers, SAF and other elements of our security forces, daghang salamat sa inyong sakripisyo para sa atong nasud. Isnilon Hapilon and his cohorts, the Maute brothers, threatened to terrorize Filipino society. You are our government's apt response against terrorism—that they will ultimately meet their demise. Your action sends a message to the Filipino people, that they can have faith in their security forces to provide our communities protection. For this, the people of Lanao del Norte are truly grateful.

The battle of Marawi may have been won, but our fight against terrorism continues. In the aftermath of the conflict, we have to look back at its cause: How did terrorism get a foothold in our country, specifically the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao?

I am sure there will be an abundance of studies regarding terrorism in the Philippines, but I would like to place on record my concerns as a Representative and former local official of Lanao del Norte. I see three areas of concern in the region: the PNP and local governance, the thin line between insurgency and terrorism, and the need to provide additional budgetary support to our military. First, in regard to the PNP and local governance, President Duterte was correct in declaring martial law to subdue the terrorists in Lanao del Sur because it is only the military that has the power to demand respect for the government in the ARMM

territory. The number of guns seized by the military gives a glimpse of the proliferation of high-powered firearms in the ARMM. More than 400 high-powered firearms were seized by the AFP. If we do an inventory of the PNP's firearms in the province of Lanao del Sur, I am sure you will find that the police are outgunned and incapacitated to conduct their duty in a region where terrorists and insurgents thrive.

People think that the affairs of the ARMM affect only the people living in the ARMM provinces. Our experience with the Maute group showed that if the ARMM is left unchecked, the peace and order situation can affect more than just the region and even spill over to the rest of the country. Malacañang was surprised with the number of firearms that they found in Marawi, but the truth is, to locals, that is nothing new. With the non-existence of police presence in the area, civilians are left to defend themselves. Large Maranao families or clans arm themselves and police themselves through cultural norms. What the national government should do in the aftermath of conflict is restore the PNP's legitimacy over public safety in Marawi City.

In Lanao del Norte, we hear stories of city police directors in Marawi City—stories of how the MILF came to the Marawi city police station and demanded the release of criminals detained by the city police director, and they were released without a fight; stories of armed groups upset at the city director so they went to the city police station and stripped him of his firearms just to embarrass him; stories of a Tausug city police director that did his best to combat drug personalities in Marawi City and when the situation turned hostile, he called for help from the region, but the region did not support him because of intervening political powers, leading to his demise.

The police have a bad reputation in the ARMM and this should be corrected. To root out the ideology of terrorism from Muslim communities, there should be a clear, felt presence of state police powers. We should look into the role of the police in terms of local governance and identify why they have failed in the ARMM. Do they need more personnel? Do they need more equipment? If so, our police in the ARMM should be provided with the necessary support, being our frontline defense in the war against terror in the Philippines. In addition, we need to look into the long-term effects of an autonomous government in terms of public safety. Does the regional government have the capability to provide public safety with the existence of insurgents and terrorist organizations? Would the national government be more effective if the police remained under national control and not under the control of the autonomous government? These questions must be addressed in Congress so we can get a better understanding in finding a solution to fight terrorism. The role of the PNP should be thoroughly

scrutinized when discussing the Bangsamoro Basic Law and legislating a Bangsamoro Police Force.

Second, in regard to the thin line between insurgency and terrorism, terrorism has been present in our country for decades. They have curiously been active since the peace agreement with the MNLF in 1998. Prior to the battle of Marawi, the nation is already aware of the presence of terrorists. The nation is not new to kidnappings and beheadings, and we have seen that over the years from the Abu Sayyaf. The nation is not new to bombings. Zamboanga, Iligan, Cagayan de Oro, Davao—all have been hit by bombs over the years.

What is new to the nation is the participation of a foreign terrorist organization to infiltrate and take over a city. This is ISIS, and what sets it apart from other terrorist organizations? ISIS gained prominence when they drove out Iraqi government forces in Western Iraq and captured the city of Mosul. They declared themselves a worldwide caliphate, an Islamic state with a self-imposed military authority over all Muslims nationwide. The ISIS entered the Philippines through Isnilon Hapilon and the Abu Sayyaf.

In July 2014, during the previous administration, Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon swore allegiance to Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of ISIS. Beginning September 2014, the Abu Sayyaf started operating in the name of ISIS. But before ISIS, how did terrorism rise in Mindanao? It is worthwhile to note that Hapilon and the Mautes can be connected to the Moro revolutionary forces. Isnilon Hapilon started with the Moro National Liberation Front in 1985. He became the spokesperson of Commander Barahama Sali in 1992. It was when Commander Sali was killed in 1994 that he joined the Abu Sayyaf. He quickly rose through the ranks and became one of their leaders. Likewise, the Maute group's roots can be traced to the MILF. The father of the Maute group, Cayamora Maute, was a senior official of the MILF, and his wife Farhana is directly related to the late MILF Vice Chairman for Military Affairs, Alim Abdul Aziz Mimbantas. Butig is a known stronghold of the MILF and was the headquarters of the Maute group. The Maute brothers started as members of the MILF and branched off to create their own group Dawlah Islamiya, which is reportedly connected to Jemaah Islamiyah, another terrorist organization linked to Al-Qaeda. Although both Hapilon and the Maute group can be connected to the Moro rebel groups, this does not necessarily mean that the Moro rebels are linked to terrorists; instead, it illustrates that they play a significant role in controlling the proliferation of more terror groups in the proposed Bangsamoro territory.

The MILF plays an important role in the fight against terrorism because they need to police their members. Hapilon and the Mautes were once Moro rebel combatants. They have their respective reasons for leaving the Moro rebellion. Unlike a professional

organization like the AFP, the MILF does not have a structured control on their members. One of the foreseen threats in the war against terror in the Philippines is the movement of the MILF combatants out of the MILF and joining or creating terror organizations. This must be properly addressed when tackling the Bangsamoro Basic Law. When peace was crafted with the MNLF, some of its members transferred to the MILF. Likewise, when we finalize peace with the MILF, we need to ensure that there will be no transfer of their combatants to ISIS-affiliated organizations, and that all their members and firearms can be accounted for and monitored.

Third, in regard to augmenting the budget of the military, we need to properly account the AFP experience when they battled the terrorists in Marawi. From what I gathered through social media sources, the battle in Marawi progressed as follows: In May 2017, the AFP received confirmed intelligence information that Hapilon is in Marawi. They then mobilized to infiltrate his safe house and capture this internationally-recognized wanted terrorist. The capture of Hapilon failed because the AFP did not anticipate reinforcements from the Maute group who were already hiding in Marawi City. So, on May 23, fighting between the military and local terrorists broke out. The terror groups initiated the sporadic razing of buildings and the killing of civilians. Among the buildings burned were the Marawi Police Station, LANDBANK, Marawi City Jail, Dansalan College, and other government and also private institutions there in the city.

By the end of the day, May 23, 2017, President Rodrigo R. Duterte declared martial law for the island of Mindanao while on official trip in Russia. Upon his return to Manila, a report as required by the 1987 Constitution was given to Congress and was not rejected by the legislative body. Simultaneously, the military sent reinforcements to Marawi and pushed back the terrorists towards the northeastern side of the city, containing them on the opposing side of the Agus River from the AFP's Camp Ranao, with three bridges connecting the two sides of the Agus River. The three bridges being Baloi Bridge, Bayabao Bridge, and Masiu Bridge, they became the critical points of control and were very difficult for government forces to overcome because of sniper fire, RPGs, and IEDs from the terrorists. The initial estimated date to liberate Marawi was in the first half of June 2017, before the President's State of the Nation Address, but because of unforeseen difficulties in the battlefield, the administration returned to Congress to extend martial law until December 2017. Congress approved the extension.

By September, the three bridges were under government control. Mapandi Bridge was captured on July 20, Bayabao Bridge on September 1, and Masiu Bridge on September 24. The conflict area became smaller and smaller, and on October 16, Isnilon Hapilon

and Omar Maute were killed in an attempt to escape. The following day, October 17, President Duterte declared Marawi City liberated, and on October 23, 2017, DND Secretary Delfin Negrillo Lorenzana announced the end of combat operations in Marawi.

A lot can be learned from the battle of Marawi, which is why Congress should be debriefed on the military's success. We should be given a detailed, blow by blow presentation of what our men experienced in their fight against terrorists, which is why I filed a resolution that Congress be given a detailed account of what happened in Marawi. One reason to discuss it in the Committee is that a lot of criticism has been given to the military by those directly affected by the war in Marawi, especially since the fighting took five months. From my understanding, the military tried their very best to adhere to the rules of combat and proceed with their operational offensives while respecting human rights. Unfortunately, with the release of the Amnesty International Report entitled: the "Battle of Marawi: Death and Destruction in the Philippines," the AFP was alleged to have violated human rights. We should place it on public record on how the military conducted itself in Marawi so that the people, through the House of Representatives, can hear the side of the military in response to the Amnesty International Report.

Another reason we need a detailed account of what happened in Marawi is, I have often heard that our military has been fighting against the odds, that they are poorly equipped or do not have the same tactical support that their ASEAN counterparts have. It has been argued that the military has been underfunded for the last 50 years. Currently, we are legislating an amount of one percent of our GDP, while our neighbors spend two percent of their GDP. Having a detailed account of what happened in Marawi could help us understand and maybe even justify an increase in military spending for the Philippines.

In closing, once again, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate our President and the security forces of the Republic of the Philippines for their success in Marawi. The battle for Marawi has clearly been won, but the war is far from over. The fight against terrorism is now shifting from a military response to good governance. Terrorism is not a people, it is not embedded in religion, but is an ideology, for which we in Congress must legislate laws and the budgetary support needed to win the hearts of those marginalized and vulnerable in our society; we must end the recruitment of our youth who may blossom into a new generation of insurgents and terrorists in the future. One of the laws that must be delivered is the Bangsamoro Basic Law.

We are all in agreement in the Lanao region that the non-passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law will lead to further deterioration of security and stability in Mindanao. Let me place it on record, and warn

the public today, that the passage of the Bangsamoro Basic Law can either be part of the solution in the war against terror in the Philippines, or make it worse by propagating the same socio-economic conditions which led to the entry of the ISIS ideology inside the ARMM. Devolving the PNP and the DepEd to the Bangsamoro government should be properly deliberated in the House committees in lieu of the government's war against terrorism. Restricting the movement of the AFP in the Bangsamoro territory as stipulated in Article XI, Section 18 of House Bill No. 6475, the Bangsamoro Basic Law should be scrutinized because it may hamper our AFP's ability to fight terrorism in the Bangsamoro part of Mindanao. All of these will be properly addressed when the House takes up the Bangsamoro Basic Law in the weeks to come.

For now, I thank you, Mr. Speaker, colleagues, for the privilege to speak tonight. May God guide us and bless our Republic with peace and prosperity.

Assalamu alaikum warahmatulla hibrakam.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Mohamad Dimaporo to the Committee on Rules.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

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

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

ACCEPTANCE OF RESIGNATION OF REP. TURABIN-HATAMAN

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, last October 2, 2017, Rep. Sitti Djalía A. Turabin-Hataman delivered the speech declaring her resignation as a Member of the House of Representatives for the Seventeenth Congress. On October 4, 2017, Representative Hataman formally tendered her resignation through a letter addressed to

the honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez. In a letter dated October 23, 2017, Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez regretfully accepted the resignation of Representative Hataman.

Mr. Speaker, in view of the foregoing, I move that we accept the resignation of Rep. Sitti Djalía A. Turabin-Hataman of AMIN Party-List and instruct the Secretary General to drop from the roll of Members of the House of Representatives, Representative Turabin-Hataman.

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

The resignation of Rep. Sitti Djalía A. Turabin-Hataman of AMIN Party-List is hereby accepted.

The Secretary General is instructed to drop from the roll of Members of the House of Representatives, Representative Turabin-Hataman.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we instruct the Secretary General to duly inform the Commission on Elections of the acceptance of the resignation of Representative Turabin-Hataman.

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

The Secretary General is hereby instructed to duly inform the Commission on Elections of the

acceptance of the resignation of Representative Turabin-Hataman.

DESIGNATION OF REP. BELMONTE (F.)
AS CARETAKER OF BATANES

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, in the interest of the people of the Lone District of Batanes, in view of the demise of their Rep. Henedina R. Abad, I move that we designate Rep. Feliciano Belmonte Jr. of the Fourth District of Quezon City as caretaker of the Lone District of Batanes.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until four o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, November 21, 2017.

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

The session is adjourned and to resume on Tuesday, November 21, 2017, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 7:29 p.m.