



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

## House of Representatives

Vol. 3

Wednesday, November 22, 2017

No. 39

### 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 will please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

### PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.

*Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.*

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 of Members.

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. 39, dated November 22, 2017:*

### PRESENT

Abaya

Abayon

Abellanos

Abueg

Acharon

Acop

Acosta-Alba

Advincula

Aggabao

Aglipay-Villar

Albano

Alejano

Almario

Almonte

Alonte

Alvarez (F.)

Alvarez (P.)

Amatong

Aquino-Magsaysay

Aragones

Arbison

Arcillas

Arenas

Atienza

Bag-ao

Baguilat

Bataoil

Batocabe

Bautista-Bandigan

Belaro

Belmonte (F.)

Belmonte (J.C.)

Benitez

Bernos

Bertiz

Biazon

Billones

Bolilia

Bondoc

Bordado

Bravo (A.)

Bravo (M.V.)

Brosas

Bulut-Begtang

Cagas

Calderon

Calixto-Rubiano

Caminero

Campos

Cari

Castelo

Castro (F.L.)

Castro (F.H.)

Catamco

Cayetano

Cerilles

Chipeco

Cojuangco

Cortes

Cortuna

Crisologo

Cua

Cuaresma

Cueva

Dalipe

Datol

De Jesus

De Vera

Defensor

Del Mar

Del Rosario

Deloso-Montalla

Dimaporo (M.K.)

Durano

Elago

Eriguel

Ermita-Buhain

Escudero

Espino

Estrella

Evardone

Fariñas

Ferrer (J.)

Ferrer (L.)

Floirendo

Fortun

Fortuno

Fuentebella

Garbin

Garcia (G.)

Garcia (J.E.)  
 Garcia-Albano  
 Gasataya  
 Gatchalian  
 Go (A.C.)  
 Go (M.)  
 Gonzaga  
 Gonzales (A.P.)  
 Gonzales (A.D.)  
 Gonzalez  
 Gullas  
 Herrera-Dy  
 Hofer  
 Jalosjos  
 Kho  
 Labadlabad  
 Lacson  
 Lagman  
 Lanete  
 Laogan  
 Leachon  
 Lee  
 Lobregat  
 Lopez (B.)  
 Loyola  
 Macapagal-Arroyo  
 Malapitan  
 Manalo  
 Mangudatu (S.)  
 Mangudatu (Z.)  
 Marcoleta  
 Mariño  
 Marquez  
 Martinez  
 Matugas  
 Mendoza  
 Mercado  
 Mirasol  
 Montoro  
 Nava  
 Nieto  
 Noel  
 Nograles (K.A.)  
 Nolasco  
 Nuñez-Malanyaon  
 Oaminal  
 Ocampo  
 Olivarez  
 Ong (E.)  
 Ortega (P.)  
 Ortega (V.N.)  
 Pacquiao  
 Paduano  
 Palma  
 Pancho  
 Panganiban

Panotes  
 Papandayan  
 Pichay  
 Pimentel  
 Pineda  
 Plaza  
 Primicias-Agabas  
 Radaza  
 Ramirez-Sato  
 Ramos  
 Relampagos  
 Revilla  
 Roa-Puno  
 Rocamora  
 Rodriguez (I.)  
 Romero  
 Romualdo  
 Sacdalan  
 Sagarbarria  
 Salimbangon  
 Salo  
 Salon  
 Sambar  
 Sandoval  
 Santos-Recto  
 Sarmiento (C.)  
 Sarmiento (E.M.)  
 Savellano  
 Sema  
 Siao  
 Silverio  
 Singson  
 Suansing (E.)  
 Suansing (H.)  
 Suarez  
 Tambunting  
 Tan (M.)  
 Tejada  
 Teves  
 Tiangco  
 Ting  
 Tinio  
 Tolentino  
 Treñas  
 Tugna  
 Tupas  
 Ty  
 Umali  
 Ungab  
 Unico  
 Uy (R.)  
 Uybarreta  
 Vargas  
 Velarde  
 Velasco  
 Veloso

Vergara  
 Villanueva  
 Villaraza-Suarez  
 Villarica  
 Villarín

Yap (A.)  
 Yu  
 Zamora (R.)  
 Zubiri

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 211 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). With 211 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 38, dated November 21, 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, 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 will please read the Reference of Business.

#### REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

#### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6644, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE BUREAU OF MADRASAH EDUCATION (BME) IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DepED) TO STRENGTHEN THE MADRASAH EDUCATION PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Belaro

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6645, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING NATIONAL MARINE PARKS IN THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE  
AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6646, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PLACEMENT  
OF TOURIST MARKERS TO ALL  
TOURIST SITES IN THE COUNTRY AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 6647, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL  
PHILIPPINE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY  
INVENTION EXPO, APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND  
TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 6648, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE EXCISE TAX  
ON TOBACCO PRODUCTS, AMENDING  
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 145 OF THE  
NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE  
OF 1997, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT  
NO. 10351 OR THE SIN TAX REFORM LAW”

By Representative Tan (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND  
MEANS

House Bill No. 6650, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING THAT 100% OF THE  
SERVICE CHARGE COLLECTED IN  
HOTELS AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS  
BE DISTRIBUTED TO ALL COVERED  
EMPLOYEES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tugna  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND  
EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6651, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL TOLL OPERATORS  
OF ALL MAJOR EXPRESSWAYS IN MEGA  
MANILA TO ESTABLISH AND UTILIZE A  
STANDARD AND UNIFIED ELECTRONIC  
TOLL COLLECTION (ETC) SYSTEM IN  
THE FORM OF A RADIO FREQUENCY  
IDENTIFICATION DEVICE (RFID)”

By Representative Advincula  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6652, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING STIFFER PENALTIES

TO OWNERS AND DRIVERS OF TRUCKS  
WHO LOAD THEM IN EXCESS OF THEIR  
PAYLOAD”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6653, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING LEGAL RESIDENCY  
STATUS OF CERTAIN ALIENS IN  
THE PHILIPPINES UNDER CERTAIN  
CONDITIONS”

By Representative Yap (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6654, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT  
OF PUBLIC CREMATORIUMS IN CITIES  
AND MUNICIPALITIES AND EXTENDING  
FREE CREMATION SERVICES TO  
INDIGENT FAMILIES AMENDING  
FOR SUCH PURPOSE THE LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT CODE AND THE CODE  
ON SANITATION”

By Representative Defensor  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6655, entitled:

“THE BARANGAY WORKERS ACT”  
By Representative Defensor  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6656, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN ACROSS THE  
BOARD INCREASE OF TEN THOUSAND  
PESOS (10,000.00) TO THE BASIC SALARY  
OF ALL ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY  
PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION  
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6657, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A  
COMPREHENSIVE CIVIL REGISTRATION  
SYSTEM IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Aragon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND  
FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 6658, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING POLYTECHNIC  
UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-  
CALAUAN CAMPUS IN THE

MUNICIPALITY OF CALAUAN, LAGUNA TO BE KNOWN AS ‘PUP - CALAUAN CAMPUS’ APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Aragonés  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6659, entitled:  
“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 10361”

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6660, entitled:  
“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RADIO MARINE NETWORK, INCORPORATED, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 4607, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7512”

By Representative Romualdo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 6661, entitled:  
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE LINANGAN NG LIKHANG-BAYAN (INSTITUTE FOR LIVING TRADITIONS) TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION, PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE COUNTRY’S COMMUNAL TRADITIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10066 OR THE NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF 2009, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Antonio  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1441, entitled:  
“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO FATHER ROMEO JOCSON INTENGAN, S.J. FORMER HEAD OF THE PHILIPPINE JESUITS”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1442, entitled:  
“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE

OF VETERAN ACTRESS ISABEL GRANADA”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1443, entitled:  
“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE UNFAIR AND ANOMALOUS PRACTICE OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMPANIES OF PROFITING FROM FLUCTUATION OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES”

By Representative Suarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1444, entitled:  
“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE(S) TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING OPERATIONS VICTIMIZING OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN HONGKONG”

By Representative Bertiz  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1445, entitled:  
“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS TO CONDUCT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, AN INQUIRY REGARDING THE ALLEGED IRREGULARITIES AND ABUSES IN THE CONDUCT OF SMALL TOWN LOTTERY BY PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO) AUTHORIZED AGENT CORPORATIONS”

By Representative Villafuerte  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1446, entitled:  
“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING TERESITA SSEN ‘WINWYN’ MARQUEZ FOR BEING CROWNED REINA HISPANOAMERICANA 2017 IN STA. CRUZ, BOLIVIA ON NOVEMBER 5, 2017”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1447, entitled:  
“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO FOR CONDUCTING THE HISTORICAL WORLDWIDE LINGAP

SA MAMAMAYAN (AID FOR HUMANITY)  
ON OCTOBER 29, 2017, WHICH WAS THE  
CHURCH'S LARGEST AND FARTHEST-  
REACHING SOCIO-CIVIC OUTREACH  
INITIATIVE IN ITS ANNALS"

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1448, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE  
CONCURRENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
THE PHILIPPINES TO THE POWERING PAST  
COAL ALLIANCE DECLARATION SIGNED  
DURING THE 2017 UNITED NATIONS  
CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN  
BONN, GERMANY"

By Representative Suarez  
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE  
CHANGE

House Resolution No. 1449, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE  
APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT  
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
INTO THE RECENT REPORTS ON THE  
'BUDOL-BUDOL GANGS' THAT TARGET  
OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS AND  
OFW RETIREES"

By Representative Benitez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1450, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING MS.  
KAREN SANTOS IBASCO FROM MALATE,  
MANILA FOR WINNING MISSEARTH 2017"

By Representative Bagatsing  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1451, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND  
COMMENDING MS. MARIA TERESITA  
'WINWYN' SSEN L. MARQUEZ  
FOR WINNING THE 2017 REINA  
HISPANOAMERICANA PAGEANT"

By Representative Tambunting  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1452, entitled:

"RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND  
COMMENDING JOHN LEERAMS  
CHICANO FOR WINNING A SOUTHEAST  
ASIAN GAMES SILVER MEDAL IN THE  
MEN'S INDIVIDUAL TRIATHLON IN THE  
2017 SOUTHEAST ASIAN (SEA) GAMES  
HELD AT KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA  
ON AUGUST 21, 2017"

By Representative Deloso-Montalla  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND  
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1453, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE COMMITTEE  
ON TRANSPORTATION TO EXERCISE  
ITS OVERSIGHT FUNCTION AND  
INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
THE MRT MANAGEMENT ON THE  
ACCIDENT THAT HAPPENED AT THE  
METRO RAIL TRANSIT LINE 3 (MRT 3)  
AYALA STATION LAST NOVEMBER 14, 2017"

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1454, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION COMMENDING ENGR.  
JONEL GENON VERNANTE, A RESIDENT  
OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIBJO,  
PROVINCE OF DINAGAT ISLANDS,  
FOR BEING THE TOPNOTCHER IN THE  
2017 GEODETIC ENGINEER LICENSURE  
BOARD EXAMINATION"

By Representative Bag-ao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1455, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE ARMED  
FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES TO  
PROVIDE A DETAILED BRIEFING OF  
THE BATTLE OF MARAWI CITY TO THE  
APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE"

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

House Resolution No. 1456, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND  
LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO PRESENT TO  
THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,  
THE RESULTS AND CRITERIA OF THE SEAL  
OF GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE 2017"

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

House Resolution No. 1457, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A FORMAL  
CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION  
INTO AND ORDER A TOTAL HALT ON  
ALL RECLAMATION PROJECTS ALL  
OVER THE COUNTRY TO PRESERVE  
OUR SHORELINES AND PROTECT  
THEM FROM BEING EXPLOITED BY  
PROFIT-MOTIVATED BUSINESSMEN"

By Representative Atienza  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1458, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMENDING THE HEROIC ACT OF MEDICAL INTERN MS. CHARLEANNE JANDIC WHO HELPED TO SAVE THE LIFE AND LIMB OF AN MRT ACCIDENT VICTIM”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1459, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE INCREASE IN THE BASE PAY OF MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated October 2, 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 Report of projects implemented by their office within the First Legislative District of the Province of Davao del Norte for the month of September 2017.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated 9 October 2017 of Atty. Jose Jobel V. Belarmino, OIC, Deputy Administrator for Administrative, Finance and AFCSD, Light Rail Transit Authority, submitting their Report of Utilization of Operating Subsidy to the LRTA for the 3rd Quarter of CY 2017.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 11, 2017 of Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret.), Administrator, National Irrigation Administration, submitting the CY2017 Third Quarter Progress Report for Mindanao Sustainable Agrarian and Agriculture Development (MinSAAD) Project.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Annual Audit Report on the Marawi Water District, Bubonga Marawi, Marawi City for the year ended December 31, 2015 together with the letter dated March 14, 2016 of Norah A. Ansao, CPA, State Auditor IV, Audit Team Leader, Marawi City, Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao,

Commission on Audit, addressed to Director Bato S. Ali Jr., Director IV, Regional Director, COA-ARMM, Cotabato City.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Reports on the following state colleges in Zamboanga City for the year ended December 31, 2015:

1. Zamboanga City State Polytechnic College; and
2. Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Annual Audit Report on the Metro Cotabato Water District, Cotabato City for the year ended December 31, 2015.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Triennium Audit Reports on the following water districts in Negros Occidental for calendar years ended 2013-2015:

1. La Castellana Water District, La Castellana, Negros Occidental; and
2. Pulpandan Water District, Pulpandan, Negros Occidental.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2012 Annual Audit Report on the Sipalay Water District, Sipalay City, Negros Occidental.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2015 Annual Audit Report on the Metro Midsayap Water District, Midsayap, Cotabato.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2015 Annual Audit Report on the Adiong Memorial Polytechnic State College, Ditsaan Ramain, Lanao del Sur.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2015 Annual Audit Report on the Bicol University, Legazpi City.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2015 Annual Audit Report on the Binalbagan Water District, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2015 Annual Audit Report on the Pigcawayan Water District, Pigcawayan, Cotabato.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Triennium Audit Report on the Bago City Water District, Bago City, Negros Occidental for calendar years 2013-2015.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2015 Annual Audit Report on the Escalante Water District, Escalante City, Negros Occidental.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Biennium Audit Report on the Sagay Water District, Sagay City, Negros Occidental for calendar years 2014-2015.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2016 Annual Report of the Energy Regulatory Commission per letter dated 4 September 2017 of Alfredo J. Non, Officer-in-Charge.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

2016 Annual Report of the Bureau of Customs.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Letter dated October 13, 2017 of Catalino S. Cuy, Officer-in-Charge, Department of the Interior and Local Government, submitting to the House of Representatives the Statement of Allotments, Obligations and Balances (Current and Cont. Appropriations) of the Office of the Secretary, DILG, as of September 30, 2017, in compliance with Section 91 of the General Provisions of Republic Act No. 10924.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated October 13, 2017 of Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret), Administrator, National Irrigation Administration, submitting the Third Quarter Report of NIA CARP-Irrigation Component for CY 2017.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Letter dated October 16, 2017 of Eugene U. Caballero, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Manukan, Province of Zamboanga del Norte, submitting their Report on the Utilization of the FY 2017 Local Government Support Fund for the Third Quarter ending September 2017.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Quarterly Financial and Physical Accomplishment Reports of the Court of Tax Appeals as of the 3rd Quarter ending September 30, 2017 per letter dated October 23, 2017 of Roman G. Del Rosario, Presiding Justice.  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

Letter dated 24 October 2017 of Nestor A. Espenilla Jr., Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting to the House of Representatives the Status Report on the Philippine Financial System for the First Semester of 2017 (hard copy and CD format).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated 24 October 2017 of Nestor A. Espenilla Jr., Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), submitting their Report to Congress on Public Sector/Publicly-Guaranteed Private Sector Foreign Loans approved by the BSP in the Third Quarter of 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated October 24, 2017 of Michael G. Aguinaldo, Chairperson, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of the Special Audit Office (SAO) Report No. 2017-04 on the sectoral performance audit of Malampaya Fund focusing on funds released by the Department of Budget and Management to various implementing agencies.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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

1. Memorandum No. M-2017-033 dated 13 October 2017; and
2. Memorandum No. M-2017-034 dated 20 October 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated 25 October 2017 of Jose Voltaire V. Ricafrente, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Rosario, Province of Cavite, submitting their Report on the Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation of the Local Government Support Fund-Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities for the quarter ending September 30, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Letters dated November 3, 2017 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-065 dated 20 October 2017;
2. Circular No. 977 dated 27 October 2017; and
3. Circular No. 978 dated 27 October 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Quarterly Reports on the Financial and Physical Accomplishments of Projects under the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities (ADM) Program for Bohol, Cebu, Siquijor and Negros Oriental for the quarter ending September 30, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS  
COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 478), re H.B. No. 6681, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE PORTA VEGA BEACH AND THE SHORELINES OF BARANGAYS T.R. YANGCO, CADULAN AND DIVISORIA, ALL LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DIMASALANG, PROVINCE OF MASBATEAN ECOTOURISM SITE, ESTABLISHING THE PORTA VEGA ECOTOURISM COUNCIL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1063

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Lanete

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 479), re H.B. No. 6682, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE LIMAHONG CHANNEL LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LINGAYEN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN A TOURIST SPOT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4131

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Bataoil

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 480), re H.B. No. 6683, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF LA UNION A TOURIST DESTINATION AND THE ‘SURFING CAPITAL OF THE NORTH’, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3412

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Ortega (V.N.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism (Committee Report No. 481), re H.R. No. 1463, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING HIS EXCELLENCY, PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE, TO RENEW THE POLICY WHICH GRANTS TRAVEL TAX EXEMPTION TO TRAVELLERS DEPARTING FROM ALL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORTS AND SEAPORTS IN MINDANAO AND PALAWAN TO ANY DESTINATION IN THE BRUNEI DARUSSALAM-INDONESIA-MALAYSIA-PHILIPPINES - EAST ASEAN GROWTH AREA (BIMP-EAGA)”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1270

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Cagas, Acosta, Siao, Labadlabad, Nava and Mending

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Agrarian Reform and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 482), re H.B. No. 6686, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING FULL INSURANCE COVERAGE TO ALL QUALIFIED AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES OF THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9700, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM EXTENSION WITH REFORMS’”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 229 and 2177

Sponsors: Representatives Relampagos, Nograles (K.A.), Singson and Santos-Recto

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 483), re H.B. No. 6688, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JULY 4 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE PROVINCE OF BOHOL, TO BE KNOWN AS ‘FRANCISCO DAGOHOY DAY’ IN HONOR OF FRANCISCO DAGOHOY, A NATIVE OF BOHOL AND LEADER OF THE LONGEST PHILIPPINE REVOLT ON RECORD THAT LASTED FOR 85 YEARS DURING THE SPANISH ERA”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2325

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Relampagos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 484), re H.B. No. 5262, entitled:



“AN ACT DECLARING MAY 22 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF GUIMARAS IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS ANNIVERSARY AS A PROVINCE”

recommending its approval without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Nava

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 485), re H.B. No. 6689, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 17 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL SUR IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5869

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Plaza

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 486), re H.B. No. 6690, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAY 3 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. CRUZ, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS ‘STA. CRUZ DAY’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6038

Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Velasco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

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

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6517

*Continuation*

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that

we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6517 reported in Committee Report No. 402, and that we direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure.

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 title of House Bill No. 6517.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6517, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE AND RIGHT OF ACCESS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS AND EXPANDING RESEARCH INTO ITS MEDICINAL PROPERTIES.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we recognize the distinguished Gentleman from the First District of Isabela, one of the authors—the author of the Bill, the Hon. Rodolfo T. Albano III, for the sponsorship.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Hon. Rodito Albano is hereby recognized for his sponsorship speech.

REP. DEFENSOR. First to interpellate, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from BUHAY, the Hon. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr.

REP. ALBANO. Mr. Speaker, we are already in the period of interpellation and debate. I finished already my sponsorship speech the last time.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The manifestation of the Majority Leader was the guide of the Chair.

REP. ALBANO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, but I already finished my sponsorship speech, and I think we are now in the period of interpellation and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, the Sponsor of the Bill has already delivered his sponsorship speech and now, we are about to begin the interpellation and our first interpellator is the Hon. Jose Atienza from BUHAY.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Lito Atienza is hereby recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker, Majority Leader, the distinguished Sponsor and of course, the Body that is now present and anticipating the debate on this very important measure that could really affect the lives of millions of Filipinos, young and old, poor and rich, male and female. We will all feel the effects of this piece of legislation and that is why I believe that it should be very well studied, all the issues involved, and the Members of Congress participating, so that when we are made to vote on this measure, the vote of each and every Member shall be an informed decision and not just a mere say-so or hearsay. Kaya maraming salamat po na pinagbigyan ninyo kami kahapon nang humingi kami ng postponement ng aming interpellation sapagkat nakita naming kakaunti na ang mga Miyembro natin sa floor. Ngayon po namang mayroon tayong supisyenteng bilang, naniniwala po ang inyong lingkod na magkakaroon ng bunga ang ating pag-uusap na ito at pagbibigay ng lahat ng mga katanungan na alam ko naman ay sasagutin ng ating Ginoo, ng distinguished Sponsor.

To start with, Mr. Speaker, the premise of the Gentleman Sponsor of this measure on legalizing medical marijuana or medicinal marijuana is based on the constitutional guarantee that the State should promote and protect the good health of our people. Kaya ang ating paniniwala ay dapat ang ating ipinapasang batas ay ligtas at makagagamot sa mga problema sa kalusugan ng ating mga mamamayan at hindi magbibigay ng problema sa anumang pagkakataon. So, I would like to ask directly the Sponsor, iyon po bang probisyon na iyon, Section 11 of Article XIII, ay ang inyong basehan sa inyong paggawa nitong panukala, itong pagbibigay ng paraan upang ang tinatawag ninyong medical or medicinal use of marijuana be given access or be given to our people, young and old? Is it based on the Constitution, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ALBANO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, and it is based on the right to health.

REP. ATIENZA. Therefore, naniniwala kayo ...

REP. ALBANO. Kung iyon ang iyong basis, ang sinasabing iyon sa Dangerous Drug Law na iyon.

REP. ATIENZA. Therefore, naniniwala kayo, G. Isponsor, na ang *cannabis sativa* na panggagalingan nitong element na ito na mayroong tetrahydrocannabinol ay makabubuti sa kalusugan ng ating mga kababayan.

REP. ALBANO. Hindi lang po iyong ingredient na iyan ang makakabuti sa ating mga kababayan, at kung puwede nating i-paraphrase iyong ating sinasabi, hindi

po para sa lahat ng ating kababayan ito, kung hindi po para doon sa mga nangangailangan po lamang na mga kababayan nating maysakit.

REP. ATIENZA. E di ituturing ninyong gamot ito sa maysakit?

REP. ALBANO. Exactly po pero gamot na sinasabing, hindi iyong gamot na nakakagaling, Mr. Speaker, kung hindi gamot na nakaka-alleviate or may palliative effect doon sa mga nangangailangan nito. Katulad po noong sinasabing CBD, if nakakatulong po sa mga pasyente na may autism, epilepsy, cancer—at sinasabi rin po doon sa mga trial studies, nakakapatay po ng mga cancer cells pero hindi pa po iyan guaranteed 100 percent—at iniibsan po ang kanilang pain, kung baga, iniibsan ang kanilang—ano iyon—karamdaman at iyong mga sakit. Ang THC naman, iyong tetrahydrocannabinol na tinatawag, ay “neuroprotectant”; it protects the nerves in the brain, and from brain and nerves, it is also for lung cancer, epilepsy and Alzheimer’s.

REP. ATIENZA. Marami pong binanggit na mga kalagayan ang ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor. Maseselan na sakit po iyan kaya tatanungin ko siya ng isang simpleng tanong at hinihingi ko po ay simpleng sagot: naniniwala po ba kayo na ito ay mayroong medicinal value, itong marijuana?

REP. ALBANO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, naniniwala po ako na ang marijuana ay may medicinal value, but I am not claiming that cannabis can cure, Mr. Speaker, neither can pharmaceutical drugs for that matter. As a medicine, it has therapeutic effects and palliative effects. Palliative, meaning, it relieves the pain, with numerous studies proving that cannabis does. Therapeutic, on the other hand, meaning that cannabis is a treatment that ameliorates the medical condition often for as long as the treatment is continued or for a short while after treatment is ended. For example—magbibigay lang po ako ng halimbawa kung papayagan ninyo po akong magsalita pa, kagalang-galang na colleague ng aking ama—there is no cure for AIDS but cannabis can slow down, as clinical trials have proven, the harm done by HIV and extend a person’s life. Chemotherapy is a treatment for cancer but it may not work for every patient. There is no treatment that can cure 100 percent of patients and 100 percent of the disease, not even antibiotics which are often cited as a complete cure for bacterial infection.

In 1999, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization established a goal to cure 85 percent of TB patients in Russia but reached only 80 percent success rate, with 75 percent of the disease cured and five percent that had otherwise successfully finished treatment. You know, Mr. Speaker,

to attain a 100-percent cure for cancer or the simple cold means that we already discovered immortality, the source of life which only comes from God, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Malalalim po at malalawak ang mga binanggit ng ating kaibigang Sponsor. Narinig ko po kayo sa isang interview na sinabi po ninyo na ang inyong panukala ay pagbibigay daan lamang sa tinatawag ninyong herbal medicine. Tama po ba ang sinabi ninyong iyon?

REP. ALBANO. Hindi lamang po herbal medicine, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi, narinig ko po sinabi ninyo herbal medicine.

REP. ALBANO. Yes, herbal pero may therapeutic effect.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyan po ba ay inuulit ninyo on the floor?

REP. ALBANO. Yes, that is ...

REP. ATIENZA. That particular measure talks not only about chemical medicine but herbal medicine.

REP. ALBANO. May dagdag pa ho iyon, at baka ho hindi lang nakuha iyong lahat ng aking nasabi, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Ito po ba ay herbal medicine o hindi herbal medicine?

REP. ALBANO. Hindi lamang po herbal pero puwede ho maging herbal medicine kasi may herbal medicine naman na nagsasabing ...

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon po ang sinabi ninyo, hindi po sinabi ko iyon. I am asking a question which you had stated publicly ...

REP. ALBANO. Yes.

REP. ATIENZA. ... on mass media, that it is a herbal medicine.

REP. ALBANO. Herbal, meaning, coming from plants, yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Marami po kayong binanggit na mga sakit na maaaring mapagaan— hindi naman para mabigyan ng solusyon kung hindi mapagaan sa maraming paraan. Iyon po ba ay paninindigan ninyo, sa mga sinabi ninyong iyon, sa pamamagitan po ng

solid information and research done by professionals on medical care and problems that you have mentioned.

REP. ALBANO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, paninindigan ko po iyon kahit hindi po ako doctor.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon po ba kayong maibibigay sa amin ngayong impormasyon na base po sa pag-aaral at pagsusuri ng mga dalubhasa sa mga sakit na sinabi po ninyo. You mentioned very critical illnesses of the mind and body that we have to appreciate. If you have a research on this, and this proposed piece of legislation is anchored on solid study, then there is no reason we should not accept and embrace it.

REP. ALBANO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Tulungan po natin ang mga nangangailangan ng tulong.

REP. ALBANO. But I have to tell you, there is no research here for the simple reason that we have banned marijuana for the longest time. So, I can cite to you researches from other countries, especially from the University of California and Israel, if you want me to read them, and Germany. That is why they are already allowing medical cannabis there, in their countries, Mr. Speaker. For example, in the 1960s, Raphael Mechoulam—ewan ko kung mangkukulam ito—Raphael Mechoulam, the Father of Medical Cannabis Research and an Israelite scientist, was the first ever to study the structure of cannabis and its 480 natural components, including its 66 cannabinoids. He was the first to isolate THC. He believes, along with many others, that all components of the cannabis plant will exert some therapeutic effect more than any single compound can.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang binanggit po ...

REP. ALBANO. Also in Germany, Mr. Speaker, 2010 reviews by researchers report that since 2015, there had been 37 controlled studies assessing the safety and efficacy of marijuana and its naturally occurring compounds in a total of 2,563 subjects already, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang binabanggit po ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor ay mga testimonies ng mga sumusuporta dito sa measure na ito. Ang tanong ko po, mayroon po bang pagsusuri, pag-aaral, research, laboratoryo na masasabi natin sa lahat ng ating mga Miyembro, “Ito ang aming pinagbabasehan kaya namin aaprubahan ang measure na ito.”

Sa ngayon, Mr. Speaker, I know for a fact that in the United States, in the Philippines, wala pong study

na nagsasabing ang marijuana is beneficial. In fact, the Philippine Medical Association, the Philippine Psychological Association and all other medical organizations in the Philippines are all against this measure simply because they have solid, informed researches and laboratory tests showing that marijuana is not a medicine. It will only bring the patient to another level of consciousness, and it may even endanger his good health. Ang sabi nila, kapag ang gamot na ito, itong marijuana na ito ay ginamit sa mga bata, maaaring iyong mga batang iyon ay magdusa ng permanente sa kanilang kalagayan. With their mental state and condition, marijuana could aggravate their problem. If given to lactating or pregnant mothers, it may affect the fetus, the child to be born. It will even hamper the development of the brain of the child. Therefore, iyong aking pinagbabasehan, itong aming posisyon ay base sa mga pinag-aralan ng ating mga manggagamot, ng mga organisasyon na mayroong tunay na ginagawa para bigyan tayo ng mga effective and safe drugs in the country.

The Philippine FDA is not in favor of this measure because they have no basis whatsoever sapagkat wala rin silang research. The US FDA even warns, binabalaan ang US Congress, “Huwag ninyong ipapasa ang batas na iyan sapagkat iyan ay sisira sa ating mga mamamayang Amerikano.” Iyong problema nila sa opyo ay magmu-multiply, magkakaroon naman ng cannabinoid problem.

Kaya ang researches and studies that I have are based on professional information that they have analyzed, giving us the opportunity to study them, while the Gentleman has testimonials. Makakabasa po siya ng testimonial na sumasang-ayon na ito po ay nakakatulong pero mayroon din naman po tayong mga testimonial at ang sarili kong testimonial ang aking paniniwalaan. Sabi niya na ito ay makapagbibigay ng solusyon sa mga mayroong problem sa seizure, epilepsy at mga problema ng mga batang may kaunting dinaramdam sa kanilang pag-iisip.

I would like this Body to know that I have two adopted children at home suffering from these seizures and epileptic fits. We have never subscribed to the idea that cannabinoid, marijuana or, for that matter, any derivative of this substance is the solution to the condition. I would like to give you the good news: hindi namin sila binigyan ng marijuana kailanman subalit ngayon, magaling na po sila. Iyong isa ay totally blind, iyong isa suffering from ADHD, severe, but they have never used marijuana and they are well through the tender, warm and loving care of the family.

So, on this piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker, we take the position that it will harm rather than do good to our people. Again, I reiterate—if he has any study, I would like and I will appreciate that we be given a copy, but if he has no study, one, this is a clear violation of our

Constitution. The Constitution specifically provides in Section 11, Article XIII, which he uses and I am also using, that the State shall protect and promote the good health and never endanger the health of any citizen. Marijuana is endangering people who are using them. Ito po ay hindi nasagot ng malinaw ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, na sinasabi niyang may mga natulungan. Iyong mga natulungan mapalad pero hindi nangangahulugang makakatulong ito sa lahat.

REP. ALBANO. We will provide you with the data that you are asking for, at saka kung puwede lang ako mag-comment, Mr. Speaker. Hindi naman talaga puwedeng ibigay sa buntis ang marijuana, o kahit panigarilyuhin mo iyong isang buntis ay hindi rin puwede, or any drug for that matter. Nakalagay naman po sa mga ibang drugs na iyan, sa mga label nila, na if it is for pregnant women ay kailangan konsultahin po nila iyong duktor nila. If you want studies on that, we can give you tons and tons of studies from different countries that allow medicinal marijuana, especially in the United States. Now, there are already 30 countries that are allowing the use of medical marijuana and among these you will see that, in February 2010, the University of California Research Center for Medical Cannabis Research study as stating that marijuana ought to be first line treatment for neuropathy and other serious illnesses. Hindi ho magbibigay ang mga Amerikano ng mga ganyang news kung hindi po totoo, Mr. Speaker.

So, kung ang iniisip ninyo po, Mr. Speaker, iyong recreational marijuana dito sa medicinal marijuana ay hindi ho magkakatugma ang ating pananaw—kung ang iniisip ninyo na ang marijuana na ito, dahil sa Bill na ito, explicit na explicit na sinasabi ng Bill na ito na hindi po puwedeng sigarilyuhin itong marijuana at hindi rin puwedeng ibigay ito in its raw form. So, i-extract po natin, medicinal, at kailangan aprubahan pa po ito ng FDA.

Kailangan po tayong magkaroon ng research muna dito. So, mauuna po iyong research, titingnan natin iyong efficacy, magkakaroon ng clinical trials at kapag naaprub ng FDA ang gamot na ito na maibigay sa mga epileptic patients sa Samahan for Marijuana, dito ng mga clinical trials na susubukan nila, doon lang po lalabas ang gamot na ito.

REP. ATIENZA. It is very sad note today, Mr. Speaker, to hear the Gentleman admit that there is no research yet to establish that cannabinoid is medical in nature or medicinal by nature.

REP. ALBANO. Paano, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. ATIENZA. He mentioned and he stressed that the measure, the research and the implementation of the law, will take care of itself by being foolproof on

abuse. Let me remind everyone, rugby is a very innocent product used as adhesive, for adhesion of elements. Cough syrup is a medicine for cough. It alleviates the problem of anyone suffering from severe coughing when you give cough syrup, but it is abused and now, it is difficult to control.

Sa lansangan po ng Metro Manila, makakakita kayo ng naglalangong mga bata na ang kanilang pinagkukunan ng kanilang pagkalango ay ang rugby nakalagay sa plastic bag. Marami po tayong nakikitang mga kabataan na nalalango sa kanilang pag-abuso ng isang kapaki-pakinabang na gamot o elemento na tinatawag nating cough syrup, ligal, pero inaabuso. E kung ito ay bibigyan pa natin ng paraan, na ang gagamitin ng mga tao ay may elemento ng marijuana, at mayroon talagang substance na kinuha sa marijuana, papaano po kokontrolin na ang lahat ay hindi dapuan ng mga sindikato sa lansangan, sa mga barangay, makawala itong elemento ng gamot na tinatawag nila at maabuso rin at maging sanhi ng paglala ng ating problema sa droga? Today, we are in the middle of an anti-drug war as vicious as it can be. Many lives had been sacrificed at the altar of our common desire to rid the country of the drug menace.

Bubuksan natin ngayon ang isang maliit na pinto na tatawagin nating “medicinal use of marijuana.” Saan mapupunta ang pananaw ng mga kabataan? “O, okay naman pala ang hinihithit ko. Okay pala ang marijuana sapagkat ang Kongreso nagpasa ng batas na puwede nang gamitin iyan sapagkat kapaki-pakinabang iyan.”

Iyan po ba ay nakita ng ating Sponsor na maaaring mangyari?

REP. ALBANO. Mr. Speaker, I think the Gentleman is misinformed about the use of this medicinal marijuana. You know, if somebody wants recreational marijuana or iyong marijuana na nakaka-addict, dito sa Bill na ito, kailangan mo pumunta sa isang doktor para humingi niyan. Kung gusto mo ng recreational marijuana, pupunta ka sa kalye o sa Cordillera para bumili ng recreational marijuana pero kung pupunta ka sa doktor at hihingi ka ng S2 reseta sa doktor para humingi ng recreational marijuana, siguradong-sigurado, hindi ka bibigyan ng doktor na iyon at ibang klase ang ibibigay sa iyo ng doktor. Ang marijuana kasi dito sa Bill na ito ay iyong marijuana na hindi nakaka-high pero nakakagamot. Iyong marijuana kasi na sinasabi ninyo, ito iyong marijuana na hinihithit sa kalye na accessible lamang doon sa mga drug syndicates na nagbebenta ng marijuana na ganito. Kaya lang sa atin, dito sa Bill na ito, hindi ho iyon ang lalabas. Doon sa research, ito ho iyong gamot na ilalabas natin para doon sa may mga epilepsy, doon sa may mga cancer lang na nangangailangan. Kung ako iyong bibili—bibili ako ng marijuana na para sa recreational, doon ako sa kalye bibili or doon sa Cordillera. Hindi ho ako pupunta

sa doctor at hindi ho ako saklaw ng batas na ito, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Ngayon po ay inuulit ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor na itinuturing niyang gamot itong ating pinag-uusapan but earlier, he said that it should not be treated as a medicine because he has no proof, he has not presented any proof to prove that it is a medicine, that it is medicinal. Now, he calls it a medicine. Nasaan po ba tayo? Ang atin po bang pinag-uusapang cannabinoid ...

REP. ALBANO. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... ay gamot, o ito po ba ay substance na nagmumula lang sa marijuana?

REP. ALBANO. What I am saying, Mr. Speaker, is that the entirety of marijuana cannot cure. That is what I am saying, Mr. Speaker, but iyong substance na nakukuha sa marijuana, iyon po ay puwede hong for pain and for palliative care. Iyon lang ho ang sinasabi ko.

REP. ATIENZA. Kung sasabihin po nating pain killer ang kailangan, even under the present laws that we have, there is already a way to prescribe pain killers. Kung ang pag-uusapan po natin ang problema ng mga mayroong seizures and epileptic fits, mayroon pong mga gamot diyan kung gugustuhin ng mga kinauukulan. Gamot po iyon na pinag-aralan, sinuri, galing sa laboratoryo at sinabi ng lahat, “gamot ito na makatutulong.” No doubt, no risk, except for some possible side effects, but it is a medicine. This measure that we would want to call Medicinal Marijuana Bill, it cannot be supported by any study that it is a medicine and when he says that it is herbal medicine, even that is also questionable.

Alam po ba ng kagalang-galang na Sponsor na mayroong Administrative Order No. 172, series of 2004 ang FDA, stating that herbal medicines that contain addicting drugs banned from the country cannot be called “herbal medicines”? Therefore, it cannot be considered herbal medicine and definitely, it cannot be called a medicine because it does not cure. It is not a medicine and so, nasaan po tayo?

We are going to act on this measure on the basis of what the Sponsor claims that it will be a subject of a serious research. Aba, maganda po iyon. Hindi po ba mas magandang magkaroon muna tayo ng serious research so that, beyond doubt, among our doctors, our physicians and our specialists, and they agree that marijuana is useful to the kinds of cases that we have mentioned. Hindi po ba magandang pag-aralan muna ito, at hindi iyong ipasa ito ninyo, at mag-iingat tayo sa research na gagawin. Prospectively, ...

REP. ALBANO. Dito sa pag-aaral na ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... it is, therefore, an admission that it is not yet to be considered a safe medicine at all and therefore, the statements of those specialists who are against it—I mentioned the Philippine Psychological Association, the Philippine Medical Association composed of about 20 organizations of Filipino physicians, specialists in all kinds of fields in medicine—they are against this measure at nakikiusap sila sa ating mga Congressmen, “Huwag ninyong ipasa iyan sapagkat iyan ay hindi makatutulong, iyan ay makakasira sa ating kalusugan.

So, I am even considering it as a violation of our constitutional guarantee that everything that we pass here should be to promote and protect good health. There should be no doubt that it will promote and project the good health of our citizenry. Marijuana, to say the least, would be doubtful on this particular requirement.

REP. ALBANO. So, what is the question?

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, at this point in time ...

REP. ALBANO. So, what is the question, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ATIENZA. ... since there are so many co-sponsors, I would like to invite any of them to join the discussion. I would like to make an exception,—if they have a proof on what I am asking, let them come forward and participate in the debate so that our Members will be well informed on the issues; not only the words of Congressman Albano, not only the words of Congressman Atienza, but on solid research that any one of them, 63 of them, may have in their possession, and I would welcome my being informed on that.

REP. ALBANO. I do not quite understand the question, Mr. Speaker, because the premise is so long. So, I would ask my fellow sponsors—they would like to share some insights on medical marijuana, and I would like to call Congressman Bullet first and then, the next will be Congressman Teves.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ATIENZA. I am suggesting a move here ...

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. ... that the co-Sponsors be given a chance.

REP. DEFENSOR. To resume the sponsorship of this measure, I move that we recognize the Hon. Seth Frederick “Bullet” P. Jalosjos.

REP. JALOSJOS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon po. Itong ating ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The Chair has not ruled yet. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Please proceed, honorable Congressman of Manila.

REP. JALOSJOS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, ito pong panukala na ating ipinapasa dito sa Kongreso ngayon is a very, very important Bill and napakasakit po sa ating mga pasyente that we are all misinformed because of the demonizing effect of the term “marijuana.” We have been hearing all throughout this afternoon the talk about marijuana, about its bad effects. Unang-una, Mr. Speaker, there is not any word in the Bill that says “marijuana.” Ito po ay nakakasira sa imahe ng panukala na ating isinusulong ngayon because it is a prohibited drug. Doon po sa tanong po ng ating kagalang-galang na Gentleman from the Party-List BUHAY, maisagot lang po natin na we are not trying to establish something new here, we are not even reinventing the wheel. As I said, ito po ay ipinasa na sa iba’t ibang bahagi—ng mga states of US; and even Canada has done specific or in-depth research on the benefits of the so-called drug.

In fact, bigyan po natin ng recognition iyong 33 states in Canada which have more capability to do further research, which have the finances and the technology to see really if this so-called drug has benefits, or if it is even harmful for their citizens. Hindi naman po siguro natin masasabi na itong states—33 and growing—ay nagkamali. You mentioned, honorable Gentleman, na madami pong umaangal, yet, it does not seem so kasi mas madami pong states ang sumasali at nagpapakita ng suporta, na idagdag sila sa ilang mga states na pumasa not only the medicinal use, but also the recreational, which I will not get into because, Mr. Speaker, hindi po recreational ang pinu-push natin dito. We do not even have to discuss the bill that had been passed in the US or other countries because it is a totally different animal.

Ang Bill na pina-pass po natin dito sa Pilipinas is a bill to do further research on this miracle plant called cannabis at hindi po paggamit or pag-smoke ng drug na marijuana. We are not trying to decriminalize the use of marijuana in our country, Mr. Speaker. What we are doing is to extract the medicinal component of the plant which has medical proof na mayroon po talaga itong CBD or cannabidiol.

Ito pong cannabis has two components. It has

THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) which gives it the more euphoric high. Ito po iyong sinasabi na bawal po sa bansa natin. Ito po iyong sinasabi natin na ilegal sa ating bansa. Ito po iyong sinasabing ginagamit ng mga drug addict. That is not what we are trying to pass here, Mr. Speaker. Ang ginagawa po natin ay para mabigyan ng access ang ating bayan, ang ating medical profession or mga duktor at iyong mga pasyente nila, na i-extract po iyong THC which is the illegal component of the drug, and iyong CBD, iyong cannabidiol at ito po iyong analgesic form. Ito po iyong nakakatulong. Ito po iyong may magandang benepisyo, nakakatulong sa mga sakit ng ating mga mamamayan.

Iyon lang po ang pinu-push po natin dito. I think the Gentleman is misinformed. We are trying to pass a bill but it is not cannabis na bawal. Ito po, we cannot do further research, iyon po iyong binabanggit niya. He would like us to come upfront to support, to show any medical research that proves that there is medicinal proof that there are curative components of the drug. Hindi po natin puwedeng gawin iyon if we do not pass this Bill. Bakit? Because it still stands, under R.A. No. 9165, as a prohibited drug. So, hindi po natin gagalawin ito.

All we are asking for is to open or pave the way para mabigyan ng sapat na research para makita po talaga natin na mayroon po talagang gamit sa ikabubuti ng ating mamamayan dito sa ating bansa.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, I am sorry to say that the Gentleman from Zamboanga did not answer my challenge—show proof that it is medicinal. Hindi iyong kanyang sariling testimonial sapagkat iyong testimonial ng lahat will not amount to anything. We are talking about legalizing a certain drug. Ang dapat po rito ay solid research ng mga kinaukulan upang maituring nating ligtas at nakagagamot for it to be called a medicinal element.

Kung ang sasabihin po natin ito po ay kapaki-pakinabang sa mga gumagamit, ito po ay nakakatulong sa katulad ko, iyon po ay testimonial, pero pakitaan po natin ng talagang pagsusuri ay—inuulit ko po iyong aking paanyaya, baka iyong iba ay mayroong maipapakitang pag-aaral o pagsusuri, tatanggapin po natin and if it is convincing enough, then we will probably join them in their efforts to give our people a choice. But in the absence of such a study, a testimonial of whoever, kung sinuman sila, ay walang value kapag ang ating pinagdedebatehan at pinag-uusapan natin ay isang gamot na makatutulong sa lahat.

When he says that marijuana is different from cannabinoid, marijuana is different from the element that they will be extracting, again, we will have to beg to disagree. The substance that you will be getting from the marijuana sativa o cannabinoid basic form ay galing po sa marijuana iyan. So, it is really a marijuana extract

and a marijuana substance, and we will have to convince ourselves, that it is beneficial and not harmful.

Mali lahat ng mga duktor ng Pilipinas sapagkat mas tama iyong sinabi ni Congressman Albano at ni Congressman Jalosjos na ito ay makabubuti at hindi makasama. Ganoon dapat po ang maging tema ng ating desisyon sapagkat iyong nakabubuti sa ilan ay maaaring makasama sa karamihan. If the study shows, and if the existing legislation and laws that are in place, the administrative orders that had been issued to protect the good health of our people, are in question, why are we going to pass a law that will make an exception?

Sabi ko nga sa inyo, kung pag-aaralan, di gumawa tayo ng batas na pag-aralan, at hindi po giving access to substances from marijuana. Huwag nating tawaging “compassionate and right to access to substances that may be medicinal”—hindi po tama iyong pamagat at hindi po tama iyong tema. Kung ang panukalang batas ay gagawa tayo ng research, pag-aaral, susuportahan ko po iyon, pero kung ang ating batas na pinag-uusapan ay giving everybody access to cannabinoid which is marijuana, then, it is a dangerous law that we are considering. Kailangan nito ay pag-aralan nating mabuti at hindi natin aksyunan ng ganoon-ganoon lamang. Only the statements from the medical practitioners of the land and not the testimonials should be of value in our deliberations.

Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa kanyang pag-vo-volunteer na magbigay ng kanyang sariling testimonial pero hindi po iyon ang ating dapat pagbasehan. What is good for Congressman Jalosjos may not be good for a million Filipinos. So, what we are talking about is, what will be good and safe to the millions of our people who are dependent on the action to be taken by Congress.

REP. JALOSJOS. Actually, Mr. Speaker, ang pinu-push po natin dito, hindi po para sa mga milyong nating mamamayan as we are only trying to give access to patients with debilitating diseases. So, ito po iyong mga pasyente na may sakit and who opt to seek medical relief through this plant. Alam po ninyo, ang information ngayon is everywhere because of technology, because of Facebook, because of YouTube. Doon po sila, ang ating mga common mamamayan, tumitingin at napapansin nila na mas nakakatulong po itong component para sa kanila.

I think it is also a crime if we deprive our citizens the right to look for other means to cure themselves. Ang problema po dito sa ating bansa, bawal po itong medicine na hinihingi po nila. Kailangan po nila ito kaya ang ginagawa po natin ay nagbibigay ng kaunting pagbubukas para makagawa na tayo ng research para mabigyan ang mga pasyente nito at hindi po iyong mga normal na mga mamamayan natin. We are only providing, we are only giving access to those patients who have debilitating diseases which are monitored

by no less than our Department of Health, no less than the Dangerous Drugs Board, no less than the PDEA, Mr. Speaker.

Even our very own President, nabanggit po niya that if it is for medical use, makakatulong po ito sa ating mga mamamayan and mas mura ito than all these chemicals na pine-prescribe ng ating mga doctor. Siguro po ay makakatulong sa ating mamamayan kung mabigyan ng pansin at maipasa na po natin itong bill natin na “Compassionate Cannabis Act.”

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, the Gentleman, including the main Sponsor, Congressman Albano, has been repeating and repeating the word “makatutulong.” Kami po naman, ang aming paninindigan, mapanganib ito dahil wala tayong solid research na pagbabasehan. They keep on repeating that children or people afflicted with certain diseases will be alleviated from their suffering pero iyon po ay hindi backed up by studies and researches, and these are just based on testimonials. We are making a law for everyone, so, we cannot be influenced by testimonials alone. We have to base our decision on what is being said by professionals, those who are really in the know about the subject that we are talking about. Up to this point in time, wala po silang naibibigay na pruwera na ito ay suportado ng ating mga manggagamot, na ito ay suportado ng mga taong, sabi nila, ay makikinabang.

Ako naman ay nagsabi sa inyo, nakinabang din ako pero hindi iyon dahil sa marijuana. Nakinabang iyong dalawa kong anak sa pamamagitan ng tiyaga, pagmamahal, pagkalinga at pagbibigay sa kanila ng mga gamot na pinag-aralan na at sinuri na ng ating pamahalaan. We have pain-killing drugs, we have Fentanyl, we have Keppra, we have Abilify; and we have a dozen other drugs which are already well studied that could alleviate pain. So, why should we venture into a substance that has been classified as a dangerous drug under our existing law? Ang sabi po ng ating Dangerous Drugs Board, shabu is number one, but it also alleviates pain; marijuana is number two; and cocaine is number three. All of these substances alleviate pain. But I would like you to listen to the parents of children who had been victimized by marijuana addiction, ng mga batang nagpakamatay o nag-suicide dahil nawalan sila ng tamang sentido.

So, the dangers far outweigh what the Gentleman is presenting—testimonials but no proof of genuine, conclusive, solid research. If they will change the nature of the law that they are proposing to one where we are authorizing a research on the matter, I will support it, but the nature of the Bill as it is now prepared, legalizes the use of substances derived from marijuana, which is the dangerous portion of the proposed piece of legislation. Ito po ay makikita ninyo sa title mismo, “ACCESS TO”—what we consider as dangerous drug. Iyong title

mismo, bakit hindi natin gawing “AUTHORIZING THE PHYSICIANS TO PRESCRIBE”? Bakit iyong pasyente ang ating bibigyan ng karapatan? Alam ninyo, sapagkat wala tayong kasiguruhan, the burden that could be the aftereffect of this measure will be blamed on the patient and not on the physician.

Marami po ditong mga inconsistencies na hanggang ngayon, mag-i-isang oras na po ang ating interpellation, ay hindi po nila nabibigyan ng linaw.

REP. JALOSJOS. Mr. Speaker, isang oras na po tayong nag-i-interpellate dito, and I would like to go back to even the title where it says everything po. Iyong sinasabi po natin, na itinatatong ninyo sa akin, you would like to know more researches done, ito po iyon, exactly what we are trying to pass, Mr. Speaker. In fact, the title says “AN ACT PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE AND RIGHT OF ACCESS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS AND EXPANDING RESEARCH INTO ITS MEDICINAL PROPERTIES.” Kaya po hindi ako makabigay ng eksaktong research dito sa ating bansa because up to now, it is still a prohibited drug. We are not trying to take it out of the classification that it is a drug. What we are trying to do is to take out the medicinal component and do further research para mabigyan natin ng lunas ang ating mga mamamayan, kung mayroon man. Iyon nga po ang point natin, Mr. Speaker, we have to do further research and this Bill says exactly that.

Kung mabigyan tayo ng pinto, na mabuksan ito and ma-prove po natin, then, maybe, we can go again. I can stand here, again, in front of everyone, para ipakita kung ano po iyong research na nagawa ng ating mga duktor para, at least, we can prove that there are some medicinal properties this so-called “cannabis.”

Now, Mr. Speaker, this is no different from opium. Opium is an illegal drug; opium is an illegal substance, but it also has a component that we use everyday sa ating mga ospital. You know, the basic component of morphine is opium. There is no difference, Mr. Speaker. Ganoon lang po ang hinihingi ng ating Sponsor, mabigyan po natin, matingnan natin. Even opium does not cure but it does have a palliative effect, at ito po ay nakatutulong sa sakit ng ating mga pasyente. Ganoon rin po ang cannabis, but it is a lot cheaper and mas madali po because wala pong opium. I mean, we have to import it from abroad in a form of morphine pero iyon po, ang component nitong sinasabi po nating droga, which is opium, is also morphine.

Ganoon din po ang Bill na ipina-pass natin. So, that is all we are trying to say, Mr. Speaker, mabigyan natin ng butas, mabigyan natin ng chance na mapag-aralan itong cannabis para masabi naman natin na mayroon talagang curative or palliative effects or medicinal benefits ito sa ating Bill. I do not think First World countries like Canada, US and all these countries that



are passing a law, are only doing it to endanger the citizens in their very own country; it is because they have found proof that it has medicinal properties na nakakatulong sa kanilang mamamayan.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the Gentleman of what he mentioned about that in the United States, the opium or opioids. These substances derived from opium are now giving the United States a very serious problem to a point where the President of the United States had to declare an emergency situation on the issue of the use of opioid. Dahil nga po nagbukas sila ng paraan na kumalat po ang paggamit ng opium in the form of substances derived from opium, ngayon may problema sila sa droga.

We do not want our country to be exposed to this danger. Isipin ninyo ang inyong mga anak, isipin ninyo ang inyong mga mahal sa buhay. Sabi nila, mura; iyon ang problema, baka mamaya lahat ng mga bata rito addicted na sa marijuana. It will be too late by then, even with the campaign by the President, it would have failed.

Today, the President is engaged in an all-out war on drugs. We support him on that. I personally support the efforts of the President to put a stop to the drug problem in the Philippines and now here, we are talking about opening a small window and assuring everybody that we will research on it further. Ang tanong ko po ay bakit hindi natin i-research muna at kapag talagang solid na ang ating findings, doon tayo humarap kay Pangulong Duterte at sabihing “Kailangan po ito, Mr. President, sapagkat ito ay bunga ng pag-aaral at pagsusuri ng ating mga dalubhasa.”

Today, all you do is mention testimonials from other countries which are being denied also, officially, by many countries now, as they are saying that they committed a mistake in legalizing medicinal marijuana. The United States have moved, but the US Congress does not want to touch the issue because they have been forewarned, “Do not legalize the so-called medicinal marijuana as it is presented. It is very damaging to the good health and minds of our children.”

Ang Pilipino po ay angat sa kagalingan sa pag-iisip. Ang Pilipino po ay angat sa karunungan at sipag. Bakit natin sila bibigyan ng marijuana in whatever form, samantalang ito ay iligal na ngayon? Panatilihin natin itong iligal. Kung gusto ninyong pag-aralan ang benepisyong, pag-aralan natin. Kung gusto ninyong gumawa ng batas, bibigyan ng laya ang pag-aaral, at susuporta ako roon pero hindi puwedeng ang batas ay mauuna sa research. The law that should be passed by all Congresses, not just this Congress, should be based on solid information, solid facts and solid technologies. Hindi iyong sinabi naman namin, pag-aaralan. Kung pumalpak, sino ang sasagot?

One generation from now, if we have become a

nation of zombies—I used the word “zombies”—by that time, we will all be condemned by the next generation because Congress passed this law and yet, look what happened to the young of the Philippines. That is the reason we stand here to clarify this basic issue. Again, I reiterate my invitation to those who signed this as it worries me to see the 63 Members who co-signed the measure because some of them are respected friends of mine. I would like to believe that they were not properly aware of the intentions and the after effects of this piece of legislation.

Uulitin ko po ang aking sinabi—wala pa pong sinasabi si Congressman Jalosjos na pruweba, at ang sinasabi niya ay testimonial niya at noong mga ibang pang pinanggalingan ang kanilang pinanghahawakan.

REP. JALOSJOS. Iyon nga po, Mr. Speaker, inuulit ko po, that is exactly what we are saying. You are asking for further research at iyon po ang title ng ating Bill. We are not giving it to anyone, we are only giving it to people who are in need of it, hindi po sa ating common Filipino who wants to go to any dispensary or hospital and ask for marijuana. Ito po ay bibigyang access lang sa mga taong nangangailangan: people with cancer, people with epilepsy, people with seizures, and 80 percent of them are children, Mr. Speaker. Let us not deprive them of the right to medical access, the medical use or access to medical relief ng ating mga kababayan by depriving this very simple yet organic component of the so-called cannabis. Ito po is very, very natural. Why is it organic? Because, Mr. Speaker, you know, even in our very own bodies, we have a receptor called endocannabinoids, nasa katawan po natin iyan, Mr. Speaker. You can ask any doctor and he will confirm that there are endocannabinoids receptor in our bodies.

Now, why is it even called “endocannabinoids”? These are receptors just like melatonin that produce natural sleep that is organic to our body. Iyon din po ang use ng endocannabinoids sa katawan po natin. Ano po iyong nakakatulong doon? Cannabinoids lang rin po. You know, the special component of this plant cannot be found anywhere, in any plant in the world, but only in this cannabis or so-called marijuana that we all fear. True, Mr. Speaker, there is truth that it should be feared because it could be abused. That is why this Bill has nothing to do with marijuana, but it has something to do with a component that can only be found in the plant. That is not prone to abuse as that does not get you high. That does not get you addicted.

Itong cannabidiol, we cannot produce it chemically. We cannot replicate it with any other plant. So, ano po iyong gagawin natin, Mr. Speaker? We have no other choice. Kung puwede po natin makuha ito sa malunggay, di hindi na dapat natin ito pinag-uusapan pero hindi po natin makukuha ito sa any other plant

dito sa buong mundo. It is only found in marijuana or cannabis. That is why it is most imperative that we do further research, tayo po dito sa ating bansa, so we can extract the benefits from that, from this so-called THC, iyong kinatatakutan po ng ating interpellator ngayon, at maibigay po natin sa ating mga pasyente na humihingi po ng lunas sa ilang mga sakit, and 80 percent po ay ang mga bata.

Kung makita mo lang po, you have mentioned, Mr. Speaker, that you have two adoptive daughters? Ako rin po, ang pamangkin ko, may problema po. You know, my sister's daughter has developmental delay and has some seizures. Nakakalungkot po na kailangan pa po niyang pumunta sa US just to get access para dito na nakakatulong po, proven. Like what we are saying, this is not just a testimony, but this is something that I have proven already. For some of our mothers, that we are saying na kunwari may curative or palliative effects, that seems, nasa atin na po, hindi po natin alam kung o hindi po natin mapu-prove na walang curative effect.

In fact, in one case, Mrs. Rosal who had fourth stage cancer, terminally ill, just waiting to die, is right now with us. She is now cured because she has been staying in the US for two years at nakakakuha po siya o may access siya sa medical cannabis. Now, she is living proof na nakakatulong ito. But do not take my word for it, kasi hindi po natin alam until we pass this Bill, hindi po natin alam until we do further research as stated in the Bill.

Mr. Speaker, the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 recognizes the medical use of drugs classified as dangerous drugs, including marijuana, when it said in Section 2, "The government shall however aim to achieve a balance in the national drug control program so that people with legitimate"—I repeat, legitimate—"medical needs are not prevented from being treated with adequate amounts of appropriate medications, which include the use of dangerous drugs." Iyon lang po iyong hinihingi natin, Mr. Speaker.

We are not trying to pass a bill on the usage of marijuana. In fact, during the first Committee hearing, medyo na-sensationalize po iyon because right after we passed the Death Penalty Bill para sa drug war ng ating Presidente, the next day, we had a Committee hearing on this specific Bill. Nakakatuwa po because the PDEA supported it, the Dangerous Drugs Board supported it, the medical practitioners supported it, and the patients were there. Everyone was there para mapag-usapan, para mapakita sa ating mga mamamayan na mayroon talagang benefits itong demonized drug na ito, na misinformed tayo.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hope we do further research. Right now, since we do not have access to it, we can only believe, we can only go to YouTube, we can only go to Facebook to see kung mayroon ba talagang benefits ang drug na ito.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, once we pass this, ako po mismo ang tatayo uli dito para ipakita sa inyo in numbers, in statistics, the proof na mayroon po talagang beneficial effect itong cannabis. Until we pass this Bill, we will never know that. Just like you are asking us for proof, we are asking you po for proof that this is addictive, that people committed suicide because of this drug, that this drug is bad, and that you do not have any medical proof for this drug. Ganoon rin po ang maibabato natin sa ating Ginoo na nag-i-interpellate, ganoon rin po kadali. We both will not know until we pass this. So we can already start doing further research on this Bill, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, I move for a one-minute recess.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. TY. Mr. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

*It was 5:21 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:22 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, the Gentleman from Zamboanga mentioned a lot of assumptions which I would like to question but before that, I would like to ask him one clear simple question. They keep on saying this is what is happening abroad and in the other countries, in foreign lands. Is he aware of the problem of opioid that is now posed against the American society and the action that was required of the President of the United States declaring an emergency situation on the problem of opioid? Iyon po ba ay napag-usapan ninyo, napag-aralan ninyo?

REP. JALOSJOS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Wala po bang relasyon iyan, opioid and cannabinoid.

REP. JALOSJOS. Wala po, Mr. Speaker. That is like comparing apples and oranges. Opioid is not ...

REP. ATIENZA. So, you are standing pat on your position. Opioid and cannabinoid are two different substances ...

REP. JALOSJOS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. ... which could alter each other's effects on one another. Iba-iba epekto.

REP. JALOSJOS. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Binanggit din ninyo na iyong melatonin ay herbal in nature at pinapayagan ito to induce sleep at ang ginagamit ninyong dahilan ay, bakit itong cannabinoid derived from marijuana cannot be allowed. Iba po iyong substance ng melatonin ...

REP. JALOSJOS. Yes po.

REP. ATIENZA. ... na nagbibigay ng paraan sa mahimbing na tulog at iba po iyong cannabinoid na galing po sa marijuana, o idini-deny din ninyo na galing sa marijuana itong ating pinag-uusapang substance?

REP. JALOSJOS. No po.

REP. ATIENZA. Does cannabinoid come from marijuana or not?

REP. JALOSJOS. Yes po. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Tama po. Therefore, we are talking about opening different outlooks on the usage of marijuana. That is what you intend to accomplish.

REP. JALOSJOS. No po, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, you might have misheard me. What we are trying to do or ang sinasabi ko lang po is about natural receptors that are found in our body just like melatonin. You know, melatonin is a natural drug in our body that we produce or excrete. Iyon din po ang cannabinoid. Iyon lamang po. I am not trying to say that it is one and the same, but I am comparing them, that these are also receptors found in our body. This endocannabinoid—derived from the word “cannabis,”—is also a natural receptor found in our body, just like melatonin, which produces a natural urge to sleep ng ating katawan. That is why I am saying that it is very organic. Hindi po ito chemical na ginagawa po natin. Gawa po ito ng ating sariling katawan na pino-produce. Kapag kulang po iyan—that is why we take melatonin para madagdagan po iyong pagkukulang sa ating katawan para makatulog po tayo. Iyon din po iyong endocannabinoids. Kung kulang po sa ating katawan iyan, saan po natin makukuha iyan. Hindi po natin makukuha iyan sa melatonin or hindi po natin makukuha iyan sa Biogesic. That is the

reason it is called endocannabinoids. The only thing that can relieve the lack of it is cannabis. Saan po natin makukuha iyon, Mr. Speaker, if not from that plant?

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to stress for the record that in the example that the Gentleman is citing, melatonin has never been considered a dangerous drug and the melatonin substance within our system has never been questioned as being held by taking a melatonin pill, which has never been declared a dangerous drug.

What we are talking about now is the opening of the floodgates of people changing their attitudes on an assumption that it will be good for them— assumption because there is no proof that it will be good for them. Meanwhile, studies after studies had been made that marijuana addiction is harmful to anyone. Kung mayroong mga nakalusot sa atin, magpasalamat na lang kayo na hindi kayo lumundag sa building at hindi kayo lumipad na akala ninyo ay mayroon na kayong pakpak because marijuana, definitely, is a dangerous drug.

Marijuana has always been considered as injurious and not healthful to oneself. What this Bill aims to do is precisely to justify that certain painful ailments can be alleviated by the substance called cannabinoid. Iyon po ay pain alleviating. Marami po tayong mga pain killers. Ang ating Pangulo ay gumagamit po ng Fentanyl. He publicly stated that. It is a very effective medicine to alleviate the pain of a patient requiring a pain killer pero hindi po siya gumagamit ng marijuana to improve his condition. He is angry, and if you want to make his blood boil, you tell him that drugs can be beneficial to a Filipino suffering from pain.

REP. JALOSJOS. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Kaya sinasabi ko nga po, kayo naman ang mga belonging to the super Majority, madya-justify po ba ninyo ito sa Pangulo na, “Ito naman ay cannabinoid lamang, Mr. President, hindi naman po ito shabu.” Kung ang hinahanap natin ay alternative substance, even those belonging to the dangerous drug list, shabu is pain-relieving. You must admit, when you see a shabu addict ay hindi po siya makararamdam ng hirap ng katawan. Iyon ang sinasabi nila kaya nga sila ay nagsha-shabu para makalimutan nila ang paghihirap.

REP. JALOSJOS. Hindi po totoo iyan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Pero iyon po ba ay madya-justify ninyo in whatever form?

REP. JALOSJOS. Mr. Speaker, painkillers, as simply put, cannot stop 40 seizures a day. That is what I am trying to say. You are saying that any pain

killer, Mr. Speaker, is available in the market na kayang gamutin ang tao na nagkakasakit, but if someone with epilepsy, if someone who has 100 to 50 seizures a day, ay hindi po magagamot ng painkiller and, Mr. Speaker, to answer you on your question, no, shabu is not a painkiller, cocaine is not a painkiller. In fact, there are recent studies which have shown that cannabis can treat the opioid crisis in the United States. Thirty-three States of the US, almost the whole country, had already approved not just the medical use of cannabis but its recreational use as well.

Mr. Speaker, what I am trying to say, kung sila nga ipinapasa not even the medical use but recreational, what are they trying to do? Are they trying to explode? Are they trying to poison their citizens? Is there a syndicate that is spreading and changing the minds of the different states to pass a bill to give them access not only for medical, but also its recreational use? I do not think so, Mr. Speaker. These are First-World countries that have more capability to do further research—to know, to understand and to see kung mayroon po talagang medicinal effect itong cannabis and yet, no one is stopping them and, in fact, Canada is passing a bill, in 2018 for the whole country, allowing use of cannabis for recreational and the medicinal purposes.

So, I would like to reiterate, Mr. Speaker, hindi po iyon ang ipinapasa natin dito ngayon, hindi po recreational ang ipinapasa natin. This is why I do not want even to get into a comparison between what is happening in other countries like the United States and Canada. In fact, ang problema natin ngayon is to reclassify this so-called drug under the Dangerous Drugs Act, marijuana, so we can do further research kasi hanggang hindi po natin naipapasa ang Bill na ito, hindi po natin malalaman ang medicinal benefits of cannabis. Up to now, up to this very day, it stays as a prohibited drug, and will stay as a prohibited drug. What we are trying to say is, if we can give access to extract the medicinal component of the so-called drug para naman maaral, para kapag na-prove na po natin na mayroong medicinal components o medicinal benefits itong plant, ay mabigyan na po natin ang ating mamamayan. That is all.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, this is to graciously remind our Sponsor and our interpellator that for this interpellation, the one hour that we allotted under the rules for a debate has already expired.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). What is the pleasure of the Majority Leader?

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, we are not telling stories to each other. We are not even rebutting each other. We are trying to clarify the issues involved in this very important measure. Sa pananaw po ng marami,

kapag ito ay ipinasa ng Kongreso, magbubukas ito ng daan para sa paggamit ng marijuana ng lahat kaya iyon po ang aming tinutumbok. Mayroon po ba silang maipakikitang pruwera na dapat buksan ang bintana sa marijuana para po naman maging katanggap-tanggap sa ating mga mamamayan?

Kung ipapasa lamang natin ito dahil sa may limit tayo sa interpellation, then I move that we be given ample time to interpellate further because I have just started. Marami po ako talagang dapat tanungin, na tatanungin ko sa kanila, na inaasahan kong sasagutin nila for the record, so that when we make a decision to vote for or against this measure, we are voting on the basis of solid facts and information at hindi po iyong pinakiusapan tayo, hindi po iyong pinilit tayo, hindi po iyong nakisama tayo. Panindigan natin ang ating desisyon, whatever it comes to, when the time for voting is made.

So, at this point, I move that the Majority Leader allow us to continue to or maybe, continue tomorrow or next week because I noticed na wala na po tayong sapat na bilang ngayon. If the Members are already tired of listening on the same subject, we move to adjourn today and continue with the interpellation next week.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Majority Leader, please approach the Chair.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended

*It was 5:34 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:35 p.m., the session was resumed.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

REP. DEFENSOR. Yes, Mr. Speaker, we understand the concern of the Hon. Jose L Atienza, Jr. for the passage of quality legislation; and for the ventilation of the issues in the debate, we are reckoning with the one-hour limitation on the debate because, for this Bill, well, there are other Members who also wish to interpellate. We have the Hon. Raul V. Del Mar and the Hon. Manuel F. Zubiri who are also listed to interpellate the Sponsor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Yes, Congressman Atienza is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. With respect to the position of the Majority Leader, we have exhausted our one hour today since there are other Members who would like to interpellate further. We are giving way, but we would like to request him that next week when we resume the interpellation, we will go back to the rostrum and be given another hour.

REP. DEFENSOR. Yes, Mr. Speaker. We will proceed, with the reservation, Mr. Speaker, that we will continue with the interpellation; but for now, may we just give way to other Members who also wish to interpellate. We would like to thank the Honorable Atienza for this.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The manifestation of Congressman Atienza is noted. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, did I get an assurance that I will resume my interpellation next week after the other two had given way?

REP. DEFENSOR. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, to continue with the sponsorship, I move that we recognize the Hon. Rodolfo T. Albano III.

REP. ALBANO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. For the next interpellator, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Raul V. Del Mar.

REP. DEL MAR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Cong. Raul Del Mar is recognized.

REP. DEL MAR. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader. Thank you especially to the principal Sponsor who has acceded to another interpellation, but he wants—because of the lateness of the hour, he wants this shortened to a manifestation level. So, I will try to do that, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor. May I proceed.

REP. ALBANO. Yes, thank you very much. We

are very willing, to the Gentleman from Cebu who is, again, a colleague of my father.

REP. DEL MAR. Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I hope that as I go over some points one by one, that after every point, if the Sponsor wishes to reply to that point, then, that can be done. Then, after his reply, I can go ahead with the succeeding manifestations and observation.

So, I will proceed, Mr. Speaker. My plea is for caution in considering House Bill No. 6517 which would allow access to marijuana and expand research on its medical properties. Allow me to take up some points that must be looked into before the Bill should move further.

In the Definition of Terms, the Bill must define more clearly what “marijuana” is by including the phrase found in Republic Act No. 9165, the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002, which states, “Cannabis or commonly known as Marijuana or Indian Hemp or by its any other name.” May I emphasize “Cannabis or commonly known as ‘Marijuana.’” Perhaps, this can be included in the title to now read as follows: AN ACT PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE AND RIGHT OF ACCESS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS OR MARIJUANA.

To make it clear, Mr. Speaker, because we saw a bill before, approved, and the public only knew after that it was a bill on contraceptives which induce abortion, because what was highlighted in the title of the bill was reproductive health. Nobody argued against a bill on reproductive health. To set things clear, after the term “cannabis,” there must be the phrase “or marijuana.” This may be proposed at the proper time, distinguished Sponsor.

REP. ALBANO. That will be an amendment, Mr. Speaker. I think, Mr. Speaker, cannabis and marijuana are one and the same. If you use marijuana, there is a stigma on what we call “marijuana” because we cannot actually separate what is “recreational marijuana” and “medicinal marijuana.” That is why we placed in the Bill precisely “medical cannabis,” Mr. Speaker, to remove the stigma of what we call “recreational marijuana.”

REP. DEL MAR. Okay. Mr. Speaker, incongruous purpose, awful timing. The Sponsor himself raised this question: “Why are you pushing for the legalization of medical marijuana when we are at war against illegal drugs?”

Indeed, at a time when so much efforts and resources of government are used to curb drug addiction, when the issue has rocked and divided the nation, why increase the risk of having more drug addicts through this so-called “legalized marijuana?” Why add another problem to the heap of problems spawned by illegal drugs?

REP. ALBANO. Actually, Mr. Speaker, we are not decriminalizing the use of marijuana. Actually, marijuana is still under the list of prohibited drugs, Mr. Speaker. That is why we are saying here, it is called “medicinal marijuana,” with access only to patients and not to everybody. Even the access, the use and the growing would all be controlled and regulated by the PDEA, the DDB, the Department of Health and the government, Mr. Speaker.

So, we are not opening marijuana or cannabis to everybody, Mr. Speaker. We are just allowing access to its medicinal properties, to its medical use to our patients, especially to those who have epilepsy, glaucoma, cancer and for those who have debilitating diseases. That is all, Mr. Speaker. We are not decriminalizing the drug, and all the prohibitions against the drug are still in place, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. Mr. Speaker, the myth of control. Despite the avowed intent to strictly regulate the use of marijuana for medical purposes, people who wish to profit can always find ways to go around the law, opening the floodgates, so to speak, Mr. Speaker. The US recently discovered, to its horror, that allowing opioids for medical purposes has led to an epidemic in the number of drug addicts. Despite its regulatory manpower and resources which our country is sorely lacking in, the US has not been able to check profiteering by drug companies, doctors and regulators of opioids, and the purported use of marijuana for medicine could easily lead to the use of marijuana for recreation, which inevitably results to a wider spread of drug addiction. On this point, the Philippine Medical Association, the country’s largest group of doctors, issued a statement last November 7 opposing the legalization of medical marijuana, warning that the Bill could lead to diversion of cannabis for recreational use.

REP. ALBANO. Mr. Speaker, the use of recreational marijuana has been prevalent in our country in the 1960s and in the 1970s, and many of us, including this Representation, have used recreational marijuana. It came to a point that we used it during the seventies because of this “flower people” thing, Mr. Speaker, and until now, some are still using it, maybe, in the Cordillera and in Baguio. I do not see—like in the drug war—any incident of tokhang, addicts or zombies, especially in that region of the Cordillera where marijuana plants thrive by the hundreds of hectares. Mr. Speaker, I never saw any incident of zombies running around and biting or eating people in those areas, especially in Baguio and in the Cordillera.

Mr. Speaker, what I am saying is, when it comes to the enforcement of the law, our country, I know, is lacking in resources to enforce the law, but actually our war on drugs is being directed now towards a more

dangerous threat, maybe, on—what is this? Shabu—how do you call that substance, methamphetamine something. I did not receive any reports of heinous crimes being committed in those areas that grow marijuana illegally, and it is up to the police force now and Congress to give ample budget to our police force to contain shabu. If there is a marijuana problem, which is only about three percent, I think, in our country’s statistics, for those people who are using marijuana, only a few are in our rehab centers because there is a very small number of people who are addicted to recreational marijuana, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. Fourth, highly dangerous drug, Mr. Speaker. Medical evidence shows that marijuana is highly dangerous in and of itself. The United Nations 1961 Single Convention on Narcotics defines it as “dangerous and highly addictive.” The University of Manila Technical Working Group on Medical Cannabis has opposed the proposed law, citing that it poses a serious threat to public health. Adverse effects on health and its addictive properties should make us slow down before passing a law that would open another floodgate for dangerous drugs.

REP. ALBANO. I agree with that position, Mr. Speaker, and I agree with the United Nations position that marijuana is considered a dangerous drug. I also agree with our medical societies here that marijuana is a dangerous drug. That is why we are not decriminalizing the drug, Mr. Speaker. As I said, in this Bill, we are just providing research and access, and this is to be given only to qualified patients and through doctors that have S3—S2 licenses, Mr. Speaker.

So, this is like morphine, a prohibited drug, this drug cannot be given to any Tom, Dick and Harry, or to any Juan or Pedro in this country, Mr. Speaker. That is why we did plenty of research here, and we have placed safeguards in this Bill that one, we cannot smoke this plant; second, it cannot be given in its raw form; and three, it cannot be given unless approved by the FDA, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. Fifth, unnecessary and illusory, Mr. Speaker. Marijuana is not something with miraculous properties of healing. Medicines tested and approved by the Food and Drug Administration as legal, safe and effective, are available to cure the ailments sought to be treated. If there are patients that do not respond to standard treatment, the University of Manila contends that existing law already provides the means to get it, so, no need for a new legislation.

What could happen is that marijuana prescribed for patients could lead to their drug addiction, a state that could be worse than the illness sought to be treated. Worse, even those who are not sick might use the access to feed existing addiction.

REP. ALBANO. Mr. Speaker, on the miraculous cure, only the saints and God can give miraculous cure. I agree that, you know, Mr. Speaker, we cannot—again, in this Bill, we do not give access to any Tom, Dick and Harry. It is very explicit in this Bill that we cannot give any marijuana or cannabis in its raw form or in any other form that is not approved by the FDA. Now, if it has addictive properties, Mr. Speaker, it is like hypertension. I am suffering from hypertension, Mr. Speaker, and I have been taking this prescription drug for about 20 years now. I have been taking it religiously every morning and night just to control and maintain my blood pressure, Mr. Speaker.

So, like this cannabis medication, Mr. Speaker, maybe you would be taking it if you have epilepsy. If you will be taking it for 20 years to maintain your seizures, then I do not think you will be called an addict for taking this drug every day for five or 20 years just like any other drug, like drugs for hypertension, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. Sixth, Mr. Speaker, there are more countries banning marijuana than those allowing its use. The Sponsor stated that 27 countries have legalized marijuana. However, a far greater majority of 168 countries have not. Even in the US, only 29 states have passed such laws. That should be sobering if we go by numbers. Still, the countries allowing marijuana should necessarily be our model. Local conditions may not be similar to theirs.

REP. ALBANO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I agree, but majority of the states in the United States have already—if you are talking of 30 states, that is already more than the majority of the states in that country. Uruguay and Canada have already legalized, even recreational marijuana, in the entire country.

If you are talking of about 25 or 30 countries legalizing medicinal marijuana, these countries are First World countries already, Mr. Speaker, these are China, Spain, Italy, the Netherlands. Every country that has already conducted very extensive research on medicinal marijuana, they found out that marijuana is very beneficial, especially to their citizens and to those who are in need of medicinal marijuana, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. Seventh, Mr. Speaker, the Philippines, under Republic Act No. 9165, committed to the UN 1961 Single Convention on Narcotics as part of the law of the land. The said UN Convention places marijuana or cannabis under dangerous drugs having no medicinal use with high addictive potential.

REP. ALBANO. Mr. Speaker, I do not think it is part of the law of our land, but just a part of our

agreement, maybe, with the United Nations Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs. It just provides for it in its Preamble, Mr. Speaker, but all countries that signed this 1961 UN Convention, amended by the 1972 Protocol, have already violated their Protocol, Mr. Speaker, especially the United States which is the biggest contributor to the United Nations.

So, I do not think that there will be any sanction against us if we would adopt medical research and provide access to our citizens, especially those who are sick, because the right to health is primordial also to the UN Convention to health, Mr. Speaker. So, it may supersede this Single Convention Protocol, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEL MAR. Eighth, Mr. Speaker, finally, many other ills afflict the nation. Legalizing marijuana even for medicinal purposes is divisive to the nation and fraught with danger. We need to be careful and to study the proposal a lot more. As we in the Visayas and Mindanao say, “Hinay-hinay lang.”

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor and colleagues.

REP. ALBANO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I just comment on that hinay-hinay lang, Mr. Speaker. I agree with that hinay-hinay lang. Mr. Speaker, may kasabihan naman sa Tagalog, “Aanhin pa ang damo kung patay na ang kabayo.” Also, Mr. Speaker, these Moms for Marijuana are in dire need already of this medicine. They have already provided their entire tender, loving care to their children, Mr. Speaker. There was already a casualty, and one of their babies already passed away. Mr. Speaker, I think 10 babies already passed away.

So, kahit na hinay-hinay lang, Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the Gentleman from Cebu na ang kasabihan dito sa Luzon, “Aanhin pa ang damo kung patay na ang kabayo.” “Damo” in the sense na iyong damo na kinakain ng kabayo, Mr. Speaker, hindi po ang damo na marijuana.

REP. DEL MAR. As I started on the title, I will end on the title, Mr. Speaker: House Bill No. 6517, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING COMPASSIONATE AND RIGHT OF ACCESS TO MEDICAL CANNABIS. I hope the term “MARIJUANA” is added with the phrase: “AND EXPANDING RESEARCH INTO ITS MEDICINAL PROPERTIES.”

I say “yes” to the first part but “no” to the second part because what is needed is that we should have additional research on its medicinal properties first before we go to the access to medical cannabis or marijuana.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, distinguished Sponsor. Thank you, Majority Leader.

REP. ALBANO. Thank you very much, Manong Raul.

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

REP. TY. Mr. Speaker, the last to interpellate is the Gentleman from the Third District of Bukidnon, Rep. Manuel F. Zubiri.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. F.H.). Congressman Zubiri is recognized.

REP. ZUBIRI. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Good afternoon, my dear colleagues.

After listening to all of our colleagues discussing the medicinal effect of supposedly cannabis or marijuana, let me share some facts. I think, more than asking questions, I would rather give my experience on the matter, my little experience based on what my relatives have been through this past few months. Are we discussing, number one, the plant itself or the medicine derived from the plant, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ALBANO. The medicine derived from the plant, of course, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZUBIRI. Okay. Based on the experience I had a few months ago, because I was always a non-believer of illegal drugs or I do not even do drugs, I do not do marijuana, I do not even smoke cigarettes, Mr. Speaker. When I saw the effect of what they called “Jayden’s Juice” on a relative of mine who had 14 seizures a day to the point that she ended up in the ICU several times, her parents were so afraid for her life that they tried Jayden’s Juice that came from the US.

REP. ALBANO. May I ask, what is Jayden’s Juice, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ZUBIRI. It is a medicine supposedly or it was a medicine that is 28 parts CBD and one-part THC derived from the plant. It is in oil, oil po, oil-based form. It is a drop, in the form of drops.

REP. ALBANO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ZUBIRI. After a few months, it was early this year, this lady used it several times every day. According to them, it was being used in the States, approved in most of the states of the U.S. Her seizures, from 14 seizures of epilepsy a day, it became two episodes since August of this year. Up to this day, dalawang epilepsy seizures lang po ang kaniyang na-experience.

So, if we are discussing the problem we are having with the plant, everybody is so focused on the plant itself. I agree, we should not be seeing any of that plant here in our country. But if it is derived and made into a medicine or, for example, in the form of drops or liquid form or oil form, then, maybe, as long as it is approved by the local FDA, PDEA or whichever agency it is, for as long as it works and is safe, and is not detrimental to the health of the individual, then I do not see any reason why it should not be used. Why? My dear Speaker, if you abuse your cough syrup, you will not wake up the next morning. If you abuse an upper or a downer that you can get in Mercury Drug, you will not wake up in the morning kasi patay ka na po, ma-o-overdose po kayo. It is basically like an illegal drug as well.

So, what am I trying to drive at? Let me finish my second example. My second experience: A relative of mine who was dying of cancer, my uncle, could not handle his stage 4-cancer pain. For several months, he had been crying, he could not sleep, he was given medicine but he could not handle the pain. He did not even have one hour of sleep everyday. I do not know how he survived.

So, they made him try the same medicine but in suppository form. It is in a form of suppository pero liquid oil, pero nasa form po ng suppository. This made him calm down. It eased his pain tremendously. He was able to eat. Until his last breath, he was happy and he was at peace. So, these are the experiences.

I was a non-believer, but if you are going to discuss the issue bringing the plant here, growing the plant here I do not agree to it. But as long as it is FDA approved, both from the US and the Philippines, together with the approval of the PDEA and other agencies, I think we should look at it, look into the matter. I think that, especially for those who are having a hard time taking drugs, tablets by a handful, for example, this lady, this cousin or this relative of mine, she would take four to five tablets of different medicines a day, three times a day, to the point that her kidneys were failing.

So, I do not think it is just for us to say “yes, it is good,” or “no, it is not good for you.” Let us study. Let us review it because we are already in 2017 and we have approved so many drugs that are right now in the Mercury Drug that, I think, are illegal if you just sell and give these away. So, if that is the case, you should take all the downers, all the uppers, and all the cough syrups from the counter of these Mercury Drug stores and all these drug facilities.

So, I think, to be fair to everyone involved, especially those patients who need help the most, let us review and study it carefully. While we are deliberating, maybe we can get more facts, not just from us, but from abroad, from Europe and the US. Maybe they can shed light on the benefits of this medicine. I will not



call it medicinal marijuana because I do not think it is medicinal marijuana itself as it is derived from the plant that they make, and turn it into medicine in oil or liquid form. So, I guess, Mr. Speaker, I just want to share my experience because that experience just happened this year, two people taking the same medicine derived from the plant itself.

So, that is all. Marami pong salamat, aking mga colleagues. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ALBANO. Thank you for enlightening us, Cong. Manuel Zubiri.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6517

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

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 take up Business for Thursday and Friday.

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for the omnibus consideration of the following local Bills contained in the Calendar of Business for Thursday and Friday; to consider the respective Explanatory Notes of the Bills as the sponsorship speeches thereon:

1. House Bill No. 6575, as contained in Committee Report No. 433, entitled: AN ACT MANDATING THE TRANSFER OF THE PROVINCIAL AGRARIAN REFORM OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOGOD TO THE CITY OF MAASIN, SOUTHERN LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

2. House Bill No. 6577, as contained in Committee Report No. 434, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE KALANGUYA CENTER FOR THE 6<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT OF PANGASINAN, 1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT OF NUEVA ECIJA, AND THE PROVINCES OF IFUGAO, BENGUET, AND NUEVA VIZCAYA, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

3. House Bill No. 6584, as contained in Committee Report No. 441, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE

MUNICIPALITY OF BARLIG IN MOUNTAIN PROVINCE A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

4. House Bill No. 6586, as contained in Committee Report No. 443, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING MANOK MANOK ISLAND IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ESPERANZA, PROVINCE OF MASBATE AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

5. House Bill No. 6587, as contained in Committee Report No. 444, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LINGAYEN GULF MARINE ECOTOURISM PARK IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LINGAYEN, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

6. House Bill No. 2483, as contained in Committee Report No. 448, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING JULY 4 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF CADIZ, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS CHARTER DAY ANNIVERSARY;

7. House Bill No. 2484, as contained in Committee Report No. 449, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 11 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF SAGAY, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDATION DAY ANNIVERSARY;

8. House Bill No. 6591, as contained in Committee Report No. 450, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE EASTERN VISAYAS REGION TO BE KNOWN AS "TYPHOON YOLANDA RESILIENCY DAY";

9. House Bill No. 6592, as contained in Committee Report No. 451, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 24 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS "ARAW NG SIBUGAY";

10. House Bill No. 6607, as contained in Committee Report No. 456, 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;

11. House Bill No. 6608, as contained in Committee Report No. 457, 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;

12. House Bill No. 6618, as contained in Committee Report No. 463, 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;

13. House Bill No. 6620, as contained in Committee Report No. 465, 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;

14. House Bill No. 2849, as contained in Committee Report No. 467, 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;

15. House Bill No. 639, as contained in Committee Report No. 468, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA ELENA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES NORTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE SANTA ELENA DISTRICT HOSPITAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

16. House Bill No. 1955, as contained in Committee Report No. 469, 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;

17. House Bill No. 6632, as contained in Committee Report No. 474, entitled: AN ACT RENAMING 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;

18. House Bill No. 6633, as contained in Committee Report No. 475, 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; and

19. House Bill No. 6634, as contained in Committee Report No. 476, entitled: AN ACT RE-NUMBERING THE CEBU 1<sup>ST</sup>, 2<sup>ND</sup> AND 4<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICES TO CONFORM AND CORRESPOND, RESPECTIVELY, WITH THE NUMBERING OF THE LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS IN THE PROVINCE OF CEBU.

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, for these local measures, open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no interpellations and no Member who registered to speak against the measure, Mr. Speaker, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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 open the period of amendments.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no amendments, Mr. Speaker, individual or that coming from the Committee, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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 for the omnibus approval on Second Reading of the aforesaid local measures.

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

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6621 ON SECOND READING

##### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, this is another local bill. However, we take this up in isolation because we have a minor amendment on this Bill. So, I move that we consider on Second Reading House Bill No. 6621, contained in Committee Report No. 466, as reported out by the Committees on Health, and Appropriations.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the Explanatory Note as the sponsorship speech on the said measure.

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 open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. There being no interpellations and no Member who registered to speak against the measure, Mr. Speaker, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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 open the period of amendments.

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 proceed to consider individual amendments.

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

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. DEFENSOR. So, this is to introduce an individual amendment, Mr. Speaker. On Section 1, line 12, we delete the phrase "one thousand (1,000)" and in lieu thereof, we insert the phrase FIVE HUNDRED (500). May we know if this is acceptable to the Sponsor.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. GARCIA (J.). I accept, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendment as stated.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. The next, Mr. Speaker, on Section 4, line 25, we delete the phrase “one thousand (1,000)” and in lieu thereof, we insert the phrase FIVE HUNDRED (500).

May we know, Mr. Speaker, if this is likewise acceptable to the Sponsor?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. GARCIA (J.). I accept, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. I therefore move, Mr. Speaker, that we approve the amendment as aforesaid.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Last, Mr. Speaker, I move that we amend the title of the Bill to read as follows: ANACT 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 FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

May we know, Mr. Speaker, if this is also acceptable to the Sponsor?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. GARCIA (J.). I accept the amendment, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I therefore move for the amendment as stated.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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 approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 6621, as amended.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 6621, as amended, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6621, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The *ayes* have it; the motion is approved.

House Bill No. 6621, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up the Additional 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 will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

#### RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1460, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PROLIFERATION OF THE OFF-DOCK CONTAINER YARD/CONTAINER FREIGHT STATIONS (CY/CFS) IN THE PHILIPPINES CAUSING AN IMPERIL ON THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS' CAPACITY TO CLOSELY SUPERVISE AND CONTROL THESE SENSITIVE AREAS OF CUSTOMS OPERATIONS"

By Representative Garin (S.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1461, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION CALLING ON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO GIVE HONOR AND RECOGNITION TO KRIZZIAH LYN TABORA FOR WINNING THE WOMEN'S TITLE IN THE 53RD QUBICAAMF BOWLING WORLD CUP (BWC) CHAMPIONSHIPS"

By Representative Del Rosario  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1462, entitled:

"RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE SAN BEDA COLLEGE RED LIONS BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THEIR 21ST NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP"

By Representative Uybarreta  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1464, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCLAMATION NO. 518 (S. 1990)"

By Representative Benitez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1465, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO MISS PHILIPPINES KAREN IBASCO FOR WINNING THE MISS EARTH 2017"

By Representative Nieto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1466, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION EXTENDING

CONGRATULATIONS TO TERESITA 'WINWYN' MARQUEZ FOR WINNING REINA HISPANOAMERICANA 2017"

By Representative Nieto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1467, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION COMMENDING CHARLEANNE JANDIC, A POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL INTERN AT THE CHINESE GENERAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER, FOR HER HEROIC AND ALTRUISTIC SENSE OF SAVING A WOMAN'S LIFE AFTER AN MRT ACCIDENT AT THE AYALA STATION ON NOVEMBER 14, 2017"

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1468, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE CONTINUED PROLIFERATION OF ILLEGAL DRUGS IN OUR CORRECTIONAL FACILITIES AS WELL AS TO IDENTIFY GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND/OR EMPLOYEES INVOLVED IN THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROPOSING LEGISLATIVE MEASURES TO ARREST THE SAME FROM RECURRING"

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1469, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION COMMENDING THE ASSIGNED SECURITY FORCES FOR THE SUCCESSFUL CONDUCT OF SECURITY OPERATIONS IN THE RECENT ASEAN SUMMIT"

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Resolution No. 1470, entitled:

"A RESOLUTION HONORING AND REMEMBERING THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) AND THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP) WHO HAVE MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN ORDER TO DEFEND AND RECOVER THE CITY OF MARAWI FROM THE MAUTE TERRORIST GROUP, AS WELL AS EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THEIR  
BEREAVED FAMILIES”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE  
AND SECURITY AND THE COMMITTEE  
ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Resolution No. 1471, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND  
COMMENDING KRIZZIAH LYN TABORA  
FOR EMERGING AS CHAMPION IN THE  
53RD QUBICAAMF BOWLING WORLD  
CUP IN THE WOMEN’S DIVISION HELD  
IN HERMOSILLO, MEXICO”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND  
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1472, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND  
CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF  
REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF  
JESUS S. SALCEDA, SR., FORMER MAYOR  
OF POLANGUI, ALBAY AND THE FATHER  
OF REPRESENTATIVE JOEY SARTE  
SALCEDA OF THE SECOND DISTRICT  
OF ALBAY”

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we  
include additional coauthors to House Bills No. 6617,  
6587, 1411, and House Resolutions No. 243 and 1418 as  
contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee  
on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, the Senate has  
passed with amendments several House bills seeking  
to grant and renew franchises to certain companies,  
namely House Bills No. 4636, 5063, 5064, 5175, 5176,  
5177, 5211, and 5212.

We have been informed that the Committee on  
Legislative Franchises, the Sponsor of said Bills, did  
not concur with some amendments introduced by the  
Senate to the said measures.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE  
BICAM. CONF. CTTEE. ON CERTAIN  
MEASURES

REP. DEFENSOR. In accordance with our Rules, I  
move that we designate the following as members of the  
Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing  
votes on said House Bills:

1. Rep. Franz E. Alvarez
2. Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo
3. Rep. Sherwin N. Tugna
4. Rep. Arthur R. Defensor Jr.
5. Rep. Aurelio D. “Dong” Gonzales Jr.
6. Rep. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III
7. Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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  
designate the following Members to the Bicameral  
Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions  
of House Bill No. 684 and Senate Bill No. 1255, on  
Revealing the Source of Published News or Information  
Obtained in Confidence:

1. Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy
2. Rep. Benhur B. Lopez Jr.
3. Rep. Raul V. Del Mar
4. Rep. Eugene Michael B. De Vera

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

## CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1411

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we  
consider House Resolution No. 1411, contained in  
Committee Report No. 458, as reported out by the  
Committee on Veterans Affairs and Welfare.

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

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  
only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies  
of the measure have been previously distributed, the*

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

*Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution 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.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1411.

#### ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1411

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

House Resolution No. 1411 is adopted.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 243

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 243 contained in Committee Report No. 461, as reported out by the Committee on Appropriations.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution 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.

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

#### ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 243

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 243.

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1472

REP. DEFENSOR. I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1472.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1472, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF JESUS S. SALCEDA, SR., FORMER MAYOR OF POLANGUI, ALBAY AND THE FATHER OF REPRESENTATIVE JOEY SARTE SALCEDA OF THE SECOND DISTRICT OF ALBAY.

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

#### ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1472

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1472.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Is

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until Monday, November 27 at 4:00 p.m.

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

The session is adjourned until Monday at 4:00 p.m., November 27, 2017.

*It was 6:21 p.m.*