



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

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Monday, January 15, 2018

No. 49

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn F. Garcia called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G). The session is now called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Everyone will please rise for the singing of the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Please remain standing for the Invocation to be led by the lovely Congresswoman from the Sixth District of Batangas, Rep. Vilma Santos-Recto.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. SANTOS-RECTO. O God, bless us as we begin our session today. As we begin this new year 2018, bless our people, bless their legislators who are assembled here today, bless this House as it performs its mandate to our nation.

Thank you, Lord, for giving us the opportunity to be the leader of our constituents and our nation. We know that there is only one true and almighty leader, and that is You, our Lord God.

We have imperfections, weaknesses, limitations; that is why we ask for Your forgiveness, our Lord. We ask for Your guidance in the performance of our leadership roles. We, therefore, implore You, Lord, please enlighten us, show us the road that will lead us towards the path of prosperity, peace, justice, unity, security, stability and hopefulness for our people. Make us Your true servants.

Inspire and strengthen us, give us the will and the tools, fill us with patience and perseverance, courage

and wisdom to pursue this righteous path so that no amount of challenges, frustrations, difficulties, disagreements, or hard work will deter or discourage us from taking up what is truly and substantially good for our people, the greatest good for the greatest number of our people.

We pray in Your sacred name. Amen.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Amen. The Majority Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). 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. 49, dated January 15, 2018:

PRESENT

Abayon	Angara-Castillo
Abu	Antonio
Acop	Aquino-Magsaysay
Acosta	Aragones
Acosta-Alba	Arbison
Advincula	Arcillas
Agarao	Arenas
Aggabao	Atienza
Albano	Bag-ao
Alejano	Bagatsing
Almario	Baguilat
Almonte	Banal
Alonte	Barbers
Alvarez (M.)	Barzaga
Alvarez (P.)	Bataoil
Amatong	Batocabe
Andaya	Bautista-Bandigan

Belaro	Espina	Montoro	Silverio
Belmonte (F.)	Espino	Nieto	Singson
Belmonte (J.C.)	Estrella	Noel	Suansing (E.)
Belmonte (R.)	Eusebio	Nogralles (K.A.)	Suansing (H.)
Benitez	Evardone	Nolasco	Suarez
Bernos	Fariñas	Nuñez-Malanyaon	Sy-Alvarado
Bertiz	Ferrer (J.)	Ocampo	Tambunting
Biazon	Ferrer (L.)	Olivarez	Tan (A.)
Billones	Flores	Ong (E.)	Tan (M.)
Bolilia	Fortun	Ortega (P.)	Teves
Bondoc	Fortuno	Ortega (V.N.)	Tiangco
Bordado	Garbin	Pacquiao	Ting
Bravo (A.)	Garcia (G.)	Paduano	Tinio
Bravo (M.V.)	Garcia (J.E.)	Palma	Tolentino
Brosas	Gasataya	Pancho	Treñas
Bulut-Begtang	Gatchalian	Panganiban	Tugna
Cagas	Geron	Panotes	Tupas
Calderon	Go (A.C.)	Papandayan	Ty
Calixto-Rubiano	Go (M.)	Pichay	Umali
Campos	Gonzaga	Pineda	Unabia
Canama	Gonzales (A.P.)	Primicias-Agabas	Ungab
Cari	Gonzales (A.D.)	Ramirez-Sato	Unico
Casilao	Gonzalez	Ramos	Uy (J.)
Castelo	Gullas	Relampagos	Uy (R.)
Castro (F.L.)	Hernandez	Revilla	Uybarreta
Castro (F.H.)	Herrera-Dy	Roa-Puno	Vargas
Cayetano	Hofer	Robes	Vargas-Alfonso
Celeste	Jalosjos	Rocamora	Velarde
Cerafica	Kho	Rodriguez (I.)	Velasco
Cerilles	Khonghun	Rodriguez (M.)	Veloso
Chavez	Labadlabad	Romero	Vergara
Chipeco	Lacson	Romualdez	Villafuerte
Cojuangco	Lagman	Romualdo	Villanueva
Collantes	Lanete	Roque	Villaraza-Suarez
Cortes	Laogan	Sacdalan	Villarica
Cortuna	Lazatin	Salimbangon	Villarin
Cosalan	Lee	Salo	Violago
Crisologo	Lobregat	Salon	Yap (A.)
Cuaresma	Lopez (B.)	Sambar	Yap (V.)
Cueva	Lopez (C.)	Santos-Recto	Yu
Dalipe	Loyola	Sarmiento (C.)	Zamora (R.)
Datol	Macapagal-Arroyo	Sarmiento (E.M.)	Zarate
Daza	Madrona	Savellano	Zubiri
De Jesus	Malapitan	Siao	
De Venecia	Manalo		
De Vera	Mangaoang		
Del Mar	Mangudadatu (Z.)		
Del Rosario	Marcoleta		
Dimaporo (M.K.)	Marcos		
Dy	Mariño		
Elago	Marquez		
Enverga	Martinez		
Erice	Mending		
Eriguel	Mendoza		
Ermita-Buhain	Mercado		
Escudero	Mirasol		

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 233 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). With 233 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we defer the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). 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, Messages from the President, Messages from the Senate, Communications and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6783, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING BAMBOO INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES, CREATING THE BAMBOO INDUSTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER (BIRDC), APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6784, entitled:

“AN ACT ENCOURAGING YOUTH SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR, ESTABLISHING FOR THE PURPOSE A ‘TULONG KABATAAN SA AGRICULTURA PROGRAM’ AND A ‘TULONG KABATAAN SA AGRIKULTURA TRUST FUND’, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6785, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS BY EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF BASIC NECESSITIES AND PRIME COMMODITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7581, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS

THE ‘PRICE ACT’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6786, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING DISASTER SERVICE VOLUNTEERS PAID LEAVE DURING PERIOD OF DISASTERS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6787, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE AS THE NATIONAL SIGN LANGUAGE OF THE FILIPINO DEAF AND THE OFFICIAL SIGN LANGUAGE OF GOVERNMENT IN ALL TRANSACTIONS INVOLVING THE DEAF, AND MANDATING ITS USE IN SCHOOLS, BROADCAST MEDIA, AND WORKPLACES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 6788, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THE CACAO INDUSTRY, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6789, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF REDISTRIBUTING AND RECYCLING FOOD WASTE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 6790, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS AND TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY FROM INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL THREATS, THEREBY CREATING A CRIME PREVENTION COMMITTEE FOR THIS PURPOSE”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6791, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROMOTE RURAL HEALTH BY PROVIDING FOR AN ACCELERATED PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POTABLE WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE COUNTRY WITHIN THREE YEARS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

BATANGAS, RIZAL AND QUEZON AND THE CITY OF LUCENA”

By Representative Collantes
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 6792, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CAMP AQUINO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND THE STO. CRISTO INTEGRATED SCHOOL – EXTENSION CAMPUS BOTH LOCATED IN BARANGAY SAN MIGUEL, CITY OF TARLAC, PROVINCE OF TARLAC INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS CAMPAQUINO INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Yap (V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6803, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING COURTS FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6804, entitled:

“AN ACT REVISING THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF SCHOOL CHILDREN AND STUDENT YOUTH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6793, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CENTRAL AZUCARERA DE TARLAC HIGH SCHOOL – ANNEX LOCATED IN BARANGAY BALETE, CITY OF TARLAC, PROVINCE OF TARLAC INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BALETE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Yap (V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6805, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY TO IDENTIFY THE DISEASES AFFECTING LOCAL HOGS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6794, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE CONDUCT OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILLS IN FACILITIES HANDLING, STORING, AND TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS MATERIALS”

By Representative Mariño
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6806, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING THE ACT OF MONEYLENDING WITH INTEREST BY SALARY-DISBURSING OFFICERS IN PUBLIC OR PRIVATE ENTITIES, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6802, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE METRO MANILA TURF CLUB, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A RACE TRACK FOR HORSE RACING ANYWHERE IN REGION IV-A (CALABARZON), CONSISTING OF THE PROVINCES OF CAVITE, LAGUNA,

House Bill No. 6807, entitled:

“AN ACT LAUNCHING ANOTHER GREEN REVOLUTION PROGRAM IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6808, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING EMERGENCY

RICE RESERVES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY

House Bill No. 6809, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING THE AMOUNT OF SIX HUNDRED MILLION PESOS (P600,000,000.00) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COASTAL ROAD FROM BARANGAY BUGO UP TO BARANGAY MACABALAN IN THE CITY OF CAGAYAN DE ORO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6810, entitled:

“AN ACT TO HASTEN TITLING OF RESIDENTIAL LANDS OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN BY EXTENDING THE GRANT OF FREE PATENT TO RESIDENTIAL LANDS UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6811, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING MOVIE, TELEVISION, AND RADIO PRODUCERS, INCLUDING PROMOTION AND ADVERTISING AGENCIES, AND OTHER LIKE ENTITIES, EMPLOYING UNEMANCIPATED MINORS TO DEPOSIT THEIR TALENT FEES OR INCOME IN A TRUST FUND, IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 6812, entitled:

“AN ACT EXEMPTING FROM REAL PROPERTY TAX THE TREES AND OTHER IMPROVEMENTS ON LANDS COVERED BY CERTIFICATES OF STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTS UNDER THE INTEGRATED SOCIAL FORESTRY PROGRAM”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6813, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL

NUCLEAR RADIATION SAFETY BOARD AND DEFINING ITS SCOPE, FUNCTIONS AND POWERS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 6814, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A STUDY AND FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS REGARDING CASES OF HEPATITIS C AMONG FIREFIGHTERS, PARAMEDICS, EMERGENCY MEDICAL TECHNICIANS AND OTHER EMERGENCY RESPONSE EMPLOYEES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6815, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NUMBER SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED FIFTY-SEVEN (R.A. 6657), AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF 1998’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

House Bill No. 6816, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING PERSONS WITH DISABILITY (PWD) WHO ARE SELF-EMPLOYED A SEVENTY PERCENT (70%) GOVERNMENT SUBSIDY FOR THEIR MONTHLY PREMIUM CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM FOR THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF COVERAGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7277, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘MAGNA CARTA FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY’ ”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 6817, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING RESEARCH ON DYSTONIA”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6818, entitled:

“AN ACT LIMITING EXPOSURE OF CHILDREN

TO VIOLENT PROGRAMMING ON TELEVISION AND CABLE SYSTEMS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

A SYSTEM OF FUNDING THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 6819, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL PROGRAM THAT WILL PROVIDE PREGNANT WOMEN WITH ALTERNATIVES TO ABORTION”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6825, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING RETIRED AND INCUMBENT OFFICIALS OF GOVERNMENT FROM ACCEPTING EMPLOYMENT WITH INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC CREDITORS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 6821, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL EDUCATION COORDINATING COUNCIL, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6826, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR JOURNALISTS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 6822, entitled:

“AN ACT DIRECTING THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH A PROGRAM TO SUPPORT RESEARCH AND TRAINING IN METHODS OF DETECTING THE USE OF PERFORMANCE-ENHANCING DRUGS BY ATHLETES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6827, entitled:

“AN ACT TO SUBSIDIZE SCHOOL FEES IN ALL PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6823, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT OF ARREARS IN THE VETERANS' PENSIONS AND BENEFITS MANDATED PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7696, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS AN ACT STANDARDIZING AND UPGRADING THE BENEFITS FOR MILITARY VETERANS AND THEIR DEPENDENTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON VETERANS AFFAIRS AND WELFARE

House Bill No. 6828, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING EACH CITY OR MUNICIPALITY TO CREATE A RIVER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE PRESERVATION, PROTECTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL RIVERS, RIVER SYSTEMS AND NATURAL WATERWAYS WITHIN ITS JURISDICTION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6829, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REQUIRE CERTAIN DISCLOSURES IN CONNECTION WITH ANY INTERNATIONAL MONEY TRANSFER AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

House Bill No. 6824, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING EARLY RETIREMENT AND VOLUNTARY SEPARATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE, PROVIDING

House Bill No. 6830, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE

COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7722, ENTITLED 'AN ACT CREATING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES' ”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6831, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A NATIONAL CENTER FOR INFORMATION AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE RELATING TO ALL TYPES OF FAMILY RESOURCE AND SUPPORT PROGRAMS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 6832, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH HOUSING LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM, PROVIDING THE MECHANISMS THEREFORE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6833, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO RETAIN FIFTY PERCENT (50%) OF THE PROCEEDS FROM ALL TAXES, FEES AND FINES COLLECTED UNDER PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBERED ELEVEN HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE FIRE CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6835, entitled:

“AN ACT INTRODUCING EDUCATIONAL REFORMS AND SUPPORTING THE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EDUCATIONAL REFORMS IN SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6836, entitled:

“AN ACT FURTHER AMENDING REPUBLIC

ACT NO. 544, AS AMENDED, OR THE CIVIL ENGINEERING LAW”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 6837, entitled:

“AN ACT ACCELERATING THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL RAILWAY SYSTEM, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE NATIONAL RAILWAY AUTHORITY, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6838, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SEX OFFENDER REGISTRATION DATABASE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6839, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A JOB TRAINING PROGRAM FOR MATURE OR OLDER WORKERS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6840, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN AUTOMATIC PAY INCREASE TO ANY MEMBER OF THE ARMED FORCES WHO IS DEPLOYED AWAY FROM THE MEMBER'S PERMANENT STATION OR, IN THE CASE OF A MEMBER OF A RESERVE COMPONENT OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE MEMBER'S HOME OF RECORD, ONCE THE DEPLOYMENT PERIOD EXCEEDS 180 DAYS OF CONTINUOUS DUTY”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6841, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING SHIPPING VESSELS COASTING PHILIPPINE WATERS FOR THE PROTECTION OF SHORES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 6842, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FULLY-EQUIPPED SCIENCE LABORATORIES IN EVERY PUBLIC ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6843, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING THE CRIME OF ECONOMIC ESPIONAGE AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6844, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS AND/OR PROCEDURES FOR MAKING ARRESTS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6845, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A HOUSING PROGRAM FOR TEACHERS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6846, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AND ESTABLISHING RIVERS, RIVER SYSTEMS, BEACHES, SHORES AND WATERWAYS AS ECOLOGICAL ZONES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 6847, entitled:

“AN ACT PROFESSIONALIZING THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING SERVICE TO SERVE AS A TOOL FOR EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT AND CONTROL OF GOVERNMENT RESOURCES, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTANCY OFFICE UNDER THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6848, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REQUIRE EVERY STUDENT TO PLANT TREES EVERY YEAR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON REFORESTATION

House Bill No. 6849, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REGULATION, SUPERVISION AND PROFESSIONALIZATION OF THE PRACTICE, LICENSING AND REGISTRATION OF SANITARIANS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 6850, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1445, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT AUDITING CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, BY ALLOWING BONDED BARANGAY TREASURERS TO RETAIN THE BARANGAYS' 50% SHARE FROM PAYMENTS OF COMMUNITY TAX CERTIFICATES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6851, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING THE SALE OF SHOWER CURTAINS MADE OF POLYVINYL CHLORIDE, MORE COMMONLY KNOWN AS PVC IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6852, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1986 CREATING THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION REVIEW AND CLASSIFICATION BOARD”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 6853, entitled:

“AN ACT BANNING THE BRINGING IN AND USE OF CELLULAR PHONES BY STUDENTS IN ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ELEMENTARY AND HIGH SCHOOLS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6854, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE PUBLICATION OF THE TOP FIVE HUNDRED TAXPAYERS AND THEIR RESPECTIVE INCOME TAX RETURNS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 6855, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE AIR FORCE ACADEMY (PAFA) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6856, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING A BAN ON DUMPING OF SEWAGE SLUDGE AND INDUSTRIAL WASTE INTO THE SEA”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 6857, entitled:

“AN ACT FACILITATING AND REGULATING INTERNATIONAL DISASTER RELIEF AND INITIAL RECOVERY ASSISTANCE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6858, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENFORCE THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO THE FREE EXERCISE OF RELIGION BY STUDENTS OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6859, entitled:

“AN ACT TO RECRUIT, HIRE, AND TRAIN ADDITIONAL SCHOOL-BASED GUIDANCE COUNSELORS, PSYCHOLOGISTS, SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS AND MENTAL HEALTH PERSONNEL”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6860, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ERADICATE RACKETEERS AND POWERFUL SYNDICATES IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6861, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING EARLY LEARNING PROGRAMS FOR INDIGENT PRE-KINDERGARTEN CHILDREN”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6862, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE CAGAYAN DE ORO RIVER BASIN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 6863, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE OIL INDUSTRY, ESTABLISHING THE OIL PRICE STABILIZATION FUND (OPSF) FOR THE PURPOSE AND REPEALING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8479, ‘THE DOWNSTREAM OIL INDUSTRY DEREGULATION ACT OF 1998’ ”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 6864, entitled:

“AN ACT LEGALIZING THE IMPORTATION OF SECOND-HAND OR USED CLOTHING AND RAGS INTO THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING, FOR THAT PURPOSE, REPUBLIC ACT 4653, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT TO SAFEGUARD THE HEALTH OF THE PEOPLE AND MAINTAIN THE DIGNITY OF THE NATION BY DECLARING IT A NATIONAL POLICY TO PROHIBIT THE COMMERCIAL IMPORTATION OF TEXTILE ARTICLES COMMONLY KNOWN AS USED CLOTHING AND RAGS’ ”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6865, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE MODERNIZATION OF THE NATIONAL MAPPING AND RESOURCE INFORMATION AUTHORITY (NAMRIA)”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6866, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE JCT. BUKIDNON
CAGAYAN DE ORO ILIGAN ROAD (BCIR)
- CORRALES STREET - NORTH DIVISORIA
ROAD IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY INTO
A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6867, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE MAGNA
CARTA FOR KALAKALAN PAMPAMILYA,
PROVIDING INCENTIVES AND
BENEFITS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SMALL
BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP
DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6868, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE JCT.
ABELLANOSA - CAPISTRANO STREET -
CARMEN - PATAG ROAD IN CAGAYAN DE
ORO CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6869, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING ‘PRIVATE ARMIES’,
PROHIBITING THEIR MAINTENANCE,
MANDATING THEIR DISMANTLING, AND
PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6870, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE AGORA ROAD,
LAPASAN TO THE CDO PORT ROAD
IN CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY INTO A
NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6871, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE SECRETARIES OF
HEALTH AND LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
TO ISSUE REGULATIONS TO ELIMINATE

OR MINIMIZE THE SIGNIFICANT RISK
OF NEEDLESTICK INJURY TO HEALTH
CARE WORKERS”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6872, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE A. VELEZ ST. -
J.R. BORJA - BCIR ROAD IN CAGAYAN DE
ORO CITY INTO A NATIONAL ROAD”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6873, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH WITHIN THE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH A PERMANENT
COUNCIL ON NUTRITION AND HEALTH”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6874, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THAT ALL ILLEGAL
WOOD PRODUCTS CONFISCATED BY THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND
NATURAL RESOURCES BE DONATED
TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
TO BE USED FOR THE CONSTRUCTION
OF CLASSROOM, TABLES, CHAIRS AND
OTHER SCHOOL FACILITIES”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6875, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REGULATE PESTICIDE
CHEMICAL RESIDUES IN FOOD”

By Representative Rodriguez (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6876, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR
OF THE LAND MANAGEMENT BUREAU
TO SUBDIVIDE THE LANDS WITHIN
MILITARY RESERVATIONS IN MARAWI
CITY BELONGING TO THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES WHICH ARE NO
LONGER NEEDED FOR MILITARY
PURPOSES, AND TO DISPOSE OF THE
SAME BY SALE OR TRANSFER, SUBJECT
TO CERTAIN CONDITIONS, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Dimaporo (M.K.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6877, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NATIONAL HIGHWAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALO-I, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS THE BALO-I BYPASS ROAD AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Dimaporo (M.K.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6878, entitled:

“AN ACT PENALIZING CONTINUOUS DRIVING DUTY EXCEEDING TWELVE (12) HOURS IN ANY TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOUR PERIOD”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6879, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING SPECIAL HARDSHIP ALLOWANCE TO PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS, SCHOOL HEADS AND ADMINISTRATORS IN HARDSHIP POSTS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6880, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROPER WORKING CONDITIONS IN THE MOVIE AND TELEVISION INDUSTRY”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

House Bill No. 6881, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF MUDGUARDS IN TRUCKS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR NONCOMPLIANCE”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6882, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE CALL CENTER WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 6883, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MT. INAYAWAN RANGE LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY

OF NUNUNGAN, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE, AS A PROTECTED AREA, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Dimaporo (A.) and Dimaporo (M.K.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6884, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MARANDING WATERSHED AREA LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SALVADOR, SAPAD, NUNUNGAN, TANGKAL, AND KAPATAGAN, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE AS COMPONENTS OF THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT”

By Representatives Dimaporo (A.) and Dimaporo (M.K.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6885, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE AREA WITHIN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE AS COMPONENT OF THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE AND SEASCAPE AND PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT”

By Representatives Dimaporo (A.) and Dimaporo (M.K.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6886, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CASINOS AND ELECTRONIC GAMING FACILITIES WITHIN A THIRTY (30) KILOMETER RADIUS FROM RESIDENTIAL AREAS, EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, AND PLACES OF WORSHIP AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lopez (M.L.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 6887, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING LOCAL

INFRASTRUCTURE INDUSTRY PLAYERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 23 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6888, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 9184, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT REFORM ACT, WITHDRAWING FROM ITS APPLICATION ALL REFERENCES TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 6889, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9296, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE MEAT INSPECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES’, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES OF IMPRISONMENT AND FINES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF AND AMENDING CHAPTER XIV THEREOF FOR THE PURPOSE”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6890, entitled:

“AN ACT INTENSIFYING STEM CELL RESEARCH AND THERAPY IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6891, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR ELDER ABUSE AND ESTABLISHING INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS FOR THE PROTECTION AND SUPPORT OF THE VICTIMS THEREOF”

By Representative Aquino-Magsaysay
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND
FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 6892, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SECURITY OF

TENURE AND BENEFITS FOR CASUAL, CONTRACTUAL, AND JOB ORDER EMPLOYEES OF THE GOVERNMENT”

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

House Bill No. 6894, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THREE (3) ADDITIONAL REGIONAL TRIAL COURT BRANCHES IN DAVAO CITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Nograles (K.A.) and Nograles (J.J.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 6895, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 57 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8754, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER CITY OF MALOLOS”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6896, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT OLDER OR DISABLED PERSONS ARE PROTECTED FROM INSTITUTIONAL, COMMUNITY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT AND TO IMPROVE OUTREACH EFFORTS AND OTHER SERVICES AVAILABLE TO OLDER OR DISABLED PERSONS VICTIMIZED BY SUCH VIOLENCE”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL
SERVICES

House Bill No. 6897, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO ELIGIBLE PDEA PERSONNEL”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS
DRUGS

House Bill No. 6898, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE HEAD OF EACH EXECUTIVE AGENCY TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT A POLICY UNDER WHICH EMPLOYEES SHALL BE AUTHORIZED

TO TELEWORK, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 6899, entitled:

“AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE TITLE OF THE STATE IN CERTAIN ABANDONED SHIPWRECKS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6900, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE EFFICIENT AND REGULAR DISTRIBUTION OF CURRENT INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
INFORMATION

House Bill No. 6901, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAMS TO ENCOURAGE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO COMMUTE BY MEANS OTHER THAN SINGLE-OCCUPANCY MOTOR VEHICLES”

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

House Bill No. 6902, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROHIBIT CERTAIN FOOD TRANSPORTATION PRACTICES AND TO PROVIDE FOR REGULATION BY THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION THAT WILL SAFEGUARD FOOD AND CERTAIN OTHER PRODUCTS FROM CONTAMINATION DURING MOTOR OR RAIL TRANSPORTATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6903, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL JUNIOR POLICE ORGANIZATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 6904, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PHILIPPINE SELF-RELIANT DEFENSE POSTURE PROGRAM REPEALING FOR THIS PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 415 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AND SECURITY

House Bill No. 6905, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP HIGH SCHOOL AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Alejano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6906, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF TUBLAY SCHOOL OF HOME INDUSTRIES IN BARANGAY CAPONGA, MUNICIPALITY OF TUBLAY, PROVINCE OF BENGUET TO ANDRES ACOP COSALAN SCHOOL OF HOME INDUSTRIES”

By Representatives Baguilat, Bulut-Begtang,
Mangaoang, Go (M.) and Cosalan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6909, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING MOTORCYCLES-FOR-HIRE KNOWN AS HABAL-HABAL OR ANGKAS, THEREBY AUTHORIZING CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES TO GRANT FRANCHISES FOR THEIR OPERATIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 458 (1) (VI) OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Del Mar
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6910, entitled:

“AN ACT EMPOWERING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS TO GRANT ADDITIONAL FISCAL INCENTIVES TO PERSONNEL”

By Representative Belmonte (J.C.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6911, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR AN INTEGRATED

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM TO DEVELOP, PRESERVE AND PROMOTE THE INTRINSIC AND INDIGENOUS HERITAGE CRAFTS OF THE PHILIPPINES AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

SCHOOL FOR HONORING THE COUNTRY WITH THEIR VARIOUS MEDALS AND AWARDS IN THE 2ND WORLD INVENTION AND INNOVATION FORUM HELD IN FOSHAN, CHINA”

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

House Bill No. 6912, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RAILWAY SYSTEM IN THE EASTERN VISAYAN REGION, FROM THE ENTRY OF THE PROVINCE OF SAMAR TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN RICARDO IN THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gomez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Resolution No. 1555, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING AND URGING THE PRESIDENT TO AWARD THE MEDAL OF VALOR TO FIRST LIEUTENANT RONILO M. VENDER FOR VALIANTLY LEADING THE COMBAT TEAM THAT NEUTRALIZED THE MAUTE TERRORISTS, ISNILON HAPILON AND OMAR MAUTE”

By Representatives Suarez, Bravo (A.), Bertiz, De Vera, Chavez, Cortuna, Lee and Salon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE AND SECURITY

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1551, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO INVESTIGATE THE ALLEGED PAYMENTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS OF ROAD RIGHT OF WAY (RROW) CLAIMANTS IN GENERAL SANTOS CITY USING SPURIOUS OR FABRICATED LAND TITLES”

By Representative Acharon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1556, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE HONORABLE REP. MANUEL MONSOUR T. DEL ROSARIO III OF THE FIRST DISTRICT OF MAKATI CITY FOR HONORING THE COUNTRY WITH THE DISTINCTION AS 2017 MAN OF THE YEAR IN THE WORLD TAEKWONDO AND FOR BEING INDUCTED INTO THE HALL OF FAME OF THE WORLD TAEKWONDO FEDERATION”

By Representative Bravo (A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1552, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING ATENEO BLUE EAGLES BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING 80TH SEASON OF UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES (UAAP) CHAMPIONSHIP”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 1557, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE REAL REASON BEHIND THE DISLOCATION OF RESIDENTS IN EAST BANK MANGGAHAN FLOODWAY, BARANGAY STA. LUCIA, PASIG CITY”

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

House Resolution No. 1553, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING THE MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE DELEGATION COMPOSED OF STUDENTS FROM TONDO HIGH SCHOOL, ESTEBAN ABADA HIGH SCHOOL, MARCOS HIGH SCHOOL, T. ALONZO HIGH SCHOOL, V. MAPA HIGH SCHOOL, RAMON MAGSAYSAY HIGH SCHOOL AND P. GOMEZ ELEMENTARY

House Resolution No. 1558, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, AN INQUIRY REGARDING THE ALLEGED UNAUTHORIZED BONUSES AND

ALLOWANCES PAID BY THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE (PCSO) AND OTHER GOVERNMENT-OWNED AND CONTROLLED CORPORATIONS (GOCCS)”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1562, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CREATING A SPECIAL COMMITTEE FOR SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (PWDS) AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 33, RULE IX OF THE RULES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE 17TH CONGRESS”

By Representative Aquino-Magsaysay
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1563, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THRU THE COMMITTEE ON METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE OBVIOUS AND OSTENTATIOUS DISPLAY OF ILLEGALITIES AND BRAZEN DISREGARD OF TRAFFIC LAWS COMMITTED IN THE MAJOR THOROUGHFARES AND SIDESTREETS OF METRO MANILA.

THESE FOREGOING ACTS HAVE BEEN TOLERATED, UNDER SUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES, BY THE LOCAL PNP, BY THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO), THE METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (MMDA), THE HIGHWAY PATROL GROUP (HPG), ENFORCERS OF LGU’S AND OTHER AGENCIES TASKED TO REGULATE TRAFFIC, EASE CONGESTION, AND DETER CRIMINALITIES COMMITTED IN THE STREETS.

IT IS INDEED INCUMBENT UPON THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO IMMEDIATELY UNDERTAKE AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION INTO THE POSSIBLE BREACH OF OBLIGATIONS, MALFEASANCE AND NONFEASANCE IN THE PERFORMANCE OF OFFICIAL DUTIES OF THE AFOREMENTIONED AGENCIES OF GOVERNMENT INCLUDING ITS OFFICERS, IN ORDER TO RECTIFY THE LOOMING CRISIS”

By Representatives Teves and Atienza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1564, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING HILLARY DIANE ANDALES OF THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL FOR WINNING THE GRAND PRIZE OF THE 2017 BREAKTHROUGH JUNIOR CHALLENGE”

By Representatives Romualdez and Aumentado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Resolution No. 1565, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NOVEMBER 29, 2017 – EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING OF RODRIGO TIMOTEO, PEASANT ACTIVISTS AND MEMBER OF THE COMPOSTELA FARMERS ASSOCIATION IN BRGY. MAMBUSAO, COMPOSTELA TOWN, COMPOSTELA VALLEY BY ALLEGED ELEMENTS OF 66TH INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY”

By Representative Casilao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1566, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DECEMBER 9, 2017 – EXTRAJUDICIAL KILLING OF BERNARDO CLARION AND ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE OF HIS BROTHER BENJIE, BOTH CULTURAL ACTIVISTS AND MEMBERS OF SULONG KULTURA (SUKUL), BY ALLEGED ELEMENTS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP) IN BUHANGIN DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY”

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

House Resolution No. 1567, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DECEMBER 5, 2017 – ABDUCTION AND ILLEGAL DETENTION OF JEAN BAGUIO BUSTAMANTE, LUMAD AND MEMBER OF COMPOSTELA FARMERS ASSOCIATION – YOUTH, BY THE ELEMENTS OF 66TH INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY

IN BRGY. MAMBUSAO, COMPOSTELA TOWN, COMPOSTELA VALLEY”

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

House Resolution No. 1568, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE JULY 24, 2017 – EXTRA JUDICIAL KILLING OF ALBERTO TECSON, LEADER OF FISHERFOLK GROUP NAGKAHIUSANG MAG-UUMA UG MANGINGISDA SA BULADO (NAMABU), BY ALLEGED MEMBERS OF THE 79TH INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY IN BRGY. BULADO, GUIHULNGAN CITY, NEGROS ORIENTAL”

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

House Resolution No. 1569, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NOVEMBER 10, 2017 – ABDUCTION, TORTURE AND ILLEGAL ARREST OF CARLITO JAMES BADILLO, LEADER OF TAG-ALAG FARMERS AND FISHERFOLKS ASSOCIATION AND MEMBER OF PEOPLE SURGE, GROUP OF TYPHOON YOLANDA VICTIMS, BY ELEMENTS OF THE 87TH INFANTRY BATTALION OF THE PHILIPPINE ARMY IN MARABUT TOWN, SAMAR”

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

House Resolution No. 1570, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE POTENTIAL SECURITY ISSUES WITH THE ENTRY OF CHINA TELECOM CORPORATION LTD. IN THE PHILIPPINE TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY”

By Representative Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1571, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE CONTINUING HARASSMENT OF AND VILIFICATION CAMPAIGN

AGAINST PEOPLES' ORGANIZATIONS IN LA UNION AND URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SAID HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATION”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1572, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY CONDEMNING THE ARREST AND FILING OF TRUMPED-UP CHARGES AGAINST BAYAN MUNA REGIONAL COORDINATOR AND ENVIRONMENTAL ACTIVIST SHERWIN DE VERA AND URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE SAID VIOLATION OF HIS HUMAN RIGHTS”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Dec. 19, 2017

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE AND THE LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

In accordance with my firm commitment to uplift the lives of the Filipino people, I sign into law Republic Act (RA) No. 10963, entitled “AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 24, 25, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 51, 52, 56, 57, 58, 74, 79, 84, 86, 90, 91, 97, 99, 100, 101, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112, 114, 116, 127, 128, 129, 145, 148, 149, 151, 155, 171, 174, 175, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 186, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 232, 236, 237, 249, 254, 264, 269, AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 51-A, 148-A, 150-A, 150-B, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B, AND 265-A; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 35, 62, AND 89; ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,” or the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion (TRAIN) Act.

I. GENERAL COMMENTS

For two decades, we have been constrained by the outdated provisions of our tax laws under the National

Internal Revenue Code, as amended. In particular, the high personal income tax rates have placed a significant burden to our laborers. Today, a major breakthrough in the legislative history has taken place, where we not only break this trend but provide for additional resources that we will use to fund the social and economic infrastructure that will benefit the poor.

This momentous achievement would not be possible without the collective efforts of our legislators in the 17th Congress, in particular, the Chairmen of the House Committee on Ways and Means, and the Senate Committee on Ways and Means.

II. DIRECT VETO

By the power vested in me by Article VI, Section 27 (2) of the Constitution, which provides that “the President shall have the power to veto any particular item or items in an appropriation, revenue, or tariff bill,” I hereby register the following line item vetoes to this law:

- A. Reduced income tax rate of employees of Regional Headquarters (RHQS), Regional Operating Headquarters (ROHQS), Offshore Banking Units (OBUS), and Petroleum Service Contractors and Subcontractors

I am constrained to veto the proviso under Section 6 (F) of the enrolled bill that effectively maintains the special tax rate of 15% of gross income for the aforementioned employees, to wit:

“PROVIDED, HOWEVER, THAT EXISTING RHQS/ROHQS, OBUS OR PETROLEUM SERVICE CONTRACTORS AND SUBCONTRACTORS PRESENTLY AVAILING OF PREFERENTIAL TAX RATES FOR QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES SHALL CONTINUE TO BE ENTITLED TO AVAIL OF THE PREFERENTIAL TAX RATE FOR PRESENT AND FUTURE QUALIFIED EMPLOYEES.”

While I understand the laudable objective of the proposal, the provision is violative of the Equal Protection Clause under Section 1, Article III of the 1987 Constitution, as well as the rule of equity and uniformity in the application of the burden of taxation:

Section 1. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor shall any person be denied the equal protection of the laws.

In line with this, the overriding consideration is the promotion of fairness of the tax system for individuals performing similar work. Given the significant reduction in the personal income tax, the employees of these firms should follow the regular tax rates applicable to other individual taxpayers.

- B. Zero-rating of sales of goods and services to separate customs territory and tourism enterprise zones

Second, I am constrained to veto the provisions under Section 31 and Section 33 of the enrolled bill, to wit:

Section 31:

(2) SALE AND DELIVERY OF GOODS

TO:

- (i) REGISTERED ENTERPRISES WITHIN A SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY AS PROVIDED UNDER SPECIAL LAWS; AND
(ii) REGISTERED ENTERPRISES WITHIN TOURISM ENTERPRISE ZONES AS DECLARED BY THE TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENTERPRISE ZONE AUTHORITY (TIEZA) SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593 OR THE TOURISM ACT OF 2009.

Section 33:

(8) SERVICES RENDERED TO:

- I. REGISTERED ENTERPRISES WITHIN A SEPARATE CUSTOMS TERRITORY AS PROVIDED UNDER SPECIAL LAWS; AND
II. REGISTERED ENTERPRISES WITHIN TOURISM ENTERPRISE ZONES AS DECLARED BY THE TIEZA SUBJECT TO THE PROVISIONS UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593 OR THE TOURISM ACT OF 2009.

The above provisions go against the principle of limiting the VAT zero-rating to direct exporters. The proliferation of separate customs territories, which include buildings, creates significant leakages in our tax system. This makes the tax system highly inequitable and significantly reduces the revenues that could be better used for the poor. As to tourism enterprises, the current law only allows for duty and tax free importation of capital equipment, transportation equipment and other goods. The TIEZA Law explicitly allows only duty and tax free importation of capital equipment, transportation equipment and other goods (in certain

cases and always subject to rules provided by the DOF). Thus, this provision actually grants a new incentive to suppliers of registered tourism enterprises. At any rate, the TIEZA law, which is still in effect for two more years, can be used to avail of the above mentioned incentives.

- C. Exemption from percentage tax of gross sales/receipts not exceeding five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00)

I am constrained to veto the provision which provides for the above under line 12 of Sec. 38 in the enrolled bill, to wit:

“AND BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2019, SELF-EMPLOYED AND PROFESSIONALS WITH TOTAL ANNUAL GROSS SALES AND/OR GROSS RECEIPTS NOT EXCEEDING FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000).”

The proposed exemption from percentage tax will result in unnecessary erosion of revenues and would lead to abuse and leakages. The subject taxpayers under this provision are already exempted from the VAT, thus, the lower three percent percentage tax on gross sales or gross receipts is considered as their fair share in contributing to the revenue base of the country.

- D. Exemption of various petroleum products from excise tax when used as input, feedstock, or as raw material in the manufacturing of petrochemical products, or in the refining of petroleum products, or as replacement fuel for natural-gas-fired-combined cycle power plants

I am constrained to veto the provision which provides for the above under line 25 Sec. 43 of the enrolled bill, to wit:

“PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, INCLUDING NAPHTHA, LPG, PETROLEUM, COKE, REFINERY FUEL AND OTHER PRODUCTS OF DISTILLATION, WHEN USED AS INPUT, FEEDSTOCK OR AS RAW MATERIAL IN THE MANUFACTURING OF PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS, OR IN THE REFINING OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, OR AS REPLACEMENT FUEL FOR NATURAL-GAS-FIRED-COMBINED CYCLE POWER PLANT [,] IN LIEU OF LOCALLY-EXTRACTED NATURAL GAS DURING THE NON-AVAILABILITY

THEREOF, SUBJECT TO THE RULES AND REGULATIONS TO BE PROMULGATED BY THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE, PER LITER OF VOLUME CAPACITY, ZERO (P0.00); FURTHERMORE, THAT THE BY-PRODUCT INCLUDING FUEL OIL, DIESEL FUEL, KEROSENE, PYROLYSIS GASOLINE, LIQUIFIED PETROLEUM GASES, AND SIMILAR OILS HAVING MORE OR LESS THE SAME GENERATING POWER, WHICH ARE PRODUCED IN THE PROCESSING OF NAPHTHA INTO PETROCHEMICAL PRODUCTS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE APPLICABLE EXCISE TAX SPECIFIED IN THE SECTION, EXCEPT WHEN SUCH BY-PRODUCTS ARE TRANSFERRED TO ANY OF THE LOCAL OIL REFINERIES THROUGH SALE, BARTER OR EXCHANGE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF FURTHER PROCESSING OR BLENDING INTO FINISHED PRODUCTS WHICH ARE SUBJECT TO EXCISE TAX UNDER THIS SECTION.”

The provision runs the risk of being too general, covering all types of petroleum products, which may be subject to abuse by taxpayers, and thus lead to massive revenue erosion. At any rate, the tax code already identifies which petroleum products can be exempted.

- E. Earmarking of incremental tobacco taxes

I am constrained to veto the provision which provides for the above in lines 20 to 29 of Sec. 82 of the enrolled bill, to wit:

“NOTWITHSTANDING ANY PROVISIONS HEREIN TO THE CONTRARY, THE INCREMENTAL REVENUES FROM THE TOBACCO TAXES UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE SUBJECT TO SECTION 3 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7171, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT TO PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FARMER IN THE VIRGINIA TOBACCO PRODUCING PROVINCES’, AND SECTION 8 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8240, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 138, 140 & 142 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.’”

The provision effectively amends the Sin Tax Law, or RA 10351, which provides for guaranteed funds for

universal health care. The provision will effectively diminish the share of the health sector in the proposed allocation.

III. CLOSING STATEMENT

I am very pleased to sign this very important piece of legislation mainly because of my sincere objective to help our poor countrymen and ease the burden of the common taxpayers. This government will do its best to implement this noble objective under the tax reform package while maintaining fiscal discipline and adhering to the true principles of taxation: fair, simple, and efficient.

Very truly yours,

(SGD.) RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MALACAÑAN PALACE
MANILA

Dec. 19, 2017

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Today marks an important milestone for our country as I sign into law the first financial blueprint of my Administration—Republic Act (R.A.) No. 10964, the General Appropriations Act (GAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2018, entitled “AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

As I carry out the duties and responsibilities entrusted to me by the Filipino people, this FY 2018 Budget, the second under this Administration, will be the means to ensure that the reforms needed to move us forward will come to fruition. With this instrument, we are assured of genuine and lasting change—the dynamic transformation that will finally get our country and people on the path to prosperity.

Armed with a P3.767 trillion expenditure plan, this Administration aims to further strengthen the foundation for the *matatag, maginhawa at panatag na buhay* that Filipinos aspire for. We are confident that through a responsible and disciplined implementation

of this financial plan, we can fulfill our commitment to bring about the change that our people have long sought for – by reducing inequality, enhancing the social fabric, increasing our growth potential, providing an enabling and supportive environment, and maintaining the groundwork for sustainable development. Together, we can turn this aspiration into reality.

Sa Administrasyong ito, sama-sama tayo sa kaunlaran. Walang iwanan!

I. GENERAL COMMENTS

To give ample time for Congress to scrutinize the 2018 Budget, I submitted the then proposed Budget to Congress on the same day that I delivered my second State of the Nation Address. It was one of the earliest submissions in Philippine history.

The passage of the 2018 Budget six days before Christmas is an indication of the appreciation by the ladies and gentlemen of Congress of the urgency that characterized our action, and their willingness to support it because it is for the good of the people we serve. Within the season of thanksgiving and hope, this will be our gift to the Filipino people. And one they rightfully deserve, for the trust they have given us.

Nagpapasalamat ako sa Kongreso at hindi tayo binigo. Indeed, the Members of Congress are our partners in our journey towards a more prosperous future.

Powered by a sound financing program and carefully crafted priorities, the 2018 Budget will not only foster the golden age of infrastructure and secure peace and order, but also accelerate human capital development for sustained and inclusive growth.

We are all the more certain of this because of the timely passage of the Tax Reform for Acceleration and Inclusion Act, which can further guarantee the smooth execution of the Budget.

Consistent with the foregoing aspirations, I hereby exercise my constitutional duty and register the following veto actions in this year's GAA:

II. ITEMS FOR DIRECT VETO

Under my Administration, attempts to circumvent the Constitution will never be countenanced. By constitutional fiat, specifically Section 25 (2), Article VI of the 1987 Constitution, provisions embraced in this Budget which do not relate to some particular appropriation and are introduced herein with the

purpose of amending existing laws and rules have no place in the general appropriations bill. These ‘rider’ provisions must accordingly be subject to direct veto.

Thus, I am constrained to veto the grant of monitoring expenses in Other Executive Offices (OEOs)-Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB), Special Provision No. 2, “Monitoring Expenses of Board Members,” Volume I-B, page 252. Under the Salary Standardization Law and its implementing rules, board members are already authorized to receive honoraria or per diems in the performance of their official functions. Other necessary expenses incurred in the conduct of monitoring and evaluation by the MTRCB may be allowed, subject to budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, rules and regulations.

Similarly, General Provisions, Section 87, “Collection of Fees in Relation to the Retention or Reacquisition of Philippine Citizenship,” Volume I-B, page 637, which prohibits the imposition and collections of fees and Department of Education (DepEd)-Office of the Secretary (OSEC), Special Provision No. 14, “Use of School Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses for Payment of Items That May Be Classified as Capital Outlay,” Volume I-A, page 189, which authorizes the DepEd to use appropriations for Maintenance and Other Operating Requirements (MOOE) for its Capital Outlay requirements, are hereby directly vetoed.

Agencies of the government cannot be deprived of their inherent authority to assess reasonable fees in the provision of services. In fact, Section 54, Chapter 12, Book IV of Executive Order (EO) No. 292, s. 1987 empowers the heads of agencies to update their rates of fees and charges to recover the costs of rendered services. On the other hand, agencies ought to spend what is programmed in their appropriations and any modification shall first comply with the requirements provided under the General Provisions in this Act.

Indeed, the laws and rules I referred to cannot be simply changed by the inclusion of the vetoed special provisions. Their amendments are matters of general legislation which can be properly dealt with in a separate substantive law.

I am likewise duty-bound to veto the use of income provided in OEOs-Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC), Special Provision No. 1, “Use of Income,” Volume I-B, page 225, to augment the operational requirements of the ERC. Apart from being a rider, the sources of income enumerated have already been included in the Non-Tax Revenue Program for FY 2018,

thereby resulting in double programming for the said income sources. The ERC should instead make efficient use of its budget and automatic appropriations in the amount of P413.60 M.

III. CONDITIONAL IMPLEMENTATION

Pursuant to Sections 1 and 17, Article VII of the Constitution, there are provisions in this Budget whose implementation ought to be subjected to certain conditions to ensure the consistent and faithful execution of existing laws, policies, and rules and regulations.

A. Double Programming of Funding Sources

The use of income that is already part of the funding sources for the implementation of this Budget amounts to double programming which effectively reduces the revenue sources of this year's Budget Law and unjustifiably increases the appropriations of these agencies, which are already provided for in this Act. This justifies the conditional implementation of the use of income and collections under Department of Science and Technology (DOST)-OSEC, Special Provision No. 1, “Use of Income,” Volume I-A, page 1364 and OEOs-Dangerous Drugs Board (DDB), Special Provision No. 1, “Collections for Drug Rehabilitation Activities,” Volume I-B, page 222 even if the same are authorized under existing laws. The creation of a revolving fund for the Research and Development Institutes of the DOST and the use of collections by the DDB are therefore subject to generation of income and collections in excess of those forming part of the revenue sources programmed for the FY 2018 GAA.

B. The GAA as the Allotment Order

A transformational Budget is an enabler of reforms; one that puts to fruition our developmental goals with the timely implementation of programs and projects in the GAA. With the adoption of the GAA as the allotment order, agencies need not line up for the issuance of an allotment order for the release of appropriations, except those identified by the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) as requiring compliance with conditions or submission of requirements prior to the release of allotment. Accordingly, this cannot be considered as a deferral of appropriations contemplated under General Provisions, Sections 62 and 63, “Meaning of Impoundment” and “Impoundment of Appropriations,” respectively, Volume I-B, pages 632 and 633. Deferral of appropriations under these provisions thus pertains only to instances not covered by Section 3 of the General Provisions in this Act.

C. Efficient Use of Appropriations

Our continued advocacy for genuine and meaningful change is hinged primarily on our commitment to responsible fiscal and budgeting policies which Congress has resoundingly espoused with the adoption of the one-year validity of appropriations under Section 59 of the General Provisions in this Act. This responsibility ought to be imposed on all agencies of the government, including government-owned or -controlled corporations (GOCCs), which explains why I am placing Budgetary Support to Government Corporations (BSGC) Others, Special Provision No. 11, "Availability of Subsidy to GOCCs," page 565 under conditional implementation. Hence, all subsidy releases to GOCCs shall be utilized until December 31, 2018, and any unexpended balance shall revert to the unappropriated surplus of the General Fund in accordance with Section 28, Chapter 4, Book VI of EO No. 292.

In a similar vein, the financial independence of courts from local interference is made more certain with the direct provision of MOOE to all lower courts in the country. With this in mind, I hereby urge the Supreme Court to ensure the equitable allocation and immediate release of its MOOE as provided under Judiciary, Special Provision No. 7, "Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses of Lower Courts," Volume I-B, page 422 to all lower courts. Indeed, the fair and efficient delivery of justice in the country is served well with a decentralized system, where the national government is able to directly release funds to lower courts.

The efficient use of appropriations entails as well that agencies implement those programmed in their budgets. Thus, the MOOE of elementary and secondary schools in the amount of Twenty-Two Billion Eight Hundred Eighty-Five Million Nine Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand Pesos (P22,885,969,000.00) referred to in DepEd-OSEC, Special Provision No. 14, "Use of School Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) for Payment of Items that may be Classified as Capital Outlay," Volume I-A, page 189 shall be used for the said purpose. Any modification, such as for the school's capital outlay requirements, may be made in justifiable circumstances, and upon compliance with the General Provision and pertinent rules in the modification of allotment.

Relatedly, the efficient use of funds equally calls for the judicious application of all available funding sources set aside for a similar purpose. A case in point is the appropriations in this Act for the payment of insurance coverage of government facilities embedded in the

budgets of agencies, under the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Fund (NDRRMF), and the one authorized in the Unprogrammed Appropriations, Special Provision No. 5, "General Fund Adjustment for Use of Excess Income," Volume I-B, page 607. In the implementation of this provision, the DBM and the Bureau of the Treasury shall ensure that only those not yet covered in the budgets of agencies and by the NDRRMF, or deficiencies therein, may be funded under the Unprogrammed Appropriations.

Over the years, public-private partnership (PPP) programs have allowed the government to focus on other national priorities by involving the private sector in the financing of government projects where their expertise and competence best serve the national interest. The government in turn builds on the rudimentary requirements of PPP programs such as right-of-way acquisitions, engagement of independent consultants, and provision of cash subsidy through the PPP Strategic Support Fund under Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)-OSEC, Special Provision No. 5, "Public-Private Partnership Infrastructure Projects," Volume I-A, page 1168. Therefore, the use of this fund for feasibility studies should be read in conjunction with the Project Development and Monitoring Facility (PDMF) Fund, which properly covers all preparatory activities to the undertaking of PPP projects. In the interest of optimizing all available resources, funding for feasibility studies of PPP projects shall be sourced primarily from the PDMF Fund and secondarily from the PPP Strategic Support Fund.

Of similar import is the additional funding for the grant of tuition subsidy to medical students enrolled in State Universities and Colleges under OEOs-Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Special Provision No. 8, "Cash Grant to Medical Students," Volume I-B, page 203. I hereby task the CHED to ensure that the implementation of this cash grant to medical students is harmonized with the comparable Pre-service Scholarship Program of the Department of Health, which aims to provide scholarships to medical students who shall, upon qualification, provide their medical services in far-flung areas and underserved communities.

D. Protection to Government Employees

While I recognize the convenience afforded to government employees in authorizing agencies to deduct the amount of their contributions and obligations to financing institutions under General Provisions, Section 48, "Authorized Deductions," Volume I-B, page 629, their overall protection remains to be my primordial concern. Government agencies are not

merely collecting agents for these institutions, but influential representatives of government employees availing of this salary deduction facility. Government agencies should, therefore, leverage the facility given to these institutions to secure for government employees the most favorable terms possible for the protection of their rights and the promotion of their interest.

I take special note of the plight of our employees at the Bureau of Immigration, who constitute the first line of defense in securing our borders. Under the 2017 GAA, 936 additional positions have been created and the amount of P224.83 million has been allocated for overtime pay of immigration personnel. Sadly, their basic monthly pay, on which overtime rates are based, has remained extremely low in relation to the nature of work that they perform, thereby leading to a large number of resignations and causing prejudice to the efficient delivery of a front-line service.

Until the Congress has enacted a new Immigration Modernization Law in 2018 which will upgrade the compensation system in the Bureau of Immigration, I will allow the establishment of a trust fund to be constituted from the express lane fees and charges collected by the BI for the payment of salaries and overtime to employees of the BI under Department of Justice (DOJ)-BI, Special Provision No. 1, "Immigration Fees and Collections," Volume I-A, page 1062, subject to such guidelines as the Secretary of Justice, the Secretary of Budget and Management, and the Commission on Audit may promulgate.

E. Universal Health Insurance Coverage

The goal of universal health insurance coverage is well within our reach with the national government's continued provision for health insurance premium contributions to the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (PhilHealth). With more reason that the release of the government support for the supplemental PhilHealth benefits under BSGC-PhilHealth, Special Provision No. 3, "PhilHealth Supplemental Benefits," Volume I-B, page 511 be conditioned upon the full utilization of the amount of P3.5 B appropriated for the expanded PhilHealth benefits under the Miscellaneous Personnel Benefits Fund. The implementation of the above additional PhilHealth benefits should be harmonized in order to avoid the duplication of programs and beneficiaries that can only curtail the advancement of universal health insurance coverage in the country.

The same can be said of the BSGC-PhilHealth, Special Provision No. 2, "Attainment of Universal Coverage," Volume I-B, page 511, on the implementation of the National Health Insurance Program (NHIP).

More importantly, the national government's budgetary support for the NHIP covers only the payment of insurance premium in accordance with Section 2 of RA No. 7875, as amended by RA No. 10606. Thus, no amount appropriated under this special provision may be used for the reimbursement of the actual cost of availing of health insurance, which is properly within the province and responsibility of PhilHealth as the insuring agent.

F. Funding Requirements of the Philippine Foreign Service

As Filipinos adapt to globalization, our government has remained steadfast in our commitment to foster and safeguard their interest by providing the familiar warmth and comfort of home through our foreign service posts. To ensure the uninterrupted delivery of services to Filipinos the world over, foreign service posts are authorized to maintain their own working fund from income collected abroad, subject to the appropriations authorized in this Act in compliance with the constitutional edict that "[n]o money shall be paid out of the Treasury except in pursuance of an appropriation made by law," Section 29 (1), Article VI of the Constitution. True to this requirement, the authority of foreign service posts to use the unutilized cash of their working fund under Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)-OSEC, Special Provision No. 1, "DFA Working Funds," Volume I-A, page 929 shall not exceed the appropriations authorized for the purpose and shall be subject to the cash disbursement ceiling imposed by the DBM, and any guidelines issued for the implementation of this provision shall recognize these limitations.

On the other hand, the efficient use of the Building Fund under the DFA-OSEC, Special Provision No. 3, "Building Fund," Volume I-A, page 929, requires the DFA to prioritize the acquisition and renovation of chanceries and residences, as well as consular offices of the Philippine Foreign Service that have been programmed for the year. Moreover, the use of the Building Fund for the lease of these facilities shall cover only countries with foreign ownership limitations and under terms and conditions that are beneficial to the Philippine government.

Correspondingly, lease agreements covering chanceries, residences, and consular offices under DFA-OSEC, Special Provision No. 9, "Rentals of Philippine Chanceries, Consular Offices or Official Residences," Volume I-A, page 930, shall comply with the requirements on the issuance of a multi-year obligational authority, the advance payment of rentals, and the provision of living quarters allowance, whenever applicable.

G. Compliance with Existing Laws, Policies, Rules and Regulations

Finally, the following provisions are equally placed under conditional implementation in order that the requirements of existing laws, policies, rules and regulations are consistently observed:

1. Approval of the Fiscal Incentives Review Board that the importations, grants and donations of the Philippine Coast Guard and the National Coast Watch Center under Section 15, General Provisions, "National Internal Revenue Taxes and Import Duties," Volume I-B, page 624, are considered as non-cash transactions qualified for tax subsidy status.
2. The approval of DBM with respect to the creation of positions in DepEd-OSEC, Special Provision No. 11, "Creation of Teaching Positions, Recruitment and Appointment of School," Volume I-A, page 188, and the grant of hazard duty pay under DOJ-National Bureau of Investigation, Special Provision No. 2, "Hazard Duty Pay," Volume I-A, page 1068.
3. The evaluation and recommendation of the Department of Information and Communications Technology and approval by the Medium-Term Information and Communications Technology Harmonization Initiative Steering Committee of the Digitization Program of the Philippine National Police (PNP) under Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG)-PNP, Special Provision No. 6, "Digitization Program of the Internal Affairs Service," Volume I-A, page 1030 and the Expansion of the Bulk and Break Bulk Enhancement Program of the Bureau of Customs (BOC) provided in Department of Finance-BOC, Special Provision No. 6, "Expansion of the Bulk and Break Bulk Enhancement Program to Include Containerized Cargoes," Volume I-A, page 889.
4. Compliance with the appropriate standards under the National Building Code, as amended, the Philippine Green Building Code, and the latest edition of the National Structural Code of the Philippines (NSCP) in the design and construction of government facilities in the implementation of General

Provisions, Section 36, "Disaster and Climate Change Resiliency of Government Facilities," Volume I-B, page 627, Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH)-OSEC, Special Provision No. 20, "Evacuation Centers," Volume I-A, page 1169, and DILG-OSEC, Special Provision No. 7, "Evacuation Centers," Volume I-A, page 1000.

Of particular importance is the added responsibility of the DPWH, in consultation with the Civil Engineering Board and other stakeholders, to continuously study, review and update the standards set under the NSCP to ensure that all infrastructure, buildings, and facilities in the country are designed and constructed with the latest technology, innovation and developments in the construction industry to adequately withstand and minimize the damages brought about by typhoons and other calamities.

Allow me to emphasize the role of the DILG, pursuant to its supervisory mandate over local government units (LGUs), to oversee the LGUs' observance of the foregoing standards and continued vigilance in mitigating the effects of calamities.

5. To limit the financial assistance to LGUs for the repair of bridges under Allocation to LGUs-Local Government Support Fund, Special Provision No. 3, "Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces for Road Repair," Volume II-B, page 585, to those that form part of the road network or within the station limits of the road project consistent with the Program's objective to elevate provincial roads to the same quality, status and performance as that of city roads.
6. To exclude other MOOE as an allowable Engineering and Administrative Overhead (EAO) expenses under DPWH-OSEC Special Provision No. 13, "Engineering and Administrative Overhead Expenses," Volume I-A, Page 1168 and treat only those enumerated in items (i) to (vi) of the second paragraph of this provision as proper EAO expenses.

IV. GENERAL OBSERVATION

As in the previous year, I trust that the Congress of the Philippines, Special Provision No. 2, "Organizational Structure of the Senate, the House of Representatives, the

Senate and House of Representatives Electoral Tribunals and the Commission on Appointments,” Volume I-A, page 15 will be implemented in faithful observance of the constitutional mandate of salary standardization and prohibition on the grant of additional or double compensation to government personnel, as well as the existing policies and rules on the creation of new positions and other modifications or adjustments in their Organizational and Staffing Structure. I extend the same conviction in regard to the application of Civil Service Commission, Special Provision No. 1, “Organizational Structure,” Volume I-B, page 438.

On the other hand, the release and disbursement of funds for the University of the Philippines System as provided in State Universities and Colleges-University of the Philippines System, Special Provision No. 3, “Appropriations of the University of the Philippines System,” Volume I-A, page 377 is understood to be made in accordance with pertinent budgeting, accounting, and auditing laws, policies, rules and regulations, as the provisions of RA No. 9500 do not divest relevant authorities of their power to consistently implement laws, policies, rules and regulations.

In conclusion, I affirm that the appropriations under OEOs-National Commission on Muslim Filipinos (NCMF), Special Provision No. 2, “Appropriations for the NCMF Supervising Team in the Hajj,” Volume I-B, page 287 relate to the administrative cost of the NCMF in providing support services for the annual pilgrimage of our Muslim brothers and sisters.

V. SHARED FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

The grant of fiscal autonomy carries with it the guarantee of full flexibility to allocate and utilize government resources. More than this, it conveys a greater, almost altruistic sense of fiscal responsibility, one that demands freedom and autonomy to hold one's self publicly accountable for all government financial undertakings.

I hereby call on the heads of all the Constitutional Fiscal Autonomy Group (CFAG) to answer the clarion call for a shared fiscal responsibility. This is the overriding principle behind the Budget Reform Bill pending deliberations before the Congress. As your President, I ought to steel my mind and press upon this needed fiscal reform as one of the imperatives of growth and the promise of change that brought me to the helm of Government.

There is no better way to inculcate fiscal prudence and sound financial management than to adopt the one-year validity of appropriations in the FY 2018

Budget. Alongside this policy is the reversion of all unexpended balance of appropriations to the National Treasury by the end of FY 2018. Towards this end, I hereby direct the Executive Branch and strongly urge the CFAG to apply the reversion of all unexpended balances of appropriations in pursuit of genuine fiscal autonomy.

VI. INCREASES OF APPROPRIATIONS AND NEW BUDGETARY ITEMS

As a final point, there are a number of increases in the appropriations and new budgetary items introduced by the Congress in this Budget. In line with the principle of responsible financial management, these shall be subject to the submission of a Special Budget to the DBM under Section 35, Chapter V, Book VI of EO No. 292.

Moreover, all increases and decreases in the appropriations and new budgetary items should carry with them the corresponding adjustments in the respective outputs and improved outcomes of the agencies concerned.

VII. CLOSING REMARKS

The FY 2018 Budget is the first full budget prepared by my Administration, from “inception to execution.” And I am proud to share with you this document — with all its potential to reform and transform our country — as we move forward into another year in our journey to real and lasting positive change.

Over the past few months that we had been preparing this Budget, we made sure that every policy, program, and activity would address and respond to the most pressing needs of our people. This is because we recognize the importance of the people, of giving them enough opportunities to reach their fullest potential as we pursue development in which they are the key players.

As I have said before, “The budget is useless if Filipinos are not at the center of it.”

At the core of this Budget is the spirit of reforming and transforming; that for every peso we spend, we help uplift the lives of our people, most especially the marginalized and those in the countryside.

As public servants, we always aim to give to our people what they rightfully deserve. And they deserve no less than these — the highest ideals which we aspire for and the best of our efforts in all that we do.

Let us all commit to continue to do this not just for the next year, but while we are here to fulfill the mandate bestowed upon us.

Very truly yours,

(SGD.) RODRIGO ROA DUTERTE

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 5150, entitled:

“AN ACT EFFECTING THE TRANSITION INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY OF SURIGAO STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY, SIARGAO NATIONAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND SURIGAO DEL NORTE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY, ALL LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10600, ENTITLED: ‘AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SURIGAO DEL NORTE STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE BY INTEGRATING THE SURIGAO STATE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY IN SURIGAO CITY, THE SIARGAO NATIONAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DEL CARMEN AND THE SURIGAO DEL NORTE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAINIT, ALL LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF SURIGAO DEL NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 5151, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE OF THE MOUNTAIN PROVINCE STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOR ITS CONVERSION INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10583, ENTITLED: ‘AN ACT CONVERTING THE MOUNTAIN PROVINCE STATE

POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BONTOC, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE MOUNTAIN PROVINCE STATE UNIVERSITY, WITH CAMPUSES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TADIAN, BAUKO, PARACELIS AND BARLIG, ALL LOCATED IN MOUNTAIN PROVINCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 3179, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE OF MINDORO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CONVERSION INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, THEREBY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10596, ENTITLED: ‘AN ACT CONVERTING THE MINDORO STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VICTORIA, PROVINCE OF ORIENTAL MINDORO INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE MINDORO STATE UNIVERSITY (MINSU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 5147, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE TALISAY CITY COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF TALISAY, PROVINCE OF CEBU INTO THE TALISAY CITY STATE COLLEGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10594, ENTITLED: ‘AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE COLLEGE IN THE CITY OF TALISAY, PROVINCE OF CEBU TO BE KNOWN AS THE TALISAY CITY STATE COLLEGE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 5148, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE ILOILO STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AS THE ILOILO STATE UNIVERSITY OF FISHERIES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE OF THE ILOILO STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, THEREBY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10604, ENTITLED: ‘AN ACT CONVERTING THE ILOILO STATE COLLEGE OF FISHERIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROTAC NUEVO, PROVINCE OF ILOILO INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE ILOILO STATE UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, WITH CAMPUSES IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SANENRIQUE, DINGLE AND DUMANGAS, AND INTEGRATING THEREWITH THE BAROTAC NUEVO POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROTAC NUEVO, ALL LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 2737, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE OF THE NORTHERN ILOILO STATE UNIVERSITY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION FOR CONVERSION INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10597, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE NORTHERN ILOILO STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO BY INTEGRATING THE NORTHERN ILOILO POLYTECHNIC STATE COLLEGE (NIPSC) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ESTANCIA, THE NIPSC-BAROTAC VIEJO CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAROTAC VIEJO, THE AJUY POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AJUY, THE BATAD POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BATAD, THE CONCEPCION POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CONCEPCION, THE LEMERY POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LEMERY AND THE

VICTORINO SALCEDO POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SARA, ALL LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF ILOILO AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendment House Bill No. 5146, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE COMPOSTELA VALLEY STATE COLLEGE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 26 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10598, ENTITLED: ‘AN ACT ESTABLISHING A STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF COMPOSTELA, PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY TO BE KNOWN AS COMPOSTELA VALLEY STATE COLLEGE, INTEGRATING THEREWITH AS REGULAR BRANCHES THE BUKIDNON STATE UNIVERSITY EXTERNAL STUDIES CENTERS IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF MONKAYO, MARAGUSAN, MONTEVISTA AND NEW BATAAN, ALL LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF COMPOSTELA VALLEY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 5149, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE DEADLINE FOR COMPLIANCE OF COTABATO CITY STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE WITH THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) FOR CONVERSION INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY, THEREBY AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10585, ENTITLED: ‘AN ACT CONVERTING THE COTABATO CITY STATE POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN COTABATO CITY INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE COTABATO STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even

date passed with amendments House Bill No. 5051, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY HULONG-DAGAT, CITY OF MALABON TO BE KNOWN AS MALABON CITY NATIONAL SCIENCE AND MATHEMATICS HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed without amendment the following House Bills:

House Bill No. 4469, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE TUBLAY SCHOOL OF HOME INDUSTRIES EXTENSION IN BARANGAY TUBLAY CENTRAL, MUNICIPALITY OF TUBLAY, PROVINCE OF BENGUET FROM THE TUBLAY SCHOOL OF HOME INDUSTRIES MAIN, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS TUBLAY NATIONAL TRADE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4597, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CONCEPCION DOS IN THE SECOND DISTRICT, CITY OF MARIKINA TO BE KNOWN AS SSS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 400, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PASONG TAMO, QUEZON CITY, METRO MANILA TO BE KNOWN AS EMILIO JACINTO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4598, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY NASISI, CITY OF LIGAO, PROVINCE OF ALBAY TO BE KNOWN AS LIGAO CITY NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 5183, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY HAMPANGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF HILONGOS, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS HAMPANGAN NATIONAL HIGH

SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4524, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SAN RAFAEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF NAVOTAS INTO A NATIONAL TECHNICAL-VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SAN RAFAEL TECHNOLOGICAL AND VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 5052, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BANAHAO, CITY OF BAYBAY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS BANAHAO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 4599, entitled:

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF PAGADIAN, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS PAGADIAN CITY SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 2506, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PASO DE BLAS, VALENZUELA CITY TO BE KNOWN AS PASO DE BLAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 2508, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BAGBAGUIN, VALENZUELA CITY TO BE KNOWN AS BAGBAGUIN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 3438, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY UGONG, VALENZUELA CITY TO BE KNOWN AS ANTONIO M. SERAPIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 5754, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE RIZAL NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TRADES – SANTOR EXTENSION IN BARANGAY SANTOR, MUNICIPALITY OF RIZAL, PROVINCE OF KALINGA FROM THE RIZAL NATIONAL SCHOOL OF ARTS AND TRADES, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SANTOR NATIONAL

HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 5755, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE PARAÑAQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – DON BOSCO EXTENSION IN BARANGAY DON BOSCO, PARAÑAQUE CITY, FROM THE PARAÑAQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS DON BOSCO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 5756, entitled:

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

House Bill No. 5757, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE PARAÑAQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL-SAN ANTONIO HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY SAN ANTONIO, PARAÑAQUE CITY, FROM THE PARAÑAQUE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SAN ANTONIO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL PARAÑAQUE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 5758, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE BOKOD NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – DAKLAN EXTENSION IN BARANGAY DAKLAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BOKOD, PROVINCE OF BENGUET FROM THE BOKOD NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS DAKLAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 5803, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MANLILISID, MUNICIPALITY OF JAVIER, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS MANLILISID NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 2507, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY UGONG, VALENZUELA CITY TO BE KNOWN AS

JUSTICE ELIEZER R. DE LOS SANTOS HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6081, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE NAME OF MANLABANG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MANLABANG, MUNICIPALITY OF CAIBIRAN, PROVINCE OF BILIRAN, TO CAIBIRAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL”;

House Bill No. 6099, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING MAYOR BARTOLOME SERUT NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE HIGH SCHOOL – MUSIMUT ANNEX IN BARANGAY MUSIMUT, MUNICIPALITY OF KABUGAO, PROVINCE OF APAYAO FROM THE MAYOR BARTOLOME SERUT NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL AND TRADE HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MUSIMUT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6100, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE GOVERNOR BENJAMIN LEGUIAB, SR. MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – SACPIL ANNEX IN BARANGAY SACPIL, MUNICIPALITY OF CONNER, PROVINCE OF APAYAO FROM THE GOVERNOR BENJAMIN LEGUIAB, SR. MEMORIAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SACPIL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6101, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE MATAGUISI COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – CACALAGGAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY CACALAGGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF PUDTOL, PROVINCE OF APAYAO FROM THE MATAGUISI COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS TAWIT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6103, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE CONNER CENTRAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – GUINA-ANG ANNEX IN BARANGAY GUINA-ANG, MUNICIPALITY OF CONNER, PROVINCE OF APAYAO FROM THE CONNER CENTRAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING

IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS GUINANG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”; and

House Bill No. 5550, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING CAMALOG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL—MALAGNAT EXTENSION IN BARANGAY MALAGNAT, MUNICIPALITY OF PINUKPUK, PROVINCE OF KALINGA FROM THE CAMALOG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MALAGNAT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed without amendment the following Senate Bills:

Senate Bill No. 1103, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-SABLAYAN CAMPUS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SABLAYAN, OCCIDENTAL MINDORO TO BE KNOWN AS ‘PUP-SABLAYAN CAMPUS’ APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”; and

Senate Bill No. 884, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES-SAN JUAN CAMPUS IN THE CITY OF SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA TO BE KNOWN AS PUP-SAN JUAN CAMPUS APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1299, entitled:

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

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Bill No. 1456, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (PQF) AND ESTABLISHING THE PQF-NATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 11, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed Senate Joint Resolution No. 8, entitled:

“JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY TO AWARD TO OTHER QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES THE UNAWARDED HOUSING UNITS, AWARDED HOUSING UNITS THAT ARE NOT YET OCCUPIED AND WHOSE OWNERSHIP AND POSSESSION ARE SURRENDERED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE AWARDEES, AND HOUSING UNITS WHOSE RESPECTIVE AWARDS WERE CANCELLED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES (AFP)/PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP)/BUREAU OF FIRE PROTECTION (BFP)/BUREAU OF JAIL MANAGEMENT AND PENOLOGY (BJMP)/BUREAU OF CORRECTIONS (BUCOR) HOUSING PROJECTS”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 12, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on December 11, 2017 approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of the following:

House Bill No. 5212, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO FILIPINAS BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION, INC., PRESENTLY KNOWN AS WORD BROADCASTING CORPORATION, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7485, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING FILIPINAS BROADCASTING ASSOCIATION, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO BROADCASTING AND

TELEVISION STATIONS IN THE VISAYAS AND MINDANAO AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”;

House Bill No. 5063, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE PANGASINAN GULF WAVES NETWORK CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES”;

House Bill No. 5175, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO BETA BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC., UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8026, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE BETA BROADCASTING SYSTEM CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE ISLAND OF LUZON, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”;

House Bill No. 5211, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO GATEWAY U.H.F. TELEVISION BROADCASTING, INC., PRESENTLY KNOWN AS GATEWAY TELEVISION BROADCASTING, INC., AND DOING BUSINESS UNDER THE NAME AND STYLE OF HOPE CHANNEL PHILIPPINES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7223, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING GATEWAY U.H.F. TELEVISION BROADCASTING, INC., A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES UHF TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”;

House Bill No. 5176, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SARRAGA INTEGRATED AND MANAGEMENT CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7478, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE SARRAGA INTEGRATED AND MANAGEMENT CORPORATION OF THE PHILIPPINES A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”;

House Bill No. 4636, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING THE ILOILO BAPTIST CHURCH, INC. A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES”;

House Bill No. 5177, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO INFOCOM COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, INC. (PRESENTLY KNOWN AS NOW TELECOM COMPANY, INC.) UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7301, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING INFOCOM COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, INC. (ICNI), A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN MOBILE RADIO SYSTEMS SUCH AS RADIO PAGING SYSTEMS, CELLULAR PHONE SYSTEMS, PERSONAL COMMUNICATION NETWORK (PCN), AND TRUNKED RADIO SYSTEMS WITHIN AND WITHOUT THE PHILIPPINES FOR A PERIOD OF TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7940’ ”; and

House Bill No. 5064, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SUBIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7511, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE SUBIC BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 12, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on December 11, 2017 adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 8, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CONCURRING IN THE POSTHUMOUS CONFERMENT OF THE QUEZON SERVICE CROSS TO MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO”

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 13, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even

date adopted House Concurrent Resolution No. 13, entitled:

“CONCURRENT RESOLUTION REFLECTING THE CORRECT AMOUNT IN THE SPECIAL PROVISIONS UNDER THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER ON THE PEACE PROCESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT SUPPORT FUND IN THE BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT ON HOUSE BILL NO. 6215, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘2018 GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL,’ AS APPROVED BY THE BICAMERAL CONFERENCE COMMITTEE AND RATIFIED BY BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 13, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on December 11, 2017 reorganized its panel to the Joint Congressional Oversight Committee on Automated Election System, to wit:

1. Senator Francis “Chiz” G. Escudero – Chairman
2. Senator Antonio “Sonny” F. Trillanes IV – Vice-Chairman
3. Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay
4. Senator Sherwin “Win” Gatchalian
5. Senator Richard J. Gordon
6. Senator Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV
7. Senator Francis “Kiko” Pangilinan

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 13, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date adopted House Bill No. 6572 as an amendment to Senate Bill No. 1456, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (PQF) AND ESTABLISHING THE PQF-NATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 13, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date adopted House Joint Resolution No. 18 as an amendment to Senate Joint Resolution No. 11, entitled:

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated December 14, 2017, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on December 13, 2017 approved the Conference Committee Report of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1592, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 24, 25, 27, 28, 31, 33, 34, 35, 51, 52, 56, 57, 58, 74, 79, 84, 86, 89, 90, 91, 97, 99, 100, 101, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112, 114, 116, 128, 148, 149, 150, 151, 155, 171, 174, 175, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 232, 236, 237, 249, AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 148-A, 150-A, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B, AND 265-A; ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

and House Bill No. 5636, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 22, 24, 25, 31, 32, 33, 34, 79, 84, 86, 99, 106, 107, 108, 109, 116, 148, 149, 155, 171, 232, 237, 254, 264, AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 148-A, 150-A, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B AND 265-A; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 35 AND 62, ALL UNDER THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

2016 Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Letter dated October 30, 2017 of Roland A. Rey, Regional Director, Office of the Regional Director, Regional Office No. V, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with the Annual Audit Reports/Operations Audit Report for CY2016 on the following water districts in Region V:

1. Balatan Water District, Balatan, Camarines Sur (CY 2016 Operations Audit Report);
2. Bulan Water District, Bulan, Sorsogon;
3. Gubat Water District, Gubat, Sorsogon;
4. Irosin Water District, Irosin, Sorsogon;
5. Matnog Water District, Matnog, Sorsogon;
6. Metropolitan Naga Water District, J. Miranda Avenue, Naga City;
7. Ragay Water District, Ragay, Camarines Sur;

8. Sipocot Water District, Sipocot, Camarines Sur; and
 9. Sorsogon Water District, Sorsogon City, Sorsogon.
- TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated November 6, 2017 of EnP Veronica M. Rodriguez, Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator, Municipality of Hagonoy, Province of Davao del Sur, transmitting their 3rd Quarter 2017 Report of Fund Utilization and Status of Project Implementation of the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund (LGSF).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Letter dated 7 November 2017 of Edgardo R. Masongsong, Administrator, National Electrification Administration, providing a copy to the House of Representatives of their Annual Report for Calendar Year 2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

Letter dated November 20, 2017 of Lemuel Gin K. Traya, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Abuyog, Province of Leyte, transmitting their report on ADM/LGSF fund utilization and status of program/project implementation for the Third Quarter of 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 22 November 2017 of Nestor A. Espenilla Jr., Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting their Report to Congress on Public Sector/Publicly-Guaranteed Private Sector Foreign Loans approved by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas in the Third Quarter of 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated November 24, 2017 of Catalino S. Cuy, Officer-in-Charge, Department of the Interior and Local Government, submitting the Statement of Allotments, Obligations and Balances (Current and Cont. Appropriations) of the Office of the Secretary, this Department, as of October 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated December 1, 2017 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Office of the Supervising Auditor, Audit Groups CGS I and II-Water Districts and Other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives with a copy of the following Annual Audit Reports:

1. Culasi Water District, Culasi, Antique CYs 2014-2016;
2. Malinao Water District, Malinao, Aklan CYs 2013-2016;
3. San Joaquin Water District, San Joaquin, Iloilo CYs 2015-2016; and
4. Dueñas Water District, Dueñas, Iloilo CYs 2013-2016.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 11 December 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 a certified and authenticated BSP Circular No. 979 dated 25 October 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letters dated 14 and 15 December 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 -2017-070 dated 28 November 2017; and
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-071 dated 8 December 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letters dated December 19 and 28, 2017 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, transmitting two (2) original copies each of the following Republic Acts which was signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte:

1. R.A. No. 10962, entitled:
“AN ACT REGULATING THE ISSUANCE, USE AND REDEMPTION OF GIFT CHECKS”
2. R.A. No. 10965, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF LAOAG, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS RODOLFO CG. FARIÑAS, JR. NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
3. R.A. No. 10966, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY, THE PRINCIPAL PATRONESS OF THE PHILIPPINES”

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letter dated December 19, 2017 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, transmitting two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 10963 which was signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, accompanied by a direct veto of six (6) line items, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 24, 25, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 51, 52, 56, 57, 58, 74, 79, 84, 86, 90, 91, 97, 99, 100, 101, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112, 114, 116, 127, 128, 129, 145, 148, 149, 151, 155, 171, 174, 175, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 186, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 232, 236, 237, 249, 254, 264, 269, AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 51-A, 148-A, 150-A, 150-B, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B, AND 265-A; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 35, 62, AND 89; ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Letter dated December 19, 2017 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, transmitting two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 10964 which was signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, and the President’s Budget Action Message, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Letter dated December 19, 2017 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, transmitting two (2) original copies each of Republic Act No. 10967 which was signed by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING A BARANGAY TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY PUDO IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NATONIN, MOUNTAIN PROVINCE”

TO THE ARCHIVES

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

1. House Bill No. 5241, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING DECEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF MARY, THE PRINCIPAL PATRONESS OF THE PHILIPPINES”;

2. House Bill No 5235, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL IN THE CITY OF LAOAG, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE TO BE KNOWN AS RODOLFO CG. FARIÑAS, JR. NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

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

3. House Bill No. 6215, entitled:

“AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

4. Consolidated House Bill No. 5636 and Senate Bill No. 1592, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 5, 6, 24, 25, 27, 31, 32, 33, 34, 51, 52, 56, 57, 58, 74, 79, 84, 86, 90, 91, 97, 99, 100, 101, 106, 107, 108, 109, 110, 112, 114, 116, 127, 128, 129, 145, 148, 149, 151, 155, 171, 174, 175, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 186, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 232, 236, 237, 249, 254, 264, 269, AND 288; CREATING NEW SECTIONS 51-A, 148-A, 150-A, 150-B, 237-A, 264-A, 264-B, AND 265-A; AND REPEALING SECTIONS 35, 62, AND 89; ALL UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

5. Consolidated House Bill No. 6572 and Senate Bill No. 1456, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE PHILIPPINE QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK (PQF), ESTABLISHING THE PQF-NATIONAL COORDINATING COUNCIL (NCC) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

6. Consolidated House Bill No. 1465 and Senate Bill No. 5670, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FREE IRRIGATION SERVICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3601, AS AMENDED, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”; and

7. Consolidated House Joint Resolution No. 18 and Senate Joint Resolution No. 11, entitled: “JOINT RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE IN BASE PAY OF MILITARY AND UNIFORMED PERSONNEL IN THE GOVERNMENT, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”.

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letters dated 3 January 2018 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-2017-072 dated 14 December 2017;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-073 dated 15 December 2017;
3. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-074 dated 20 December 2017;
4. Memorandum No. M-2017-037 (corrected copy) dated 22 December 2017;
5. Circular No. 984 dated 22 December 2017;
6. Circular No. 985 dated 22 December 2017;
7. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-075 dated 20 December 2017;
8. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-076 dated 20 December 2017;
9. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-077 dated 22 December 2017;
10. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-078 dated 22 December 2017; and
11. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-079 dated 27 December 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Cooperatives Development (Committee Report No. 546), re H.R. No. 1559, entitled:

“RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING, COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING BUENAVISTA DEVELOPMENT COOPERATIVE, AN AGRICULTURE BASED COOPERATIVE, OF BUENAVISTA, PROVINCE OF GUIMARAS AND THE SACRED HEART SAVINGS

COOPERATIVE, A NON-AGRICULTURE BASED COOPERATIVE, OF GALIMUYOD, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR, WINNERS OF THE 2017 HALL OF FAME AWARD OF THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES GAWAD SA PINAKATANGING KOOPERATIBA (GAWAD PITAK) HELD LAST AUGUST 14, 2017 AT THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER, PASAY CITY”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1285

Sponsors: Representatives Geron, Bravo (A.) and Canama

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Cooperatives Development (Committee Report No. 547), re H.R. No. 1560, entitled:

“RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING THE TAGUM COOPERATIVE FOR ITS OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS, LEADERSHIP AND ITS SIGNIFICANT ROLE AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVES”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1302

Sponsors: Representatives Geron, Bravo (A.) and Canama

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Cooperatives Development (Committee Report No. 548), re H.R. No. 1561, entitled:

“RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING, COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE NAGKAKAISANG MAGSASAKA AGRICULTURAL PRIMARY MULTI-PURPOSE COOPERATIVE (NMAPMC) OF TABACAO, TALAVERA, NUEVA ECIIJA FOR HAVING BEEN CONFERRED THE 2017 GININTUANG GAWAD PITAK AWARD OF THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES, GAWAD SA PINAKATANGING KOOPERATIBA (GAWAD PITAK) HELD LAST AUGUST 14, 2017 AT THE PHILIPPINE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTER, PASAY CITY”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1284

Sponsors: Representatives Geron, Bravo (A.) and Canama

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Ecology and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 549),

re H.B. No. 6893, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF TREATMENT TECHNOLOGY FOR MUNICIPAL AND HAZARDOUS WASTES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 20 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8749, ENTITLED ‘THE PHILIPPINE CLEAN AIR ACT OF 1999’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2286

Sponsors: Representatives Suansing (E.), Cua, Marquez and Cojuangco

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries (Committee Report No. 550), re H.B. No. 6907, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR THE CREATION, PERFECTION, DETERMINATION OF PRIORITY RIGHTS AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTERESTS IN PERSONAL PROPERTY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NOTICE REGISTRY”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 3682 and 3818

Sponsors: Representatives Evardone and Yap (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Labor and Employment (Committee Report No. 551), re H.B. No. 6908, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY OF TENURE OF WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 55, 76, 170, 341, 556, 563, 709, 712, 895, 916, 1045, 1208, 1351, 1563, 1837, 1857, 1910, 2389, 3556, 3769, 3802, 4443, 4444, 5130, 5264 and 5899

Sponsors: Representatives Ting, Veloso, Lagman, Mendoza, Go (M.), Villarín, De Vera, Cosalan, Zubiri, Bag-ao, Nograles (J.J.), Castelo, Bertiz and Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 552), re H.B. No. 6913, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO RADIO MARINE NETWORK, INCORPORATED, UNDER REPUBLIC ACT

NO. 4607, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7512”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 4513 and 6660

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.), Vargas and Romualdo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 553), re H.B. No. 6914, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO PEÑA FRANCIA BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8166, EXPANDING ITS COVERAGE TO THE ENTIRE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF ITS CORPORATE SHARES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5265

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.), Robes, Alvarez (P.), Quimbo, Pimentel, Tejada, Caminero, Romualdo, Marcoleta, Chavez, Savellano, Radaza, Enverga, Banal, Vargas-Alfonso, Zamora (M.C.), Unabia, Abellanos, Acosta, Bernos, Cortes, Espino, Martinez, Unico, Violago, Montoro, Villafuerte, Chipeco, Rodriguez (I.), Durano, Aggabao, Maceda, Gatchalian, Relampagos, Vargas, Revilla, Bravo (M.V.), Ferrer (L.), Belmonte (R.), Batocabe, Velarde, Romero, Madrona, Cua, Tugna, Almario, Bertiz, Singson, Alvarez (M.), Castro (F.H.), Abu, Garcia-Albano, Garcia (G.), Cayetano, Garin (S.), Villarica, Sema, Hernandez, Abueg, Andaya, Fariñas, Bondoc, Defensor, Mercado, Hofer, Crisologo, Gonzales (A.D.), Noel, Gullas, Ty, Suarez, Abayon, Atienza, Garbin, De Vera, Bravo (A.), Campos, Ermita-Buhain and Bataoil

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 554), re H.R. No. 1573, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY (CNU) TO ESTABLISH A CAMPUS AT TOLEDO CITY, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE CEBU NORMAL UNIVERSITY-TOLEDO CITY CAMPUS”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 911

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer and Garcia (G.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 555), re H.B. No. 6915, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A BRANCH OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SABLAYAN, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO, TO BE KNOWN AS THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (PUP)-SABLAYAN BRANCH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 6137 and 6147

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer, Nograles (K.A.) Ramirez-Sato and Cortuna

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education (Committee Report No. 556), re H.R. No. 1574, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING ATTY. RHIO FUENTES-NUYLAN FOR THE TOP HONORS AWARD FOR THE MASTER OF SCIENCE IN LAW AND FINANCE CONFERRED DURING THE DECEMBER 2016 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES AT THE PRESTIGIOUS QUEEN MARY UNIVERSITY OF LONDON”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 633

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer and Castelo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Information (Committee Report No. 557), re H.B. No. 6916, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE VENUE OF THE CRIMINAL AND CIVIL ACTION IN LIBEL CASES AGAINST A COMMUNITY OR LOCAL JOURNALIST, PUBLICATION OR BROADCAST STATION”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 685

Sponsors: Representatives Herrera-Dy and Del Mar

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 558), re H.B. No. 6917, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MAMAGUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MAMAGUM, MUNICIPALITY OF

SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MAMAGUM INTEGRATED SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2414

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 559), re H.B. No. 6918, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY PAN-AY DAKO, MUNICIPALITY OF CLARIN, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS FELINASEVILLAOAMINAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4504

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 560), re H.B. No. 6919, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MABUHAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MABUHAY, MUNICIPALITY OF SULTAN NAGA DIMAPORO, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MABUHAY INTEGRATED SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2420

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 561), re H.B. No. 6920, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BIGNAY, VALENZUELA CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS DISIPLINA VILLAGE-BIGNAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2640

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 562), re H.B. No. 6921, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TIBLAC, MUNICIPALITY OF AMBAGUIO, PROVINCE OF NUEVA VIZCAYA TO BE KNOWN AS TIBLAC NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5561

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Information (Committee Report No. 563), re H.B. No. 6922, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS ‘NATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM DAY’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3702

Sponsors: Representatives Herrera-Dy and Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 564), re H.B. No. 6923, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION (PCIC), REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1467, ENTITLED ‘CREATING THE “PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION” PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND ACTIVITIES, PROVIDING FOR ITS CAPITALIZATION AND FOR THE REQUIRED GOVERNMENT PREMIUM SUBSIDY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’, AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1733 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8175”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 40, 436, 2445, 3534, 3560, 4107 and 4578

Sponsors: Representatives Sacdalan and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 565), re H.B. No. 6927, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2128

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 566), re H.B. No. 6928, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAINIT FALLS AND HOT SPRINGS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BROOKE’S POINT, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2111

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 567), re H.B. No. 6929, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF LANA O DEL NORTE A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA (TDA), CREATING THE LANA O DEL NORTE TOURISM COUNCIL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2468

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 568), re H.B. No. 6930, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE BAKHAWAN ECO-PARK IN BARANGAY NEW BUSWANG, MUNICIPALITY OF KALIBO, PROVINCE OF AKLANAN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3233

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 569), re H.B. No. 6932, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE A TOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3385

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G). The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 48, Wednesday, December 13, 2017.

REP. TINIO. Objection.

REP. BONDOC. I so move, Mme. Speaker.

REP. TINIO. Mme. Speaker, objection.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection?

REP. TINIO. There is an objection.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, there is an objection from the Hon. Antonio “Tonchi” L. Tinio. I move that he be given five minutes to explain his objection.

REP. TINIO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). You are given five minutes, Honorable Tinio.

REP. TINIO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I object to the approval of the minutes under consideration, particularly page 12 thereof, “Ratification of the Conference Committee Report on House Bill No.

5636 and Senate Bill No. 1592.” This is the TRAIN, the Tax Reform Law that was recently signed by the President. The Journal states that “On motion of Representative Defensor, there being no objection,” and this is the part, one part that I questioned—“no objection”—when, in fact, this Representation raised numerous objections and a colleague of mine as well, Representative Zarate, raised an objection as well, and I asked that these objections be reflected in the records. In fact, I raised an objection on the basis of lack of quorum, Mme. Speaker. I ask that the Journal be amended to reflect said objection.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move now that we divide the House. I have moved previously for the approval of Journal No. 48, ...

REP. TINIO. Mme. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. ... Wednesday, December 13. The Gentleman has explained his objection. We will now put it to the Plenary ...

REP. TINIO. No, Mme. Speaker. I move...

REP. BONDOC. ...regarding my vote.

REP. TINIO. ...for the previous motion. I had earlier made a motion for the amendment of the Journal.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, just to correct my esteemed colleague, I moved earlier to approve the Journal ...

REP. TINIO. Okay.

REP. BONDOC. ... as we find it before us and distributed. My esteemed colleague opposed the approval. So, we will now first vote on the approval.

REP. TINIO. Well, Mme. Speaker, if I may, then—thank you for explaining that. If I may add then, as a further objection, which I wish that this Body corrected—the Journal further stated that “the Body considered and subsequently ratified the Conference Committee Report.” Again, I question the use of the word “ratified.” According to our rules, the ratification of a Conference Committee Report “shall be ratified by a majority vote of the Members of the House, there being a quorum.”

Clearly, there was no vote that took place, and in our own rules, again, if I may read:

Manner of Voting.—The Speaker shall rise and state the motion or question that is being put to a vote in clear, precise and simple language. The Speaker shall say, “as many as are in favor, say ‘aye’”. After the affirmative vote is counted, the Speaker shall say, “as many as are opposed, say ‘nay’.”

No such vote took place on that day, and I ask, again, that this be reflected in the Journal.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, on December 13, the records showed that we had a quorum of 232 Members, easily meeting the requirement as mentioned by the Honorable Tinio. With that, Mme. Speaker, I move for my previous motion to be put to a vote, and may I state the parliamentary status of our vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Please proceed.

REP. BONDOC. All those in favor of the motion of the Floor Leader, please say *aye*, and those in favor of the objection of the Honorable Tinio will say *nay*, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). There was an earlier motion to approve the Journal, there was an objection and now, we must divide the House. As many as are in favor of approving the Journal of December 13, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Those that are opposed, please say *nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The *ayes* have it; the Journal of December 13 is hereby approved.

REP. TINIO. Mme. Speaker, I rise on a...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TINIO. ... matter of personal and collective privilege.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I object. I have to state that to take place now is the oath-taking of certain newly elected Members of the House of Representatives and to further delay that would be a travesty of the votes of those who placed their faith in them. So with that, I must object to the rising of the Gentleman to give way to the oath-taking of new party-list members.

REP. TINIO. Mme. Speaker, I withdraw my request in consideration of the matter mentioned by the honorable Majority Leader, but I reserve my right, as it is the right of any Member of this House to rise on a matter of personal and collective privilege.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We shall now have the oath-taking.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Speaker, we are in receipt of the Commission on Elections *en banc* Minute Resolutions No. 17-0737 and 17-0767, submitting the Certificates of Nomination and Acceptance of Nomination of the list of nominees of the Kabalikat ng Mamamayan or KABAYAN Party-List.

Mme. Speaker, pursuant to the aforementioned Resolutions, I move that we allow the Hon. Ciriaco S. Calalang, Representative of the Party-List KABAYAN to take his oath.

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the Representative of Party-List KABAYAN to take his oath of office before this Body.

We would like to invite the members of the immediate family of our colleague from Party-List KABAYAN to accompany him to the rostrum for his oath-taking.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session to allow the members of the family to ascend to the rostrum.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:44 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is resumed.

May I request all the Members of the House of Representatives and all our guests in the gallery to please rise to witness the oath-taking of our new Member.

At this juncture, the Hon. Ciriaco S. Calalang, accompanied by the members of his family, ascended the rostrum and took his oath of office as Representative of the KABAYAN Party-List in the House of Representatives before Deputy Speaker Garcia (G.).

OATH-TAKING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Please raise your right hand and recite your oath before me.

REP. CALALANG. Thank you.

I, Ciriaco S. Calalang of Manila, having been elected as Representative of Kabalikang Mamamayan, KABAYAN Party-List, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders, and decrees promulgated by the duly-constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me, God.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Congratulations. *(Applause)*

REP. CALALANG. Salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Welcome to the House of Representatives, our newly-inducted Member, Rep. Ciriaco S. Calalang.

REP. CALALANG. Thank you po.

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. I move that we suspend the

session to allow our Members to meet and greet our new Member of the House of Representatives.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:46 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:49 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. FARIÑAS. We are in receipt likewise of another Resolution from the Commission on Elections, No. 15-0271, certifying the replacement of Rep. Sitti Djalila A. Turabin-Hataman in the Party-List Anak Mindanao, of AMIN nominee in the person of Bai Amihilda Sangcopan. Mme. Speaker, pursuant to the aforementioned Resolution, I move that we allow the Hon. Amihilda Sangcopan, Representative of Party-List Anak Mindanao (AMIN), to take her oath.

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

The Secretary General is directed to call the Representative of Party-List AMIN to take her oath of office before this Body.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. FARIÑAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session to allow the members of the family and her friends to join her at the rostrum.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:50 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:52 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is resumed.

May I request all the Members of the House of Representatives and all our guests in the gallery to please rise to witness the oath-taking of our new Member.

At this juncture, the Hon. Amihilda J. Sangcopan, accompanied by the members of her family, ascended the rostrum and took her oath of office as Representative of the Anak Mindanao (AMIN) Party-List in the House of Representatives before Deputy Speaker Garcia (G.).

OATH-TAKING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Please raise your right hand and recite your oath before me.

REP. SANGCOPAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I, Amihilda J. Sangcopan of Quezon City, having been elected as Representative of Anak Mindanao Party-List, hereby solemnly swear that I will well and faithfully discharge to the best of my ability the duties of my present position and of all others I may hereafter hold under the Republic of the Philippines; that I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; and that I will obey the laws, legal orders and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion.

So help me, God.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Congratulations.

REP. SANGCOPAN. Thank you so much, Mme. Speaker. *(Applause)*

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is suspended.

It was 4:53 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:55 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, before we open the Privilege Hour, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. They are the guests of the Congressman from the Lone District of Ifugao, the Hon. Teddy Brawner Baguilat Jr. They are the AB Political Science and BS Public Administration students of the Saint Mary's University, Bayombong, Nueva Vizcaya, together with Mr. Erwin Naval.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Will the guests of the Hon. Teddy Baguilat please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Likewise, Mme. Speaker, we have the guests of the Representative of SENIOR CITIZENS Party-List, the Hon. Francisco G. Datol Jr. In the gallery are 27 senior citizens from Aliaga, Nueva Ecija headed by their President, Mr. Virgilio Corpus, and their members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Will the guests of the Hon. Francisco Datol please rise. We welcome you to the House of Representatives, our senior citizens. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, today being a Monday and pursuant to our rules, I move that we hold the Privilege Hour.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mme. Speaker, I would like to move to recognize the first Member to avail of the Privilege Hour, the Representative from the Party-List MAGDALO, the Hon. Gary C. Alejano.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the Hon. Gary C. Alejano is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ALEJANO

REP. ALEJANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

My esteemed colleagues and our countrymen, magandang hapon sa ating lahat at Happy New Year din po.

Today, I rise to share with you the anomaly surrounding the procurement of the frigates of the Philippine Navy. Habang ang Kongreso ay nasa bakasyon, isang kaganapan ang nangyari. Ito ay ang kaduda-dudang pagtanggap kay Vice Admiral Ronald Joseph Mercado, Flag Officer-In-Command ng Philippine Navy, noong December 19.

The relief is highly unusual and unceremonious in so many counts: Una, si Vice Admiral Mercado ay magreretiro na sa loob ng tatlong buwan. Usually, kapag ganito, an officer is allowed to retire in his present position but for Mercado, he was relieved and was placed in a floating status. Pangalawa, ang

pagrelyebo ng isang commander, lalo na sa isang major service command, ay isang malaking activity at, traditionally, ginagawa sa headquarters nito na kung saan nandoon ang mga bisita, ang commanders at mga tropa. Ginagawa ito upang bigyang-pugay ang papaalis na FOIC sa kanyang serbisyo sa bayan ng ilang dekada, at upang siya ay makapagpasalamat at makapagpaalam sa kanyang mga kasamahan nang maayos. Sa kaso ni Vice Admiral Mercado, siya ay na-relieved sa isang hall sa Camp Aguinaldo sa presensya ng ilang tao lamang. Pangatlo, ang pagtanggap kay Vice Admiral Mercado ay ginawa sa panahon na ang bansa ay nagdiriwang ng kapaskuhan at papunta na sa mahabang bakasyon. Ito ay hindi karaniwang ginagawa. Kahit sa isang battalion commander, hindi ito ginagawa. Pang-apat, ang pagtanggap kay Vice Admiral Mercado ay ginawa isang araw bago ang Armed Forces of the Philippines Day na kung saan ang Flag Officer-In-Command or FOIC ay nagrerepresenta ng buong Hukbong Dagat at kasama dito ang Philippine Marine Corps.

Ang tanong ay bakit? Ano ba ang napakalaking kasalanan na nagawa ni Vice Admiral Mercado? Mangyayari lamang itong ganitong pagtanggap sa isang commander in a major service command kung may napakalaking dahilan katulad ng health or he is accused of grave misconduct in the service. So far, I have not heard or know such kind of relief in so many years. Nais ko lamang i-mention na tanging Pangulo ng bansa lamang ang may kapangyarihan magtalaga at magtanggap ng mga major service commanders sa puwesto, kaya hindi maaaring hindi niya alam ito.

Ako po ay nag-imbetiga at ito ang aking nalaman. As I have stated in my early pronouncements, the highly unusual relief of Vice Admiral Mercado as FOIC of the Philippine Navy was a result of the Frigate Acquisition Project controversy which is a multi-billion project, P18 billion to be exact. The controversy is a case where the contractor won over the Navy. Ang contractor, Hyundai Heavy Industries or HHI, na siyang gagawa ng dalawang frigates ay nanaig laban sa kagustuhan ng Philippine Navy na siyang end user nitong mga frigates, or we can put it this way, the business interests of the contractor won over the national interests of our country. Ang hadlang sa business interest ng Hyundai ay si Vice Admiral Mercado na determinadong isinulong ang kapakanan at interes ng bansa at ng buong Hukbong Dagat bilang pinuno nito. This would not have been possible without the collusion of some greedy people in government. Who are these people who favored a foreign contractor over our own Philippine Navy?

I have been aware of this project since the last Congress. I was briefed by the Navy leadership when I visited their headquarters in Roxas Boulevard some three years ago. I have my friends in the Navy because I was once a Navy and Marine Officer. Ang Frigate

Project ay isang napaka-importante at sentimental na bagay sa Philippine Navy dahil ito ang magiging kauna-unahang barko na moderno, brand new, at armado ng missiles and at par with the modern warships of other countries. This can fill in the gap of our external defense capabilities. It is capable of conducting anti-air warfare (AAW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), anti-submarine warfare (ASW) and electronic warfare (EW) operations. It has extended maritime patrol range to an embarked naval helicopter and extended maritime surveillance capability through air and surface search radar and sound navigation and ranging or sonar for the sub-surface search, among others. It can sustain 30 days of operations at sea, which is what we needed to patrol our EEZ, especially our West Philippines Sea and the Philippine Rise.

The Frigate Acquisition Project is under the AFP Modernization Program and was started as early as 2013. It went through a two-stage bidding. The first stage, submission and opening of bid envelopes or SOBE, happened in December of 2013 and was participated in by six contractors. This was the technical aspect of the bidding. The second stage, which is the financial aspect, took place in March of 2016. Two winners or the lowest bidders emerged for a P16-billion worth of project. Ito po iyong Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd. (GRSE) of India with an amount of P15.074 billion. Ang pangalawang lowest bidder ay ang Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI) of South Korea with an amount of P15.745 billion. The bid difference of the winning two bidders is almost P700 million.

The GRSE was later disqualified due to non-compliance to NFCC or Net Financial Contracting Capacity. The GRSE is a government company of India and is covered with sovereign funds. It is puzzling that a government company backed up by sovereign funds failed in this aspect. The controversy already started here, but let us leave it at that at this moment. Since the GRSE was disqualified, HHI was declared the winner and was issued a Notice of Award in August of 2016.

Para sa kaalaman ng lahat, ang mananalong contractor ay siyang gagawa ng katawan ng barko, kasama ang paglalagay ng mga iba't ibang systems katulad ng radar, sonar, combat management system at iba pa, na siya namang ibi-bid ng HHI sa mga subcontractors nito. Kasagaran, nilalagay na ng contractors kung anong systems ang kanyang mai-offer sa end user para alam nito kaagad kung ano ang kayang ibigay ng contractors. Sa case ng HHI, ito ay nag-offer ng two options sa ibang systems na pagpipilian at, usually, kasama sa options ang mga top-of-the-line and superior products or systems para naman sila ay mag-qualify.

Ang Philippine Navy or the end user signified its preferences on which systems to choose from among those offered by HHI. It is assumed that the basis of

the inclusion of certain products or systems as options was the result of the financial analysis of the contractor. Ibig sabihin, kahit alin man sa produkto na na-offer ay kayang ibigay ng HHI. Maliwanag naman kahit sa isang ordinaryong mamamayan na huwag kang mag-offer ng isang bagay na hindi mo kaya. Ang mga systems and products ay dapat tumugma sa technical specifications na siya namang malalim na pinag-aralan ng Philippine Navy Frigate Acquisition Project Technical Working Group ng halos dalawang taon kaya alam na alam nila kung ano ang angkop sa barkong kanilang bibilhin.

All is well so far pero ano nga ba talaga ang nangyari? In my investigation, HHI employed the strategy called “bait and switch” which means that the contractor baits the buyer or client by offering superior systems or products and once he bags the contract, he will find means to go around and eventually choose the lesser or inferior and thus, cheaper systems or products to maximize profits. Kumbaga, papasukin ka muna sa bitag at once nakapasok ka na, wala ka nang kawala.

Papaanong nangyari ito sa gitna ng mahigpit na proseso ng procurement? Let me continue.

Ang isang pinakaimportanteng sistema sa isang warship ay ang combat management system or CMS. Ang CMS ay tinuturing “brain” ng isang barko dahil dito naka-integrate ang lahat ng mga sistema mula sa weapon system, sensors, communication, navigation at iba pa. Ang na-offer ng Hyundai sa bidding para sa CMS ay, una, Naval Shield of Hanwha Thales of South Korea, and number two, Thales TACTICOS of Netherlands. Ang pinili ng Philippine Navy ay Thales TACTICOS by the Netherlands.

Why did they choose TACTICOS? Let us have a general comparison of the two companies and CMS na naka-flash po sa ating screen. Una, ang Thales TACTICOS ay ginagamit ng more than 23 navies around the world and is installed to around 172 ships, habang ang Naval Shield ng Hanwha Systems ay ginamit lamang ng South Korean Navy at mayroon siyang ongoing contract with the Malaysian Navy for training purposes. Pangalawa, ang TACTICOS Thales ay latest model sa Baseline 2 and it was developed in 2012, habang ang Hanwha Systems Naval Shield ay based on Baseline 0 of TACTICOS which was developed in the 90s. Pangatlo, ang Thales TACTICOS ay compatible with Tactical Data Link 16 which is a C4ISTAR requirement of the AFP.

Ano ba itong Tactical Data Link 16? Ito iyong magpo-provide sa ating Armed Forces a faster means of communication, real-time tactical information compared to traditional voice communications, and including data and information. So, kailangan po ito dahil sa mga kaalyado nating bansa na mayroon din nito ay madali pong magkaroon ng inter-operability. Ang C4ISTAR naman na sinasabi, ito po iyong Command, Control, Communications, Computer, Information/Intelligence,

Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance. Ito iyong pinaka-brain ng ating communication and data system na secured na hindi ho mapapasukan ng kalaban. Ang Tactical Data Link 16 naman sa Hanwha Systems ay under development at magiging available pa lamang sa 2019 at hindi pa po napatunayan kung gagana ito.

Next, ang Thales TACTICOS ay mayroong service support around the world, habang ang Hanwha Systems naman po ay nasa South Korea lamang. Next, ang Thales TACTICOS ay mayroong largest systems integrator in the world, habang ang Hanwha Systems naman ay walang karanasan sa pag-integrate. Ang integration na ginawa sa barko ng South Korean navy ay ginawa po ng Korean government through the national development agency at non-Korean companies but not by the Hanwha Systems. Mayroong 60 years na experience ang Thales as compared to just 15 to 20 years as compared to the Hanwha.

Now, noong nagkaroon ng workshop in the last week of September 2016 para sa contract finalization, building specifications at ship’s general arrangement, nagkasundo ang Philippine Navy Technical Working Group at HHI to include in the technical specifications the provisions ng CMS which is and I quote, “shall be compatible to Tactical Data Link 16,” at ito po ang naging kontrobersiyal na probisyon. Bago napirmahan ang kontrata noong 24 October 2016, nagpresenta ang Philippine Navy Technical Working Group sa FOIC, Philippine Navy, na noon ay si Vice Admiral Taccad, at kay Secretary Delfin Lorenzana ng DND. Ang Navy ay laging sinasabi na ang kanilang preference sa CMS ay Thales TACTICOS. Ang kontrata ay may nilalaman na hindi alam ng liderato ng Navy at ni Secretary Lorenzana nang napirmahan ito. It is an attached document to the contract called “maker’s list” which contained very disadvantageous provisions. The provisions were written in fine print at the bottom of the document which stated that, and I quote: “The final selection of the maker to be Shipbuilder’s sole right as long as the equipment/system shall fulfill the owner’s requirements in building specifications and other design and build aspects.” The document bore the signatures of only two Koreans counterpart. Wala ni isang Pilipino ang nakapirma sa dokumentong ito.

Di ba sa kontrata, pinipirmahan po natin ang lahat na pahina nito ng magkabilang panig? Saan tayo nakakita na ang kontraktor ang siyang may karapatang mamili ng gamit kaysa may-ari mismo? Para kang na-offer-an ng limang klaseng sasakyan upang pagpilian ngunit kapag bibili ka na, ang agent pala ang masusunod at hindi ikaw. Allowing the shipbuilder to dictate the configuration of a warship is gravely dangerous when it comes to national security in defending one’s sovereignty. The end user must dictate what mission-critical equipment they should choose while getting the best value for money.

Bakit nakalusot ang ganoong klaseng probisyon sa kontrata? Nang malaman ng liderato ng Navy na naisahan sila ng kanilang counterpart, agad na gumawa sila ng kanilang version ng maker's list na nakasaad na sila bilang end user ay may karapatang mamili ng maker o taga gawa ng mga sistema for its operational requirements. Pinirmahan nila ito ng miyembro ng Technical Working Group at hinabol sa airport upang sabihin sa papaalis na mga Koreano. Ito ay hindi pinansin dahil tapos na daw ang kontrata. Tapos na ang kontrata, na ibig sabihin ay mag-downpayment na ang gobyerno ng 15 percent or P1.5 billion. Kawawa naman tayo, tayo ang may pera pero wala tayong magawa.

Nasaan si Vice Admiral Mercado habang nangyayari ang lahat ng mga ito? Siya po ay Commander ng Western Command sa Palawan. Naimbitahan lamang siya sa signing ng contract dahil siya ang unang Chairman ng Philippine Navy Technical Working Group, but before and after the signing of the contract, Vice Admiral Mercado was not involved. However, when he became FOIC in November 2016, a month after the signing of the contract, he implemented the contract and pursued the interest of the Philippine Navy. Kahit naisahan, kumbaga, ang konsuwelo o pag-asa na lang ng Navy ay ang probisyon sa kontrata na dapat sundin ng HHI ang kanilang technical specifications. In every opportunity, ipinapaliwanag at ipinaglalaman ng Project Management Team o PMT na dating technical working group ang interes ng Navy to make sure that Navy is not placed in a disadvantageous position.

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Garcia (G.) relinquished the Chair to Rep. Gerald Anthony "Samsam" V. Gullas Jr.

At this point, let me point out that Hanwha Thales Joint Venture that developed the Naval Shield CMS, na pinili po ng contractor, was already dissolved as early as August of 2016, way before the signing of the contract, but the contractor continues to refer to it as "Hanwha Thales" which Thales, the company, has protested. Now, one of the reasons Vice Admiral Mercado was removed was that he is allegedly delaying the project. Now, the question is, is this true? As far as the Navy is concerned, it is to their best interest that the project proceeds smoothly, and I do not see any reason for them to delay it. We should understand that after the signing of the contract, the project will be implemented in 10 phases and the contractor is paid progressively in each phase. Every phase is inspected and accepted by the owner through its Technical Inspection and Acceptance Committee or TIAC. The first phase, which is the Critical Design Review or CDR, is very crucial because it is like a blueprint from which the actual building will be based. This is where thorough discussion and debates by both parties happen.

Maliban sa CMS na issue, marami pang mga issues ang binabago ng contractor sa design na siya namang nilalabanan ng Navy. May mga bagay pa na hindi sinusumite ang contractor katulad ng ilang drawings at lists ng mga equipment para naman ma-check ng Navy kung naaayon ba ito sa design at technical specifications ng kontrata. Kapag nagkaroon ng discussions, sinasabi ng contractor na "Okay na ito sa taas, huwag na kayong magtanong." Papaano masusunod ang schedule na nakasaad kung hindi naman nagko-comply ang contractor at pagdating sa dulo, because of the schedule, ay pupuwersahin ang Navy at sisihin ito sa delay. Nagmamadali sila dahil kapag na-accept na ang design ay maglalabas na ulit ng another five percent ang bansa which is equivalent to P750 million.

Nagkaroon ng palitan ng mga sulat sa pagitan ng Department of National Defense, which is the Procurement Office, at ng Navy na siyang gagamit o end user, na nagsasaad na nagdesisyon na ang DND na Hanwha Systems CMS na ang gagamitin. Ang Navy naman ay nagsasabing hindi compliant ang Hanwha CMS at malalagay lamang sa alanganin ang Navy. The way by which the Navy fights and stands up for its Frigate Project through the person of its FOIC was misconstrued as insubordination and disrespect. This led to the removal of the head of the Project Management Team, which is under the DND, na si Commodore Sean Villa. Since the design has to be accepted by the Navy through its TIAC, as the head of the Navy, who is the FOIC, continues to insist, siya rin ay kailangang tanggalin. Bakit ganoon ka-powerful ang contractor at sila ang nasusunod? Ang kokontra, tanggal. Sino ba ang sinasandalan ng contractors sa administrasyon ni President Duterte? Mayroon na bang kumita sa kontrata na ito at bakit pinipilit ang end user na tanggapin na lamang ang mga bagay na labag sa kalooban nila?

Ayon sa aking information, gumastos na raw ng P800 million ang contractor kaya dapat matuloy na ito. Ang nakakasama pa ng loob, Mr. Speaker, at nakakalungkot ay bakit nakialam ang Malacañang sa issue ng kung anong systems ang gagamitin ng Navy. Bakit ba nakialam si President Duterte o ang malapit sa kanya sa kontrata ng Navy? Mabuti sana kung napanigan ang Navy dito pero hindi, ang contractor ang napaboran dito. Bakit kailangan pang magpaliwanag kay Secretary Bong Go ang Philippine Navy kung bakit Thales TACTICOS ang pinili nito, dahil ba ito sa lobby ng Hanwha Systems? Mas alam ba ni Secretary Bong Go ang technical specifications at needs ng Navy much more than the end users nito who conducted a thorough research on the frigate? Is that not unethical, inappropriate and illegal? Maliban sa dinedepensa ng Philippine Navy Technical Working Group ang kanilang choice, sumulat pa ito ng pormal sa Malacañang to explain the reasons and affirm their preference for Thales TACTICOS as CMS. Nanaig nga sa dulo ang

Hanwha Systems na kakuntsaba ng Hyundai Heavy Industries na parehong Korean companies dahil inalis ni President Duterte ang balakid sa kanilang binabalak.

Akala ko ba importante sa iyo, Mr. President, ang kapakanan ng ating Armed Forces. Hindi lamang suweldo ang kailangan ng ating mga sundalo kung hindi pati mga kagamitan din na maayos upang tumaas ang kanilang chances na mabuhay sa giyera, katulad ng nandiyan sa Marawi, at confidence na magawa ang kanilang mga mandato. Ayaw ba ng Pangulo na magkaroon ang ating bansa ng isang barkong pandigma equipped with missiles, capable of detecting and engaging submarines na umiikot-ikot sa ating bansa na hindi natin alam, and can patrol our exclusive economic zone, including the West Philippine Sea and the Philippine Rise? Nag-aalangan ba ang ating Pangulo na magalit ang bansang Tsina kapag pinagtibay natin ang ating depensang panlabas?

This Frigate Acquisition Project is an emotional issue for the Navy. It affects the morale not only of the Navy and the Marines personnel but also the morale of other branches of service like the Army and the Air Force because they also have modernization projects that include tanks, howitzers, aircraft and many more. Kung ganito ang ating proseso, na mas powerful ang mga contractors kaysa mga members ng Project Management Team at Technical Inspection and Acceptance Committee and the Armed Forces as a whole, this will discourage professionalism among our officer corps. Bakit? Kung kokontra ka at tatayuan mo ang kapakanan ng AFP at ng ating bansa, tanggal ka. Sino pa ang magkakaroon ng lakas ng loob na magsalita sa Navy o kokontra sa decision ng nakakataas kung ang FOIC nga mismo ay tinanggal, ang ordinaryong opisyal pa kaya? Kawawa ang ating AFP modernization at ang pera ng taong-bayan.

May nagsasabi na lugi tayo kapag hindi natuloy ang project dahil naglabas na tayo ng P1.5 billion—“Ituloy na natin, sayang naman” o “Kahit ganoon iyan, ituloy na lang natin.” Ang tanong ko naman: ano ang saysay ng pag-allocate ng bilyon-bilyon kung low tech lang naman o hindi ayon sa technical specifications ng frigate na gusto natin? Ano ang saysay ng isang frigate kung parang bakal lang itong lumulutang-lutang sa dagat pero hindi naman makakakita o makakarinig o limitado ang kanyang makikita o maririnig? Tayo ang lugi in the long run dahil ilang taon lang ay outmoded na ang mga systems na pinili ng HHI para sa frigates natin. It will impact also on the future frigate projects ng bansa dahil ang kasalukuyang Frigate Project ang magiging basis na platform.

There are clear violations by the contractor of the project, which will endanger our Armed Forces of the Philippines Modernization Program and our national security. By all means, Mr. Speaker, we should cancel the Frigate Project contract before it is too late. Hindi tayo lugi dahil mayroong security bond ang contractor sa gobyerno amounting to 20 percent of the bid price

na puwede nating i-confiscate. Sa mga kumita at nakialam, maawa naman kayo sa ating Philippine Navy. Maawa naman kayo sa ating Armed Forces. Buhay ang nakasalalay diyan. Dapat managot kayo sa taong-bayan.

I am now calling for an investigation on this issue so we can get to the truth, strengthen and/or amend our procurement laws and processes, encourage our procurement officers to get the best in the market, save our AFP Modernization Program, and in the long run, secure our national interest. I am appealing to the leadership of this august Chamber to schedule a hearing in relation to the Frigate Acquisition Project controversy. I have filed numerous resolutions in the past but they were not acted upon because you see me as part of the Opposition, but let me remind our dear colleagues from the Majority that the Armed Forces is not only my Armed Forces, it is also your Armed Forces. Panghuli, alam kong nangangailangan tayo ng modernong kagamitang pandigma pero huwag nating hayaan na manaig ang business interest laban sa national interest.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Magandang hapon po sa ating lahat.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Gullas). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Hon. Gary Alejano to the Committee on Rules. I so move.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Gullas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the speech of the Honorable Alejano is, therefore, referred to the Committee on Rules.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Gullas). The session is suspended.

It was 5:27 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:28 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Gullas). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, the next to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus

from the GABRIELA Party-List. I move that she be recognized.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Gullas). The Hon. Emmi De Jesus is recognized.

REP. DE JESUS. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker, at ang karapatang magsalita sa Kapulungang ito ngayon ...

REP. ERICE. Mr. Speaker, point of order.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Gullas). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, may we ask what rule of the House was violated?

REP. ERICE. Mr. Speaker, I do not think we have a quorum. May I move for a roll call.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, may I move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Gullas). The session is suspended.

It was 5:28 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:32 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Gullas). The session is resumed.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn until tomorrow, January 16, at four o'clock in the afternoon. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER (Rep. Gullas). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until tomorrow at four o'clock in the afternoon.

It was 5:33 p.m.