



Congressional Record

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

Vol. 4

Monday, January 22, 2018

No. 52

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin called the session to order.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The session is now called to order.

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please rise for the singing of the National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please remain standing for the Invocation to be led by Rep. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD, of COOP-NATCCO Party-List.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. BRAVO (A.). Let us put ourselves in the presence of the Lord.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

O God, eternal Father, we thank You for the blessings given us this day.

Thank You for the opportunity given us that we are able to attend this plenary session so that we will be able to discharge our duties and responsibilities to our countrymen.

Lord, we ask You to please bless us. Give us that wisdom that we will be able to decide or come up with the best decision for the benefit of our constituents and for the benefit of our country.

Lord, please give us that opportunity that we will be able to give our best for the benefit of our country.

All these we ask in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

ROLL CALL

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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 reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The roll call shows that 221 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 221 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journals No. 50 and 51, dated January 16, 2018 and January 17, 2018, respectively.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) ...

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. I move for the approval of the Journals, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is there any objection?

REP. LAGMAN. Objection! I just would like to have an inquiry, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, with respect to Journal No. 51.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Among number tayo?

SECRETARIAT. Fifty-one.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, our parliamentary status is that there is a previous motion for the approval of Journals No. 50 and 51. There is an objection to that motion, so I move that the Honorable Lagman be given five minutes to explain his objection before we proceed to vote on the motion.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

Congressman Lagman has five minutes.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, this is really an inquiry and I would like to know, if a Member of the House attends a scheduled oral argument before the Supreme Court in a case involving the House of Representatives, how should his attendance be recorded? Should it be akin to an official mission, Mme. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, on the last page or appearing after the attendance appendix, we will find different categories. Here, one star, meaning, appeared after the roll call; two stars, on official mission; three, attending meetings of the CA HRET, conference committee, meetings authorized by the Committee on Rules; four stars, officially notified the House, through the Secretariat of their absence; five, absent without notice and the Members' attendance is classified based on these, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes. My query is, in the event that a Member of the House attends a scheduled oral arguments in the Supreme Court, in a case involving no less than Congress, Mme. Speaker, and the said Member notified the Secretary General that he should be considered, akin to an official business or mission, how should his attendance be recorded?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the case, mentioned by the Honorable Lagman falls under the category "officially notified the House through the Secretariat" of their absence on that day.

REP. LAGMAN. When a Member of the House is on a foreign trip, purportedly attending a conference abroad, how is his attendance recorded?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, in the case mentioned by the Honorable Lagman, two asterisks, on official mission.

REP. LAGMAN. Why should it be any different when a Member of the House is abroad supposedly attending a conference and when a Member of the House appears before the Supreme Court in a case involving the House itself or more particularly Congress?

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, I believe what the Gentleman is directly referring to is his attendance before the Supreme Court assailing the actions of the House of Representatives. He was not on official mission representing the House of Representatives. In fact, he was questioning the leadership of the House of Representatives and the activities in plenary.

There is a big difference between being on official mission and filing a case against the institution, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. But such attendance is still considered official and any Member of this House can controvert the actions of the Chamber before the court, more particularly the Supreme Court. Why should he be considered absent when others who attend international conferences or meetings or purportedly representing the House but it could be some sort of a junket, they are considered present on official mission?

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, the direct answer to the question of the Gentleman is that according to Section 71 of the Rules, which states:

x x x the following shall be deemed present:

- a. Members who are attending committee meetings as authorized by the Committee on Rules, in accordance with Section 35 hereof, upon written notification to the Secretary General by the concerned committee secretary;
- b. Members who are attending meetings of:
 - b.1. The Commission on Appointments;
 - b.2. The House of Representatives Electoral Tribunal; and
 - b.3. Bicameral Conference Committees;
- c. Members who are on official mission as approved by the Speaker.

The case, as raised by the Honorable Lagman, does not fall under these, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. The enumeration, Your Honor, is not exhaustive. There could be similar instances akin to those read by the Majority Leader. I would submit that my attendance before the Supreme Court in an oral argument involving a case where Congress or leaders of the House were included in the case, then I think that should be akin to an official mission, official absence or official business so much so that the Member of the House should not be marked absent.

I strongly move, Your Honor, that in my particular case last Wednesday, January 17, I should be considered on an official business or mission.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). So what is ...

REP. LAGMAN. ... so much so that I should not be marked absent.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, earlier there was a motion to approve Journals No. 50 and 51. The approval of the Journal will now be presented to the plenary for its decision. An approval of the Journal unfortunately sustains the contents of the Journal, and for the Honorable Lagman, quashes his argument. A negative vote to that motion sustains the argument of the Honorable Lagman. As the time has expired, and I reiterate our motion to which there has been an objection, those in favor then of the Majority and the previous motion of the Floor Leader will say *aye*; those in favor of the Honorable Lagman will say *nay*.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker,

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is ...

REP. LAGMAN. Just one last point. I wonder when the Rules of this Seventeenth Congress will be approved by this Body, because before such approval, I would suggest very strongly that the situation I have stated, Your Honor, should be considered in the amendments to the Rules of the House? I submit.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Representative Lagman, currently, the parliamentary status is that there is a pending motion and any point of clarification can be taken up after we approve or disapprove the motion presented by the Majority Leader.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). So all those in favor of the motion of the Majority Leader, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Those against, please say *nay*.

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). 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 Resolutions on First Reading, Communications and Committee Report, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1582, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE

OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
ON SANDRA CAM'S ALLEGATIONS
OF LAVISH EXPENDITURE ON THE
PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES
OFFICE'S CHRISTMAS PARTY”

By Representative Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1583, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
AND THE LAND TRANSPORTATION
FRANCHISING AND REGULATORY
BOARD TO CONDUCT AN OBJECTIVE
STUDY ON THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE PUBLIC UTILITY VEHICLE
MODERNIZATION OF THE
GOVERNMENT”

By Representative Sarmiento (C.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1584, entitled:

“RESOLUTION STRONGLY URGING
ALL CONCERNED GOVERNMENT
AGENCIES TO PROTECT THE RIGHTS
AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE
OF PASSENGERS USING THE
COUNTRY'S PORT SYSTEM OR RORO
NETWORK”

By Representative Sarmiento (C.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION

House Resolution No. 1585, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONDEMNING IN THE
STRONGEST TERM THE ILLEGAL
LOGGING ACTIVITIES IN THE
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE
RESULTING TO THE HEAVY TOLL
OF LIVES AND SEVERE DAMAGE TO
FARMS AND PROPERTIES CAUSED BY
THE RECENT TYPHOONS URDUJA AND
VINTA'S ONSLAUGHT, AND LIKEWISE,
WE, THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE OF
ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE CONVEYS
OUR UTMOST GRATITUDE TO OUR
BELOVED PRESIDENT RODRIGO ROA
DUTERTE IN LOOKING INTO THE
MATTER WITH A HIGHEST CONCERN
TO ORDER A HALT TO LOGGING
OPERATIONS IN THE PROVINCE DUE
TO MASSIVE FOREST DENUDATION IN
THE AREA”

By Representative Jalosjos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Resolution No. 1586, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO
CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE SYSTEMS AND
PRACTICES OF MONEY REMITTANCE
BUSINESSES TO ENSURE THEIR
INTEGRITY AND PROTECT PEOPLE WHO
TRANSACT BUSINESS WITH THEM”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1587, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE
ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL
INTERMEDIARIES TO CONDUCT AN
INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE
PRINTING OF ‘FACELESS’ PESO BILLS BY
THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS”

By Representative Biazon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1588, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE
ON AGRICULTURE TO EXERCISE ITS
OVERSIGHT FUNCTIONS AND INVESTIGATE
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE P120-
MILLION SMUGGLED RICE SEIZED BY
THE PHILIPPINE COAST GUARD (PCG) IN A
CARGO SHIP OFF IN ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY
WITH THE END VIEW OF DESIGNING
MEASURES DETERRING SUCH ILLEGAL
ACTIVITIES”

By Representative Geron
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1589, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN
INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION
BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
THE RELIEF OF NAVY FLAG OFFICER
IN COMMAND (FOIC) VICE ADMIRAL
RONALD JOSEPH MERCADO OVER THE
16-BILLION PESO FRIGATE DEAL”

By Representative Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated 24 October 2017 of Vivencio B. Dizon,
President and CEO, Bases Conversion and
Development Authority, furnishing the House of
Representatives with copies of their 2016 Annual
Report.

TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON BASES
CONVERSION

Letter dated November 29, 2017 of Atty. Abdurrahman T. Canacan, Chancellor, Mindanao State University, submitting the MSU-General Santos Billing Statement, Billing Details by College and Campus Registrar's Certification in compliance with the Joint Memorandum Circular of the CHED and the DBM issued on 18 May 2017.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 574), re H.B. No. 4115, entitled:
"AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FINAL FORESTLAND BOUNDARY OF THE PROVINCE OF SIKUIJOR"
recommending its approval, with amendments
Sponsors: Representatives Ty, Nograles (K.A.) and Rocamora
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6573
ON THIRD READING

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6573 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.
I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6573, entitled: AN ACT PROHIBITING HAZING AND REGULATING OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES OF FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8049, ENTITLED "AN ACT REGULATING

HAZING AND OTHER FORMS OF INITIATION RITES IN FRATERNITIES, SORORITIES, AND OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR."

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6573
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 210 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6573 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, before we resume, we would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guest of the Hon. Strike B. Revilla, Mr. McCoy Trinidad from San Jose, California.

Mme. Speaker, I request that he be welcomed to the gallery.

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

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Likewise, Mme. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of the Hon. Jose Christopher Y. Belmonte of the 6th District of Quezon City.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please rise when your names are called.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. They are the newly elected officials of Liga ng mga Executive Officers of the 6th District of Quezon City. They are Honorables Malto, Del Rosario, Bernardo, Altaras Jr., Turuel, Rayoso, Taroza, Mabesa, Enriquez, Rivera, and Baltazar.

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

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Likewise, Mme. Speaker, before we proceed, we would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

the Hon. Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla of the 2nd District of Zambales. They are the Condiling members from Sta. Cruz, Zambales, namely: Honorable Ebuenga, Medul, Masmila, Merced, Almo, Agpoon-Sunga, Angeles, Navarra, Monsalud, Manalo, Navarra, Miron-Calabung, Manalo, Diaz, Minas Jr., Mirador, Tamayo, Mayor (N.), Mayor (J.), Duran, Mercurio (L.), Miron, De la Cruz, and Mercurio (M.).

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)* The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 286
ON THIRD READING

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 286 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 286, entitled: AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE PROVINCE OF MOUNTAIN PROVINCE TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PARACELIS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14, PARAGRAPH (A) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 212 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 286 is approved on Third Reading.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6759
ON THIRD READING

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6759 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6759, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE DIOCESAN SHRINE OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH, ALSO KNOWN AS THE TAONG PUTIK DAMBANA NI SAN JUAN BAUTISTA, IN BARANGAY BIBICLAT, ALIAGA, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA A PILGRIMAGE SITE AND TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6759
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 214 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6759 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6780
ON THIRD READING

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6780 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6780, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 22 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6780
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 215 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6780 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6781
ON THIRD READING

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6781 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6781, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING JULY 31 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF TANGALAN,

PROVINCE OF AKLAN, TO BE KNOWN AS "TANGALAN DAY" IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS CREATION AS A SEPARATE MUNICIPALITY FROM THE MUNICIPALITY OF MAKATO, AND IN HONOR OF THE BRAVERY OF THE HOMETOWN HEROES OF BARANGAY VIVO WHO REVOLTED AGAINST THE SPANIARDS.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6781
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 215 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6781 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, before we resume, we would like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of the Hon. Salvio B. Fortuno. They are the Barangay Officials of Barangay San Antonio Ogbon, Nabua, Camarines Sur headed by Punong Barangay Dolores T. Lanuzo.

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

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6782
ON THIRD READING

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6782 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6782, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 27 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF LAPU-LAPU, PROVINCE OF CEBU, IN HONOR OF THE HEROISM OF LAPU-LAPU IN DEFENDING MACTAN AGAINST FOREIGN AGGRESSION DEPICTED ESPECIALLY IN THE HISTORIC BATTLE OF MACTAN WHEN HE LED FILIPINOS IN FIGHTING FERDINAND MAGELLAN AND HIS FORCES.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6782
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 215 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6782 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6798
ON THIRD READING

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6798 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6798, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE CANDON CITY ECOTOURISM ZONE LOCATED IN BARANGAY PALACAPAC, BARANGAY SAN ANDRES, BARANGAY CUBCUBBUOT AND BARANGAY AMGUID IN THE CITY OF CANDON, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6798
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 215 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6798 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6820
ON THIRD READING

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6820 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6820, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING JULY 23 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF BATANGAS, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY, TO BE KNOWN AS "BATANGAS CITY FOUNDATION DAY."

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6820
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 216 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6820 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6915
ON THIRD READING

REP. PRIMICIAS-AGABAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6915 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6915
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 218 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6915 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6920
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6920 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6920
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 218 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6920 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6932
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6932 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 17, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6932, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE A TOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6932
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 219 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6932 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 165
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 165 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 165, entitled: AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF PARCELS OF LAND IN BARANGAY KRUS NA LIGAS, QUEZON CITY TO ITS LEGITIMATE AND QUALIFIED RESIDENTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9500, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES CHARTER OF 2008.”

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 165
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.).

With 220 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 165 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6605
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6605 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6605, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDIGENOUS TRAINING CENTER IN THE CITY OF KIDAPAWAN, PROVINCE OF NORTH COTABATO, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6605
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6605 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6758
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6758 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6758, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING MOUNT BULAYLAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CUYAPO, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJA A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6758
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6758 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6795
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6795 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6795, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE PUNTA DIWATA LOCATED IN BARANGAY

VINAPOR, MUNICIPALITY OF CARMEN, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE A PRIORITY TOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6795
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6795 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6796
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6796 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6796, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE MAPASO HOT AND COLD SPRINGS LOCATED IN BARANGAY LA PAZ, MUNICIPALITY OF SANTIAGO, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE A PRIORITY TOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6796
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6795 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. House Bill No. 6796.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). House Bill No. 6796 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6797
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6797 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6797, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE LANTAWAN ECOPARK LOCATED IN BARANGAY SAN ROQUE AND BARANGAY CROSSING, MUNICIPALITY OF KITCHARAO, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE A PRIORITY TOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6797
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6797 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests in the gallery. They are the guests of honorable Cong. Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas. They are Toots Ople from the Ople Center, OFW ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Please rise.

REP. HOFER. ... Joanna Tomins, Rosevin Pineda, Cindy Toledo, Marlyn Florida, Donnabella Javier, Wima Abay, Ophelia Abante, Jenny Sespene, Luther Calderon, Lizette Cinco, Jomari Aquino and Abolgair Guro.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*) The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6799
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6799 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6799, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING SANTIAGO COVE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTIAGO, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6799
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.).

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6799 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6800
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6800 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6800, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING PINSAL FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA MARIA, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR A TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6800
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6800 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6801
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6801 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6801, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE TAGNOTE FALLS – MT. HILONG-HILONG PARK LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF REMEDIOS T. ROMUALDEZ, PROVINCE OF AGUSAN DEL NORTE A PRIORITY TOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6801
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6801 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6917
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6917 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6917, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE MAMAGUM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6917
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6917 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6918
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6918 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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 FELINA SEVILLA OAMINAL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6918
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6918 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6919
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6919 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6919
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6919 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6921
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote

on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6921 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6921
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6921 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6927
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6927 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6927, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6927
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6927 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6928
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6928 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6928
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6928 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6929
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6929 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6929, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF LANA DEL NORTE A TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREA (TDA), CREATING THE LANA DEL NORTE PROVINCIAL TOURISM COUNCIL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6929
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6929 is hereby approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6930
ON THIRD READING

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6930 and direct

the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 18, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6930, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING THE BAKHAWAN ECO-PARK IN BARANGAY NEW BUSWANG, MUNICIPALITY OF KALIBO, PROVINCE OF AKLAN AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 52, dated January 22, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6930
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). With 223 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6930 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader, do we have more?

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6772
Continuation

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, I move that we continue the consideration of House Bill No. 6772, as contained in Committee Report No. 509, submitted by the Committees on Natural Resources, on Appropriations, and on Ways and Means.

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

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

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

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6772, entitled: AN ACT ENSURING THE PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT OF PROTECTED AREAS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7586 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTEGRATED PROTECTED AREAS SYSTEM ACT OF 1992.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that we are about to proceed to the period of amendments.

For this purpose, I move that the Hon. Arnel U. Ty, Chairperson of the Committee on Natural Resources, be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Ty is recognized.

REP. TY. Good evening, Mme. Speaker. We are ready to hear the proposed amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we now proceed to consider individual amendments.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize Hon. Rodel M. Batocabe of AKO BICOL Party-List for his individual amendments.

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

Honorable Batocabe is recognized.

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. BATOCABE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. May we propose the following individual amendments:

1. On page 26, line 33, after the term DENR, insert the phrase: "THROUGH THE BIODIVERSITY MANAGEMENT BUREAU".

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Hon. Arnel U. Ty.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, we accept that amendment.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, likewise, on behalf of the Majority, we accept the amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). On the part of the House, are there any objections? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

REP. BATOCABE. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Batocabe is recognized.

REP. BATOCABE. On page 29, Section 8 line 19, after the term "(PAMB)", insert the phrase—open quotation, no, no, rather, there is no open quotation—WITHIN THREE (3) MONTHS AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, we accept that amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move to approve the proposed amendment.

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

REP. BATOCABE. Mme. Speaker, this Representation further proposes that on page 39, on lines 19 to 28, delete the entire paragraph, and in lieu thereof, insert the following paragraph: RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS MAY BE ALLOWED WITHIN THE PABY THE PAMB WITH THE CONCURRENCE

OF THE DENR SECRETARY: PROVIDED, THAT RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS, WHICH SHALL BE LOCATED OUTSIDE THE STRICT PROTECTION ZONES, SHALL UNDERGO THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) AS PROVIDED BY LAW, AND SHALL ADOPT REDUCED IMPACT TECHNOLOGIES SO AS NOT TO BE DETRIMENTAL TO ECOSYSTEM FUNCTIONS, BIODIVERSITY, CULTURAL PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Ty is recognized.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, we accept the amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move to approve the proposed individual amendment.

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

REP. BATOCABE. Mme. Speaker, this Representation proposes that on page 50, line 13 of Section 18, after the word "LAW", insert the following phrase: WHETHER FROM THE LGU OR ANY NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AGENCY comma (,).

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Sponsor is recognized.

REP. TY. We accept the amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move to approve the proposed individual amendment.

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

REP. BATOCABE. Mme. Speaker, on page 52, Section 23 line 16, this Representation proposes to insert the following paragraphs: THE OCCUPATION OF LGUS AND COMMUNITIES WITHIN THE PA SHALL BE RESPECTED. WITHIN NINETY (90) DAYS AFTER THE CREATION OF THE PAMB, THE BOARD SHALL ASSESS THE PHYSICAL OCCUPATION OF SAID LGUS AND COMMUNITIES

WITHIN PAS AND RECOMMEND TO PROPER AUTHORITIES MEASURES TO ENSURE THE PROTECTION OF THEIR WELL BEING.

MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES WITH EXISTING TOWNSHIPS AND TOWN CENTERS WITHIN THE PROTECTED AREA SHALL CONTINUE TO OCCUPY SUCH TOWNSHIPS AND TOWN CENTERS: PROVIDED, THAT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CLUPS AND BARANGAY DEVELOPMENT PLANS, DUE CONSIDERATION SHALL BE GIVEN TO THE INTENDED USE FOR CONSERVATION AND BIODIVERSITY AS WELL AS THE OBJECTIVES FOR PROTECTED AREAS TO KEEP HUMAN HABITATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION IN HARMONY.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Sponsor is recognized.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, we accept.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve the proposed individual amendment.

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

REP. BATOCABE. Mme. Speaker, this Representation proposes that on page 53, line 23, after the word "BIODIVERSITY", add the phrase: "AND CULTURAL PRACTICES AND TRADITIONS".

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Sponsor is recognized.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, we accept the proposed amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move to approve the proposed individual amendment.

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

REP. BATOCABE. Mme. Speaker, this Representation further proposes on page 54, line 3 of Section 26 the addition of a new paragraph to read as

follows: LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS WITH TERRITORY INSIDE PROTECTED AREAS SHALL ALIGN THEIR COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLANS, LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS, DISASTER RISK REDUCTION MANAGEMENT PLANS AND OTHER REQUIRED PLANS ACCORDING TO THE OBJECTIVES SPECIFIED HEREIN AND IN THE PA MANAGEMENT PLANS. WITHIN SIX (6) MONTHS FROM THE APPROVAL OF THE PA MANAGEMENT PLAN, THE PAMB AND THE PASU SHALL COLLABORATE WITH THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED IN THE FORMULATION OF THE CLUP AND OTHER LOCAL PLANS AND IN THE ENFORCEMENT HEREOF. THE CONCERNED LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT OFFICIAL SHALL BE HELD ADMINISTRATIVELY AND CRIMINALLY LIABLE FOR FAILURE TO ENFORCE AND/OR IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Sponsor is recognized.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, we accept the proposed amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move to approve the proposed individual amendment.

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

REP. BATOCABE. Mme. Speaker, this Representation has no further amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Batocabe.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no more individual amendments, I move to close the period of amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 6772 including its amendments.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6772, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 6772, as amended, is hereby approved on Second Reading.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move to immediately transmit to the Senate the bills that were approved today on Third Reading.

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

The Secretary General is hereby so directed.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, today being a Monday and pursuant to our Rules, I move that we open the Privilege Hour.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I now move that the Gentleman from the Party-List SENIOR CITIZENS, honorable Rep. Francisco G. Datol Jr., be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Hon. Francisco G. Datol Jr. of SENIOR CITIZENS Party-List is hereby recognized for his first privilege speech.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. DATOL

REP. DATOL. Mme. Speaker, ang nakaraang administrasyon ay may malaking kasalanan sa 10.5 million na senior citizens sa buong Pilipinas. Wala silang puso. Wala silang pagmamahal sa ating mga magulang, lolo at lola. Bakit ninyo hinayjak ang P10.6 billion na inilaan ng Kongreso sa mga senior citizens?

Ladies and Gentlemen of this august Body, I am referring to the group of hijackers—former President Aquino and his two cohorts, former Budget Secretary Abad and the former Health Secretary. Their hijacking activities were exposed by a *The Manila Times* fearless columnist. In an article in *The Manila Times* on January 5, 2018 written by columnist Rigoberto Tiglao, entitled: “Aquino gang hijacked P10.6-B Senior Citizens’ funds,” he made the following exposés:

It is another blatant, scandalous instance of the previous regime’s culture of impunity in violating budget laws.

Just before a few months before he stepped down from power, former President Benigno Aquino III, in connivance with his Budget Secretary and his honorable former Health Secretary, hijacked P10.6 billion in funds that were mandated by law to be used for the insurance premiums of the country’s seven million senior citizens, according to the government documents.

At present, the total number of senior citizens is placed at 10.5 million.

This P10.6 billion was instead allocated to dubious health department projects that Congress had not authorized. At best, these projects were designed to boost the Liberal Party’s candidates’ chances in the 2016 elections, by prettifying the administration’s image as taking care of the citizens’ health needs.

At worst though—and probably their real nature—the projects were of the type that since the Republic’s founding have been widely known as a source of facile corruption: construction of small structures difficult to monitor if they complied with specifications, or even if they were built at all.

This P10.6 hijacked funds were triple the P3 billion the Aquino gang spent to buy the defective Dengvaxia vaccine. The former President’s inordinate rush to purchase it, to the point of violating budget laws, has raised widespread suspicion of corruption in the form of commissions.

The Department of Justice, as it is doing in the case of Dengvaxia purchase, should mobilize a bigger team to investigate this alleged hijacking of funds, that if true, has endangered the Philippine Health Insurance Corporations’ finances and risked the welfare of the country’s seven million senior citizens,

the most vulnerable sector of its adult citizenry.

Two laws had ordered the government to raise the P10.6 billion to fund senior citizens insurance premiums for the 2015 with the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation. Republic Act No. 10351 of 2012 was so-called “sin tax Law”, levies on liquors and tobacco. It required that after deducting a part of proceeds allocated for small tobacco farmers from this levy, 80 percent of the remaining balance should be allocated for the National Health Insurance Program.

This law was followed up by Republic Act No. 10645 of 2014, which required that all senior citizens be covered by PhilHealth insurance, to be funded from the sin tax proceeds.

For 2015, the first year of that law implementation, the Budget Department and Congress computed the P10.6 billion from the Sin Tax Law proceeds were to be used to fund senior citizens’ insurance premiums. It was included in the Congress budget bill sent to Aquino for signing into law.

President Aquino, however, in his veto message to Congress in December 2014, instead classified that budget for senior citizens as part of national budget’s “Unprogrammed Fund”, which is essentially a reserved contingent fund set aside for the unforeseen developments that require bigger government expenses.

It is astonishing that Congress acquiesced to Aquino’s order which ignore the Sin Tax Law. The law very categorically provided that part of the higher levies on sin products be used to fund senior citizens’ insurance premium. How could we classify into the budget’s “Unprogrammed Fund”?

At the time, Aquino’s act of reclassification appeared to be simply an accounting matter, as it was just one of the two dozens items in the budget x x x that President had planned since that time of the fund for senior citizens to be used for purpose other than what Congress had authorized.

To this day, there had been no official report or audit if the P10.6 billion was indeed used for the purpose indicated. x x x

There has been no report if Philippine Health ever received P10.6 billion to fund what was calculated as the money needed to cover senior citizens’ insurance premiums in 2015. x x x

Obviously, the Aquino administration’s gang of three, as they did in the case of Dengvaxia debacle, had absolutely no compunction about risking the lives of millions of Filipinos.

It is worth noting that the Aquino administration was cruel, had no compassion and sense of magnanimity to millions of senior citizens. Former President Aquino was not aware that the role of senior citizens in every election is important; their collective participation holds power.

The Sin Tax Law has allocated P10.6 billion funds for senior citizens' insurance premiums and President Aquino should not have violated said law by his unauthorized diversion of said funds without the imprimatur of Congress. Unauthorized diversion of senior citizens funds would definitely result in the decrease of the mandated services of PhilHealth to the senior citizens.

The vote of senior citizens in every election can make or break a president. Aquino's political adviser had a wrong sense of political direction. Senior citizens, especially the indigents and neglected ones, are in dire need of funds to finance their meager income monthly social pensions, insurance premiums, halfway shelters and the like.

The Office of the Ombudsman and/or the Department of Justice should join forces in the in-depth investigation of the hijacking of P10.6 billion funds for senior citizens by the group of former President Aquino, and should they be found guilty, the maximum penalty should be imposed on them. A background investigation of their wealth, including their spouses, children, paramour and other relatives and friends, should also be conducted to determine if the same would be manifestly not in proportion to their salary and their other lawful income. And if found to be manifestly out of proportion to their lawful income, to file necessary charges against them. This is the only way to guarantee that no similar incident will happen in the future.

The Department of Justice is to be included in this investigation because we all know that Ombudsman Morales was an appointee of former President Aquino. She might be affected by her sense of debt of gratitude. For their biggest crime to senior citizens, all we can do is to pray for them na sana hindi na nila abutin pang maging senior citizens so that their kind would not flourish anymore on earth.

Hinihiling ko po na magkaroon ng Congressional inquiry tungkol dito.

Marami pong salamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin. S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move to recognize the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, the honorable Sr. Dep. Minority Leader Joselito L. Atienza for his interpellation.

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

Honorable Atienza is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

With the kind indulgence of the Gentleman representing the senior citizens of the land, we would like to ask him more clarificatory questions because whatever he has delivered tonight has definitely affected my own thinking and attitude towards what has been done in the past. Dapat ay kalimutan na natin ang nakaraan, pero hindi po natin pwedeng kalimutan itong nakaraang ito sapagkat hanggang ngayon ay dinaranas na paghihirap ng ating mga lolo at lola iyang binanggit ninyong abuso sa paggamit ng pondo.

You mentioned a figure of P10.6 billion as appropriated. Was it appropriated for the payment of insurance premiums of the senior citizens by Congress? So my question is, mayroon po bang appropriation measure iyang P10.6 billion na iyan?

REP. DATOL. Ganito po iyon. Iyon pong balita na iyan ay inilagay po iyan sa dyaryo ni Rigoberto Tiglao. Kaya nga po humihiling po ako at saka ang aking kasama na magkaroon ng Congressional investigation tungkol po dito nang malinawan po ang lahat ng nangyari noong nakaraan na bago mag-eleksyon ay iyong sa halip na insurance ng mga senior citizens ay napapunta sa mga bagay na hindi dapat kapuntahan, at ngayon nga ay nagkakaroon ng katakut-takot na imbestigasyon doon sa Senado, at sana magkaroon din po ng imbestigasyon dito sa atin sa Kongreso nang lumabas po ang katotohanan diyan.

REP. ATIENZA. Binabati ko po ang kagalang-galang na Kinatawan ng ating mga nakatatanda sapagkat kung hindi natin titingnan ang katotohanan ay baka wala na namang managot dito sa napakalaking kasalanang ito. That billion could have paid for the premiums of the health insurance of our senior citizens. Definitely, this is a major crime. If this money was allocated or appropriated or allotted for the premium payments and then used for something else by the past administration, then they have to explain to the present administration, to the people of our country, and to this Congress.

Tama po iyong panawagan ninyo and I commend you for that, for being vigilant about abuses on the part of the ruling administration, especially when it concerns the welfare and protection of the rights of our citizens, especially the senior citizens, sapagkat kung hindi po natin pangangalagaan ang mga nakatatanda, wala na pong mag-aalaga sa kanila. Iyon ang buod ng ating Senior Citizens' Benefit Law.

Kaya po binibigyan ng benepisyong ang lolo at

lola sapagkat kailangan nilang tulungan. Ako po ay nagsimula ng aking commitment, adbokasiya, sa pagtutulak ng kagalingan ng ating mga lolo at lola noong 1976 pa. Ako po ay batang-batang mamamayan, ordinary citizen, Lito Atienza, and I worked hard, so that the Senior Citizens Law would become a reality. We started the movement. It gained ground. People became more aware that the senior citizens needed the help of government and society. It is not enough to say that the senior citizens would be taken care of by their families; kailangang may tulong silang galing sa gobyerno. Kaya po naipasá iyang batas na iyan, na hanggang ngayon ay pinakikinabangan nating lahat. Kayo, ang inyong lingkod at marami rito sa ating Kongreso ngayon, nakikinabang na doon sa benepisyo ng mga lolo at lola. Iyong kanilang kalusugan na binigyan ng pahalaga nitong pondong ito ay mabibigyan ng malaking tulong kung ito ay ginastos nang tama. Kayo ba ay siguradong ito ay inilaan para sa mga lolo at lola at ginastos ng nakaraang administrasyon para sa ibang bagay?

REP. DATOL. Kaya nga po hinihiling namin na magkaroon po ng isang imbestigasyon dito sa ating Kongreso nang lumabas po ang katotohanan, sapagkat po iyong nakaraang administrasyon, nakita naman po natin na, ay kulang ang pagmamahal sa mga nakatatanda. Kaya nga po noong ako ay nag-privilege speech noong October 3, Senior Citizens' Day, nakita ko naman na dito sa—iyong mga colleagues natin, mayroon na tayong 86. Palagay ko po ngayon ay aabutin ng mga 100 iyong ating mga Miyembro dito sa Kongreso. Kaya nga po sana ay tulungan ninyo ako na magkaroon ng isang imbestigasyon dito sa atin sa Kongreso para lumabas naman po ang katotohanan tungkol sa kung saan napunta iyong para sa insurance ng mga senior citizens.

REP. ATIENZA. Ngayon pa man ay binibigyan ko na kayo ng garantiya; ang inyong lingkod ay kasama ninyo.

REP. DATOL. Salamat po.

REP. ATIENZA. Kumbinsihin natin ang ating mga kasamahan sa pagkakataong ito, kung sila man ay naririto—220 of them, according to the secretariat, napakarami po niyan—na kung tutulungan itong inyong magandang adhikain ay lalabas ang katotohanan. Dalawa ang kasalanan nila kung saka-sakali po: Ginamit nila ang pondong nakalaan para sa senior citizens at ibinili nila ng bakunang may diperensiya. Ang tinutukoy po ba ninyo ay ang pagkakabili noong Dengvaxia?

REP. DATOL. Iyon na nga po ang nakalagay sa diyaryo talaga na isinulat ni Mr. Rigoberto Tiglao. Kaya nga po hinihiling po namin na sana imbestigahan ninyong masusi ito sa ating Kapulungan.

REP. ATIENZA. Pagsamahin na po natin ang ating pagsisikap, sapagkat kailangan malaman natin ang katotohanan. Kung iyong perang ginamit sa bakunang mayroong diperensiya na ngayon ay kumikitil sa buhay ng mga bata at iyong perang ginamit nila ay nakalaan naman para sa matatanda, eh, talagang walang, walang kaluluwa itong mga namuno sa nakaraan. Iyong mga bata, inilagay sa panganib. Iyong mga matatanda, iniwanang walang tulong sa kanilang kalusugan. They have to answer for this, Gentleman from Senior Citizens.

Mme. Speaker, we urge the membership of Congress to take interest in this. This reminds me of the Disbursement Acceleration Program, which has been declared by the Supreme Court as illegal, practically saying that those who committed the abuse of the use of public funds in that manner should go to jail. Eh, hanggang ngayon po, wala pong nakukulong na gumamit ng salapi noong Disbursement Acceleration Program. Ang sabi po ng Korte Suprema, “Lahat ng gumamit ng salaping iyon, magpaliwanag. Kung hindi maipapaliwanag, makasuhan.” Kapag nakasuhan, may problema na sila at iyong nag-authorize, iyon po iyong Pangulong dati at iyong kanyang budget officer. Iyong nag-authorize, kailangang managot sapagkat sila ang primera sa kasalanan.

Isipin ninyo, itong salaping ito ay ginamit nila sa ibang paraan, samantalang ito ay galing sa Sin Tax na inilalaan para sa kabutihan ng kalusugan ng ating mga lolo't lola pero ngayon ay ginamit sa isang makamandag na bakuna. Kaya sunud-sunod po iyan. Kailangan lang matunton natin kung saan nagsimula, sino nagpanimula, at sino ang dapat talagang tunay na makasuhan at makulong. Sapagkat kung hindi po makukulong, talagang mahirap ho tayong magpatupad ng anumang magandang layunin natin, na kakasuhan, tapos nabibigyan ng paraan para makawala. Ang lalaking mga iskandalo niyan—P10.6 billion pesos going nowhere. Sabi nga ninyo, nagamit sa kampanya.

Isang mayor ng Mindanao napatunayang bumili ng P90,000 supplies sa isang kumpanyang pag-aari ng kanyang misis, pinatawan ng parusa. Alam po ba ninyo ang parusa? It is 125 years in jail. Wala namang ninakaw na pera. Lumabag lang sa batas ng pagbili, pero iyong binili nandoon po.

Ito na P10.6 billion pesos na ginamit ng mali ay kailangang panagutan. Kaya i-file na ninyo ang resolusyon ninyo at isama ninyo ang pangalan ko sapagkat gusto kong panagutin ang lahat ng nagbabalewala sa kapakanan at kagalingan ng buhay ng mga nakatatanda.

At tama po iyong sinabi ninyo, kung sila ay walang planong tumanda, wala silang problema. Pero kayo, tayo na may planong tumanda, sapagkat hindi pa naman tayo katandaan, ay binibigyan natin ng proteksyon ang kinabukasan ng lahat ng nandito ngayon.

We join you, we commend you, and we will support your measure as we would like to look into this matter, a very serious violation of our basic laws of the land, that money has to be appropriated by Congress. No President, no Member of the Cabinet, no department, can spend any appropriation without due process. Congress must be aware of. If no one is aware of this P10.6 billion pesos, the Gentleman from the Senior Citizens Party has every right to demand an investigation. I-file na po ninyo bukas iyan para mapapirmahan na natin. Alam ko, iyong mga nandito ngayong gabi na nakarinig ng inyong mensahe, at ng inyong pakiusap, ay tutulong. The more sponsors there are, the heavier the value of your desire for the truth to come out. Pwede po naming asahan iyon?

REP. DATOL. Maasahan ninyo po iyon, at ifa-file po kaagad namin iyong resolusyon na dapat para maimbestigahan na po kaagad.

REP. ATIENZA. Isama na natin pati lahat itong mga batang-batang mga Miyembro natin na nakikinig ngayong gabi. Ang hindi pumirma diyan sa resolusyong iyan ay palagay ko ay walang pagmamahal sa kanilang sarili, sa kanilang magulang, sa kanilang lolo, lola, mga ninuno na inalis ng benepisyo nitong kawalanghiyaang ito.

Congratulations, and we are with you 100 percent.

REP. DATOL. Salamat po.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Salamat po, Mr. Majority Leader, thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Thank you.

Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Francisco Datol Jr. and the interpellation of our Sr. Dep. Minority Leader to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I now move that the Lady from the Party-List GABRIELA, the Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Honorable De Jesus is recognized. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. DE JESUS

REP. DE JESUS. Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

Noon pong ika-10 ng Enero, Miyerkules, nagdiwang ng kanyang ika-33 na kaarawan si Mary Jane Veloso, o mas angkop, ang kanyang pamilya, kasama ang kanilang mga kaibigan at mga supporters, commemorated her birthday. Kami po ang nagdiwang dahil si Mary Jane Veloso po, hanggang sa kasalukuyan, ay nakapiit sa Indonesia kaya hindi masasabing ganap ang pagdiriwang. Sabi nga ni Nanay Celia, ina ni Mary Jane, sa walong taon na pagkakapiit, hindi lang si Mary Jane ang nakakulong, pati na din sila ng kaniyang pamilya kasama ang kaniyang dalawang anak ay nakakulong at patuloy na umaasam, patuloy na nangangamba.

Noong 2015 dahil na rin sa malakas na pagtutol ng mamamayan hindi lang dito sa Pilipinas kung hindi maging sa iba pang bansa, na-delay ang kaniyang pagbitay. Sa buong panahon ng kaniyang pagkakakulong, paulit-ulit niyang iginiit na siya ay inosente at ayon na rin sa kaniya, ni-recruit siya ng isang nagngangalang Christine Sergio para magtrabaho sa Malaysia bilang domestic helper. Pagdating sa Malaysia, pinapunta siya sa Indonesia gamit ang luggage na bigay sa kaniya ng isang nagngangalang Ike na kasama ni Christine. Ito po ay maikling pagbibiyahang lamang. Paano siya napunta sa Yogyakarta at natagpuan ng mga awtoridad na ang kaniyang bagahe ay may nakatagong 2.6 kilogram ng droga? Pagkatapos ng anim na buwang paglilitis, nahatulan siya ng kamatayan. Nang bumuhos ang suporta ay napatigil ang pagbitay kay Mary Jane bagama't pansamantala lamang.

At nitong 2015, sumuko rin si Christine sa mga may kapangyarihan sa Pilipinas at dahil sa kaganapang ito sinabi ng pamahalaan ng Indonesia na hahayaan muna nilang ma-resolve ang kaso ng human trafficking laban kay Christine at ititigil muna ang paggawad ng kaparusahan kay Mary Jane. Ibig sabihin, naghahabla rin ang maraming grupo laban kay Christine ng human trafficking.

Dahil dito, kailangang tumestigo ni Mary Jane laban kay Christine at sa partner nito na pinayagan ng korte sa Nueva Ecija sa pamamagitan ng deposition. Hindi siya aalis sa kulungan, ang mga abogado ang pupunta doon at siya ang sasagot sa mga nakahandang katanungan. The proceedings will be officially considered by the trial court.

Subalit nito lang ay naglabas ng injunction ang Court of Appeals na pinipigilan ang pagtestigo ni Mary Jane. Unfair daw ito sa mga nasasakdal dahil hindi siya mako-cross examine. Pero ano ba ang pinakamalaking injustice sa kalagayang ito? Hindi ba't ang mabitay ang isang inosente na sa totoo lang ay biktima ng human trafficking? Inamin ni Christine na sila ni Julius, iyong kaniyang ka-partner, ay miyembro ng international drug

syndicate. Hindi pa ba sapat ito para hayaang marinig naman ang sasabihin ni Mary Jane?

Again, it seems like the government failed Mary Jane again, but this is not the first time. Dahil sa kawalan ng trabaho dito sa Pilipinas, kinailangan niyang mangibang bansa. At ang buhay ni Mary Jane ay marami pa ring katulad lalung-lalo na sa kababaihan. Si Mary Jane ay nagpunta muna sa Dubai subali't pinagtangkaan siyang gahasain ng amo kaya napilitan siyang umuwi kahit hindi tapos ang kontrata. Pangalawa ay iyong inabot niya na pagkakapiit dahil siya ay naging biktima ng human trafficking.

Mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, hindi ba dapat nang mapaisip tayo kung ilang kaso ang katulad din ng kay Mary Jane, na dahil sa walang makitang oportunidad dito ay tiniis ang pagkawalay sa pamilya, at wala namang iba pang pangunahing layunin para magtrabaho sa ibang bansa kung hindi tumulong sa pagbuhay sa ating mahirap na pamilya ngunit ang kapalit ay ang pagiging biktima ng iba't ibang anyo ng karahasan? Ang masaklap, mayroon na talagang tuluyan nang nasira ang buhay, kung hindi man, namatay.

Mapapaisip tayo kung ilan pang ganitong kaso ang kailangang mangyari bago seryosohin ng gobyerno ang pagbubuo ng mga pambansang industriya na maglilikha ng trabaho para sa ating—para ang kanilang pamilya ay dito mismo sa Pilipinas na magkaroon ng oportunidad.

Kung mangyayari ito, hindi na kinakailangan ng mga Christine Sergio na na-bully din at naging mangangalakal ng droga, at hindi na kinakailangan ng mga Mary Jane na mahiwalay sa pamilya.

Sana sa mga susunod na pagdiriwang ni Mary Jane siya ay kasama na natin at sana ay mapawalang-bisa na ang kaso. Nais ko lamang basahin ang maikling panawagan ni Mary Jane. Noong kaniyang kaarawan, sumulat siya sa kaniyang mga tagasuporta at sumulat din siya na naka-address kay Presidente.

“Alam ko po na galit po kayo sa droga at gustong mapuksa ang sindikato para sa kabutihan ng ating bansa at kaligtasan ng mga kabataan. Pero paano po ninyo masusugpo ang lahat ng may kaugnayan sa droga” kung ganito ang nangyari na patuloy ang mga katulad ng mga human traffickers?

“Pangulong Duterte, katulad po ng kasong kinakaharap ko sa ngayon, kung hindi ninyo po ako bibigyan ng pagkakataon na tumestigo para ibunyag ang katotohanan sa kasong ito, paano po ninyo malalaman na isa lamang akong biktima at ang talagang nagkasala ay si Christine Sergio?”

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Garin relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn F. Garcia.

Kaya mga kasamahan ko sa Kongreso, Mme. Speaker, ang Representasyong ito ay muling

naninindigan para sa kagalingan, at ang mga katulad ni Mary Jane ay tuluyan nang hindi maganap, lalung-lalo na sa mga kababayan nating forced to migrate, at ang kanilang panawagan ay “trabaho sa Pinas, hindi sa labas.”

Magandang gabi po at maraming salamat.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no interpellators, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Emmi De Jesus to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.) Mme. Speaker, I now move that the Lady from Party-List GABRIELA, Hon. Arlene D. Brosas, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Hon. Arlene D. Brosas from GABRIELA Party-List is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Members of the House, magandang gabi po. I rise at this important juncture to denounce the Japanese government as it attempts to revise history on comfort women and their opposition to memorials for victims of Japanese wartime occupation.

Last December 8, a statue was unveiled along Roxas Boulevard in memory of Filipino women forced into sexual slavery by the Japanese Imperial Army during World War II. Japanese officials expressed regret that despite the strong ties between the Philippines and Japan, a comfort woman statue has been installed in Manila. Clearly, Japan's government sees the statue as a taunt that puts its blossoming relations with the Philippines at stake.

Mme. Speaker, the experiences of the Filipino women who were subjected to sexual slavery in Japanese military brothels during World War II is not fake news. The Japanese government's denial and distortion of history is an act of disrespect not only to the victims but also to the country. If Japan really wants to settle the issue and make amends, it should formally apologize to the “lolas” and recognize the systematic sexual abuse that the Japanese Imperial Army propagated in order to silence and subjugate the Filipino people.

I would also like to express my dismay with the Department of Foreign Affairs for questioning the National Historical Commission regarding the installation of the comfort woman statue, saying that it made Japan uncomfortable and that it was built without proper permit. In a letter dated December 12, 2017, DFA Assistant Secretary Millicent Cruz-Paredes said they need to know the background information and the actual process before the statue was put up, emphasizing the sensitive issue it tackles.

We in the Gabriela Women's Party believe that the statue is a depiction of true events and that the NHC does not owe the DFA an explanation. It is high time that we instill in today's generation the sufferings that the Filipino people endured under Japanese occupation. The DFA, a Philippine government office, would rather place more importance on the hurt feelings of a foreign country over the destroyed lives of thousands of Filipino women.

Sexual violence still remains as an unspoken crime and there seems to be little interest from the Duterte administration to address the issue. In an interview last Friday, DFA Secretary Alan Cayetano prioritized the long-term relationship of the Philippines with Japan, putting emphasis on the issue of permits and public space.

Now, only 20 out of more than 200 comfort women remain alive and continue to fight for the justice they never got. On July 2013, Lola Paula Atilla, a former sex slave of Japanese soldiers during World War II, suffered from dementia and died at the age of 83. For 40 years she fought against military sexual crimes, demanded just compensation and inclusion of the comfort women history in Japanese textbooks. But just like the other victims of Japanese wartime occupation, she never attained the justice she rightfully deserved.

Two years ago, we marched to Mendiola together with Lila Filipina, a group of surviving comfort women who were brutally enslaved during the Pacific war and asked for a formal state apology, hoping for the intercession of President Duterte whilst the visit of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, but until now there is no apology and no recognition.

So, I call on my colleagues and the entire Filipino people to support the survivors of Japanese military sexual slavery and rise against sexual violence against women as part of foreign military intervention and wars of aggression.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Arlene Brosas to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I now move that the Lady from the Third District of Pangasinan, the Hon. Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The lovely Lady from the Third District of Pangasinan, ...

REP. ARENAS. Thank you, my idol.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). ... the Hon. Rose Marie "Baby" Arenas, is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ARENAS

REP. ARENAS. Thank you, Deputy Speaker. You are my idol. I am looking forward to your questioning tomorrow in the Justice Committee.

Mme. Speaker and dear colleagues, I rise again on a matter of serious concern to our overseas workers.

On January 27 last year, I sought a briefing from various government agencies on the state of affairs of OFWs in the Middle East. I wanted a full account of the situation of our workers especially in Kuwait where almost 90 percent of OFWs are domestic helpers or household service workers, the sector with the least protection from Kuwait laws. The distinguished Reps. John Bertiz and Emmi De Jesus, former Rep. Harry Roque, to name a few, who shared my concern and advocacy were also present during that meeting. None of the agencies present during that briefing had any clue about the execution of OFW Jakatia Pawa that shocked the nation the following day.

Jakatia was not the picture of a typical victim. She was a 44-year-old widow, mother of two young kids and a sister of a retired police officer. She had a college degree but worked as a domestic helper in Kuwait where she was convicted of a crime she did not commit. Jakatia was educated and did not come from the most marginalized of our society, and yet, she found herself a powerless victim in the hands of her foreign masters in Kuwait. You can just imagine how much worse things are for the others who are in more desperate conditions.

On January 30, 2017, a few days after her execution, I delivered my privilege speech again where I pleaded to ban the deployment of OFWs in Kuwait. I also demanded that the Kuwait government sign a bilateral labor agreement with us on the recruitment and employment of domestic workers.

After seven more OFWs deaths since Jakatia, and

after more urgent pleas and prayers, Labor Secretary Silvestre Bello finally suspended the deployment of OFWs in Kuwait on orders of our beloved President Rodrigo Duterte himself. Hence today, I rise again in behalf of these modern-day heroes who have been victims of exploitation for far too long and in many heartbreaking ways.

Mme. Speaker, the most unfortunate thing is that for many others, their exploitation begins not when they reach the foreign shores but right here in our country. Medical screening is a standard requirement in the recruitment of overseas workers. However, due to certain schemes, medical screening has exposed OFWs to serious dangers.

In 2015, the Supreme Court issued an en banc resolution which denied the motion of the Gulf Cooperation Council-Accredited Medical Clinics Association, also otherwise known as GAMCA, to stop the Department of Health from implementing the prohibition of the so-called “decking system.” The decking process, which requires an OFW to go first to an office for registration and then farmed out a medical clinic located elsewhere, is illegal.

The GCC, or the Gulf Cooperation Council, is the association of countries in the Persian Gulf, which includes Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Kuwait and Oman. The GAMCA was established for the purpose of providing medical screening to overseas Filipino workers bound for GCC countries.

Pursuant to Republic Act 10022, amending the Migrant Workers and Overseas Filipinos Act, no group of medical clinics shall have a monopoly of conducting health examinations on migrant workers for certain receiving countries. It also states that every Filipino migrant worker shall have the freedom to choose any of the DOH-accredited clinics that will conduct his or her health examination properly, honestly and without malice. But because our OFWs are desperate to give their loved ones a better life—leaving their families, leaving their future, going to an uncertain place, giving their loved ones a better life—they become easy prey na handang kumapit sa patalim risking their lives only to end up dead or with broken dreams.

Today, Mme. Speaker, I rise to denounce the new system of Pre-Employment Medical Examination or PEME for our OFWs bound for GCC member countries. This new system blatantly perpetrates decking and is designed precisely to evade the law and cheat the Filipino people again.

It was on November 27, 2017 when the GCC Health Minister unceremoniously informed recruitment agencies and medical clinics, through an email, that a new system for medical screening would be put in place.

This new system requires agencies and applicants to follow three steps: the first step requires them to log into

and register in the website; the second step requires the applicant to input personal information such as country of origin, country of destination, among other details; and third, the system has a built-in program which restricts the applicants’ choice of where to secure his or her medical examinations.

Under the program’s supposed “equal distribution” function, applicants or agencies can initially choose from any of the clinics. In reality, however, once a particular clinic gets selected by 10 applicants, the system will automatically remove the name of that clinic from the menu. It is only after each clinic has received the same number of applicants will a clinic’s name reappear on the menu. This is a clear case of cheating because it kills the freedom of our applicant to choose.

Mme. Speaker, this new system, like GAMCA, is patently unlawful, dangerous to our workers. It is critical that the new scheme is an online form of decking. Decking, in all its forms and by any name, is illegal and against our laws and puts our poor OFWs at grave risk. This practice puts the compliant recruitment agencies and medical clinics at risk of having their licenses revoked. Grossly questionable is that this new scheme was implemented only through a simple email, devoid of any formalities. Ibinasura ang lahat ng protocol for approval, and nature and relationship of the Philippine government with the Ministry of Health of the GCC. Mme. Speaker, there was no formal notice to and from the Department of Health, although in an e-mail sent to medical clinics, the Ministry of Health of the GCC alleged that this was done “after meeting with DOH authorities in Manila.”

Mme. Speaker, hindi natin dapat payagan ang paglabag ng batas natin at ang panloloko at pang-aapi sa ating mga kababayan.

In 2016, the Kuwait Embassy outsourced its medical certification and visa services to two (2) private companies, the Winston Q8 and MARAWED, both of which were never accredited or recognized by the POEA, DOH or DFA. Worst of all, the owners of this Winston Q8 System were arrested and found to have links with terrorist groups.

This Representation would like to request this august Body to ask the DOH to explain why they allowed the implementation of a system that is clearly a revival of the illegal decking practice. We should ask the Department of Foreign Affairs to require the GCC to define the role of their health minister and for us to put in place a protocol for consultation, dialogue and approval of GCC requirements and impositions. I also want to point out that aside from this online decking practice, they are requiring the payment of \$10 US dollars before booking an appointment every time they go to book. This is another scam, another form of exploitation. Ito ay karagdagang pataw na gastos at malinaw na bagong paraan upang gatasan ang mga mahihirap nating OFW

papunta sa Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, United Arab Emirates at Yemen. Higit na apektado ang hindi bababa sa tatlong daan hanggang—300,000 hanggang hangang 353,000 newly hired OFWs per year na ayon sa datos ng new hires for 2015. Mme. Speaker, the Ministry of Health of the GCC stands to earn an estimated 100 to 200 million pesos a year from the scheme.

It is a fact that many of the abuse against our OFWs have taken place in GCC countries. It is also on record that labor laws and practices in GCC countries do not provide enough protection for our OFWs, especially women who dominate the household service workers. Therefore, to subject them to a medical screening that is clearly a violation of existing laws sets the tone and paves the way to perpetrate these abuses against them.

Mme. Speaker, we need to investigate immediately and demand that the DOH stop the implementation of this new scheme of pre-employment medical screening for OFWs bound for GCC member countries. While we have to comply with certain standards of host countries, we must do so and only in compliance with our existing laws, with uncompromising regard for the protection and safety of our OFWs. If our OFWs cannot protect themselves, the government must do it for them. For decades, they have been abused physically, emotionally, mentally economically and legally.

Our OFWs have suffered enough. It is time that the government must resolve not to send a single OFW unless we are certain that he or she has been given the full protection of the law. When our OFWs leave, we do not know if we will ever see them again. And even if we see them again, we will never know how much the horrors of abuse have killed their souls already. The blood, sweat and tears of OFWs have been the pillars of strength for our nation.

It is time to pay back. Ang buhay nila ay nakasalalay sa ating batas.

My dear colleagues, marami pong salamat. I submit.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We thank the lovely Congresswoman from the Third District of Pangasinan, the Hon. Rose Marie “Baby” J. Arenas.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from ACTS-OFW Party-List, the honorable OFW Champion, Cong. Aniceto John D. Bertiz III, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Hon. John Bertiz is recognized.

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, and thank you very much to the debonair Majority Leader.

Is the honorable beautiful Congresswoman from the Third District of Pangasinan willing to yield to some questions, Mme. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Arenas is recognized.

REP. ARENAS. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. BERTIZ. Honorable Speaker, as the OFW Representative in Congress, I thank Congresswoman Arenas for taking up the cudgels for our OFWs especially for those who are applying for work in the Gulf countries.

I join Congresswoman Arenas on her call for an investigation on this particular scam and other unjust and blatant money-making ventures hoisted by foreign entities on our workers. In fact, I filed a House resolution, House Resolution No. 1500 last November of last year, calling for an immediate Congressional investigation on the registration fees imposed by the Health Ministry of the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and obvious violations of our anti-decking and anti-dummy provisions of Republic Act No. 10022 or the Migrant Workers Act.

Mme. Speaker, honorable Congresswoman Arenas, you have fought with us side by side against all schemes that curtail the freedom of choice of OFWs, impose unjust burdens on them, and violate the sovereignty of our own nation. We fought and eventually prevailed against GAMCA decking and, just last year, against Winston Q8.

Just to give a short information to my honorable colleagues, Winston Q8 is the accredited medical certification of Kuwait wherein they monopolize the medical examinations of our OFWs bound for Kuwait which, finally, we have revoked and closed. These money-making schemes on the medical examinations of OFWs just keep on popping up. Kakatapos lang natin sa Winston Q8, nadiskubre natin na ang ginagamit pala ng mga terorista, may bago na namang pakana. Kung matatandaan po ninyo, ang may-ari po ng Winston Q8 ay mismong si Hussein Aldhafiri who is the No. 2 ISIS leader in the world na nahuli mismo sa BGC. Ganoon na rin po during our security briefing. Sinabi po mismo ng National Security Adviser, who is no other than Secretary Esperon, that they were able to trace the money found in Marawi, which came from that account owned by Winston Q8.

In your opinion, honorable Speaker, what is the root cause of all these? What should we do in order to stop these schemes once and for all, Mme. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). Honorable Arenas will please respond.

REP. ARENAS. Thank you.

First of all, Mme. Speaker, sorry because I am coughing but I really have to do this today.

My honorable colleague, I look up to you because it all started from your data that was given to me. I must really commend you because you have the documents that we are holding now in our possession. I wish that the government, Mme. Speaker, should listen to our call.

Until and unless we stop sending workers to Kuwait, this will never stop. Every day, it is growing, it is getting bigger and our country is in danger, not only the lives of our OFWs but also our soldiers who are dying there in the faraway Mindanao.

So, Mme. Speaker, thank you for this time, and thank you, my dear colleague, that because of your study, I also delivered this privilege speech today. I was inspired by all the data and information that you researched very well. So, I must commend you, my dear colleague, for giving us this information. Maybe, since our President has already called for the total ban in sending workers, then we here in Congress must help each other in implementing that and in making sure that we never lift it until they have treated our OFWs with respect, dignity and kindness.

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you so much for the foundation of our honorable Congresswoman Arenas. I know that this issue does not concern our OFWs only, but mainly the national security issues because we do not know, as mentioned by honorable Congresswoman Arenas, that this new scheme or modus operandi that is being conducted by the medical clinic which is kung matatandaan ninyo po, Mme. Speaker, isa po kayo sa mga na-high blood noong iniimbestigahan natin itong Winston Q8 na ito, bakit ito ay nagpapatuloy. Naipasara na natin ito ngunit mayroon na naman pong tinatawag na—which ang mga medical clinic or ang mismong mga GCC ay nangongolekta ng US\$10 sa bawat bago pa lang mag-a-apply na mga OFW.

So, kung kukwentahin natin sa 5,000 OFWs pa lang per day multiply it by US\$10, that is equivalent to P2.5 million a day which is, more or less, around P65 million a month which is hindi natin alam kung sino at saan napupunta itong mga ibinabayad na ito ng ating mga pobrang OFW na hindi pa nga po nakakaalis papunta sa Middle East or sa bansang mga Saudi Arabia, Kuwait at iba pa, ay nakukuhanan na ng kanilang pera. Ang ikinakatakot po natin dito, Mme. Speaker, honorable Congresswoman Arenas, ay baka ito ay magamit na naman ng mga terorista, itong perang ito sa Marawi o sa Mindanao.

From your sources, would you know if the so-called Ministry of Health of the Gulf Cooperation Council is authorized by their governments and our government to inspect and accredit medical clinics and impose regulations on the medical examination of our OFWs, Mme. Speaker?

REP. ARENAS. Mme. Speaker, Honorable Bertiz, it is very clear po sa ating dokumento na hindi sila authorized. In fact, it is just through an email. There was no official meeting or batas na pwede nilang gamitin iyon, pero po ginagawa na naman nila ulit ngayon. Kaya po sa ating kagalang-galang na Mme. Speaker, ako po ay tumitingala sa iyong kagalingan. Tuwing tayo ay may committee hearing, wala kang kaparis, Mme. Speaker. Masyado akong bilib sa iyo. Tulungan mo po kami ngayon dito sa kagalingan mo na magkaroon ng batas na hindi ito lalong lumala at mas marami pa ang mamatay na ating mga kababayan na nagpupunta dito sa Gulf countries na ito.

Marami pong salamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). We appreciate your precious words, the lovely Congresswoman Rose Marie “Baby” Arenas, and we more deeply appreciate the fact that you have taken this up as well as a most worthy cause to protect our OFWs, specifically those going to Kuwait.

REP. ARENAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garcia, G.). The Honorable Bertiz is recognized.

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

We had information from the recruitment industry sector that some countries are disavowing the new GCC medical examination and registration system. Some countries are requiring recruitment agencies and workers to use the new system. However, there are no formal notices from these embassies. This is creating a lot of confusion among industry stakeholders and workers. What do you think, Mme. Speaker, honorable Congresswoman Arenas, should be done about this?

REP. ARENAS. Siguro naman po, Mme. Speaker, nabalitaan na ninyo na nag-file ako ng case sa Pasay against the Kuwait government and it risked my life. Kamuntik na pong hindi ako nanalo pero sa tulong po ng isang Congresswoman dito, nakitulong sa akin, na-convict po ang isang Consul nila or Third Secretary and mayroong warrant for his arrest. Ganoon po kaserious ito. Kaya po sana, ang aking ibang colleague sana, tulungan naman tayo para hindi ako nag-iisa at ikaw lang, Congressman Bertiz, at si Cong. Emmi De Jesus, ang lumalaban tungkol dito sa mga katiwaliang

ito. Kaya po sana itong ating Kongreso, ang ating mga nirerespeto at minamahal na mga colleagues, tulungan po tayo dito sa malaking problema na ito na mas malaki pa po ito sa nababasa nila ngayon. Right now po, we are deploying many overseas workers especially women as domestic helpers in Kuwait.

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you so much, Honorable Arenas.

Mme. Speaker, panghuli na lamang po. Bilang Kinatawan, a lone Representative ng OFW sa Kongreso, nagpapasalamat po ako sa puso at malasakit ng ating mahal na Congresswoman Arenas dahil po hindi niya po tinatantanan at patuloy pa rin niyang ipinaglalaman ang karapatan ng ating mga OFWs lalo na po iyong nasa Middle East. Ang akin lang pong hiling, sana po suportahan ninyo ang aming pakikipaglaban para sa karapatan ng ating mga OFWs lalung-lalo na po sa Kuwait.

Just a few days back, ang ating mismong Presidente Duterte ang nag-announce ng total ban ng pagpapadala ng mga domestic workers sa bansang Kuwait. Sana po panindigan ito ng DOLE at ng POEA, at ganoon na rin po ang DFA na suportahan din itong total ban na ito. Huwag po tayong maging selective. If Kuwait government is not going to respond to our call to protect our workers, then it is very important for us also to stop deploying, especially, domestic workers.

Ngayon po, para sa isyu ng medical decking system, dapat po paimbestigahan natin ito because unang-una, ito ay not complying with the Data Privacy Act and wala po itong pahintulot sa ating Department of Health, Department of Foreign Affairs at ganoon din po sa Department of Labor and Employment.

Kung matatandaan po ninyo, there was a Supreme Court Order as well as a Joint Department Order from DOLE, DFA and DOJ, as well as DOH that is stopping this decking system and referral system. Dapat din pong ma-trace kung sino po ang nagpapatakbo nitong online appointment or registration system na ito para sa ating mga OFW, at ma-trace din po natin kung saan po napupunta ang milyun-milyong pera na kanilang kinokolekta araw-araw.

Lastly, Mme. Speaker, do you think this money-making scheme will be impossible without the connivance of medical clinics or some officials of the Department of Health?

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Garcia (G.) relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Sharon S. Garin.

REP. ARENAS. Matagal na po nating alam iyan. Kaya po nagpapasalamat ako sa inyo, my dear colleague Bertiz, na kayo po ay talagang seriously tumututok para masagot itong mga problema ng ating mga kawawang

OFWs all over the Middle East. Kaya po ngayon ang ating solusyon diyan ay ito pong august Body na ito, tulungan po tayo na magkaroon ng batas. Alam naman ninyong ilang committee hearings nang ipinaglalaman natin na ihinto muna ang pagpapadala sa Kuwait pero tumutuloy pa rin po. Ano po ang dapat nating gagawin?

Kaya po, Mme. Speaker, we want the help of the Gentleman and our colleagues. I think that is the only solution para mapahinto na itong decking system na ito at ang pang-aapi sa ating mga poor OFWs, na pag-alis sa Manila, hindi nila alam kung anong mangyayari sa kanila. Hindi nila alam kung ano ang kinabukasan nila, hindi nila alam kung dadating sila na sira-sira ang panaginip nila at nakalagay sa isang ataul. Kaya po sa ating mga colleagues, tulungan po ninyo kami. Kayo po ang pag-asa ng ating mga 10 milyong OFWs all over the world.

Marami pong salamat, Mme. Speaker.

Marami pong Salamat, my beloved Cong. Bertiz, for your dedication at pagmamahal sa ating mga kapwa tao all over the Middle East. Marami pong salamat.

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you so much, Mme. Speaker and Hon. Rose Marie “Baby” Arenas. Muli po, maraming-maraming salamat po sa puso at malasakit ninyo sa aming sektor. Mabuhay at pagpalain po kayo ng Panginoong Diyos. Magandang gabi.

REP. ARENAS. Marami pong salamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Bertiz.

REP. ARENAS. Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker, and my dear colleagues.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Honorable Arenas.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Thank you. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of our lovely honorable philanthropist, Rose Marie “Baby” Arenas, and its interpellation to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the Privilege Hour be extended for another 30 minutes to allow two more Gentlemen to avail it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Is

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I now move that the Gentleman from AKO BICOL Party-List, the honorable hardworking party-list president, Rodel M. Batocabe, be recognized to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Honorable Batocabe is recognized. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BATOCABE

REP. BATOCABE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Before anything else, I would like to thank the Majority Leader for the profuse praise for this Representation.

Mme. Speaker, my dear colleagues, this is an imperative matter that needs the urgent attention of the nation as thousands of families are currently being affected by Mayon.

Just this morning, Mme. Speaker, Mayon Volcano, after more than a week of restlessness, erupted, spewing smoke and ashes several kilometers high. Before that, although the alert level was raised at Level 3, Mayon was just spewing lava along its slopes. As such, several evacuees already went home thinking that the worst was over, if not the worst is not yet imminent.

As a matter of fact, the Provincial Government of Albay has already lifted the suspension of classes for today because of Mayon's quiet lava effusion yesterday. But what happened this morning underscores that Mother Nature cannot be predicted and controlled by technology, nor even by the most advanced scientific instruments. This what makes volcanic eruptions different from other natural calamities such as typhoons, earthquakes, floods or other man-made disasters.

The word here, Mme. Speaker, is unpredictability. When a volcano becomes restless, we do not know when it would erupt. It may take days or months, and this is what happens every time Mayon Volcano erupts.

In the immediately preceding eruption of 2014, more than 61,040 individuals or 14,347 families were evacuated for a maximum of five months. Forty public schools, 629 classrooms were used as evacuation centers in the different areas of Albay province. This is what makes this disaster unique. Victims have to be accommodated, fed, given livelihood and even conjugal room while waiting for Mayon to be calm, serene and beautiful again. In the meantime, it is not only the immediate families of the evacuees, their farmlands, their properties, or their lives that are adversely affected. There is more collateral damage, Mme. Speaker. Mme.

Speaker, my dear colleagues, I am referring to our school children. Our school children, our pupils, our teachers are also asked to vacate their classrooms to accommodate evacuees. For how long? We will never know.

To date, the Albay Philippine National Police reported that there are 38,000 evacuees that have already occupied temporary evacuation centers which are mostly public schools. DepEd Secretary Briones approved the release of P19 million for the construction of Temporary Learning Spaces or Temporary Learning Classrooms. Sad to say, Mme. Speaker, we are going to repeat the mistakes of the past, again.

In 2014, the Department of Education spent P18 million to build Temporary Learning Spaces or what we called TLS, in the amount of P60,000 per TLS, to accommodate the students displaced by the 10,116 families that utilized their classrooms as evacuation centers.

To date, we have at least 33,000 evacuees occupying 33 schools and 445 classrooms.

Ang nangyayari, Mme. Speaker, pinalalayas ang mga estudyante sa loob ng silid-aralan. The classrooms are designed not for shelter or habitation purposes. They are classroom-learning spaces. Instead of the students being confined to the classrooms, we are building temporary learning spaces which are not ventilated and not conducive to learning.

In the meantime, the evacuees are there inside the classrooms doing nothing. Hindi naman po buong araw, 24 hours a day, nandoon lahat ang evacuees sa loob ng classroom. Ang kailangan lang po natin ay tulugan. That is why, Mme. Speaker, instead of building temporary learning spaces for the students affected by the evacuation of families and individuals, is it not more logical to build temporary living quarters that could accommodate the evacuees? In this situation, not only would we provide shelter for them, we would also prevent the disruption of classes among the thousands of students. We should devote these resources and our time to create temporary living quarters. In the long term, there is really a need for us to build permanent evacuation centers, so that our pupils, our students, and the learning process will not be affected. I therefore urge the Department of Education to reconsider their plan to provide temporary learning spaces.

In 2014, when the evacuees were asked to decamp, they left the classrooms in total disarray or in a total mess. Sirang-sira po ang mga silya. Sira po ang mga bintana. Sira ang mga instructional materials which our teachers have painstakingly made. What did they do? They asked the PTA, the Parents-Teachers Association, to contribute for the damage done.

Are we going to repeat the same mistake again? Kapag umalis na naman ang evacuees dito sa mga classroom, I am sure they are no longer in a good state.

Sira na naman po ito because classrooms are precisely for learning and not for habitation purposes.

I therefore urge the Department of Education to channel their resources to the improvement of classrooms, rather than building temporary learning spaces. Ang nangyari noong 2014, pinangatong lang ang temporary learning spaces. We have P18 million for the TLS and P5 million for the chairs. So we wasted about P23 million. We could have spent those resources for relief or even the building of living quarters.

I therefore urge that we now change this policy. Stop using classrooms as evacuation centers. We build not temporary learning spaces, but temporary learning quarters.

In the long run, there is a need for us to build permanent evacuation centers, especially in areas frequented by disasters, especially volcanic eruptions, because we never know when the disaster will end.

Iyan po ang aking panukala, Mme. Speaker. Tigilan na po ang paggawa ng classroom bilang evacuation center. Gumawa na po tayo kung pangmadalian lang, temporary living quarters, and in the long term, permanent evacuation centers.

Thank you and good evening, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no interpellators, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Rodel Batocabe to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, the last Gentleman to avail of the Privilege Hour is the Hon. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate from the Party-List BAYAN MUNA. I move that he be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). The Hon. Carlos Isagani Zarate is recognized for the last privilege speech for the night. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ZARATE

REP. ZARATE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, noon pong nakaraang Huwebes ay nagkagulo at mayroong kalituhan sa City Hall ng Maynila sa programang “Passport on Wheels” na idinaos ng Department of Foreign Affairs. Mahigit-kumulang isang libo po ang dumating sa city hall para sana makakuha ng bago o di kaya ay makapagpa-renew ng kanilang mga lumang passports.

Ang “mobile passport service” ay may layon daw sanang dalhin ang pagsasaayos ng mga dokumentong pambiyaheng mga masa o ng mga walang kakayahan o kapasidad na gamitin ang tinatawag ngayong “automated appointment system” ng DFA. Subalit noong nakaraang Huwebes, Mme. Speaker, marahil dahil na rin sa hindi nakita o dahil kulang sa pagpapalano, naging masaklap ang karanasan ng ating mga mamamayan, lalung-lalo na ang ating OFWs. Nasisisi ang mga “walk-in” na mga aplikante dahil hindi daw para sa kanila ang “passport on wheels” at ito ay para lamang sa mga residente ng Maynila na nakapagpatala nang maaga.

Mme. Speaker, masisisi ba natin ang mga dumagsang aplikante para sa bagong passport o renewal nito? Sa totoo lang po, may mga reklamo tayong natanggap na talaga namang mabagal ang pagpapa-schedule ngayon ng application ng mga bago o pag-renew ng ating mga passport. Sa katunayan, sa darating na Marso pa nga tatanggap muli ng application para rito.

Karugtong na usapin po rito, Mme. Speaker, ang kabagalan din ng paglilimbag o pagpi-print ng mga bagong pasaporte at ang mga napapabalitang mga problema at anomalya sa likod nito.

Mme. Speaker, ang mga ordinaryo pong mga aplikante, lalung-lalo na ang libu-libong OFWs na kumukuha ng bago o nagre-renew ng kanilang mga pasaporte ay hirap na hirap na at lubhang apektado na sa mga pangyayaring ito.

Ayon pa sa ilang mga aplikante, may mga sindikato diumano na nagbebenta ng “appointment” sa passport kapalit ng mataas na halaga. Hindi man gaanong binigyang pansin ito ni DFA Sec. Alan Peter Cayetano, at hindi rin nila itinanggi na maaari ngang mayroong ganoong sindikato na kakutsaba ang ilan sa loob ng kanilang ahensya.

Mme. Speaker, ipagpalagay na natin na totoo o mayroon ngang sindikato sa mga nasa travel agency at kawani ng DFA, parang napakaliit na bahagi lamang ito ng problema ng “passport backlog” ng DFA. Nasabi natin ito, Mme. Speaker, dahil ayon na rin sa ilang mapapagkatiwalaang “sources” sa loob at labas ng DFA, mukhang ang mas malaking parte ng problema ay nakaugat mismo sa maanomalyang pag-subcontract ng Asian Productivity Organization-Production Unit or APO-PU ng paglilimbag ng ating mga pasaporte sa isang pribadong kompanya na nagngangalang United Graphic Expression Corp. (UGEC), na ito rin ang isinasangkot noon sa pekeng stamps ng Mighty Cigarette Corporation.

Sa ipinasok na joint venture agreement noong October 15, 2015 ng APO-PU at UGEC, iginagarantiya ng huli na magde-deliver dapat ito ng 3.4 milyong e-passports sa loob ng isang taon. Pero sa halip, isang milyon o 1.9 million pasaporte lamang ang nagawa nito hanggang March 2017. Malinaw, Mme. Speaker, na

hindi kaya ng UGEC ang pagpi-print o paglilimbag ng pasaporte, dahil higit milyon na ang kanilang backlog, pero sila pa rin po ang naglilimbag o nagpi-print ng pasaporte hanggang sa ngayon.

Maliban pa sa usapin ng “backlog,” napakarami pang mga katanungan sa operation ng UGEC na dapat ding malinawan, tulad halimbawa ng mga usapin ng passport booklet inventory, back up of printing personalization, disaster recovery system, security issues at iba pang usapin na nakapaloob sa nasabing joint venture agreement, Mme. Speaker.

Napakarami pong mga katanungan na dapat masagot dito at ang mga problemang dapat malutas nang kagyat para mapabilis na matugunan natin ang pangangailangan ng pasaporte ng ating mga kababayan, lalo’t higit ng ating mga OFW. Kaya, Mme. Speaker, ang BAYAN MUNA po at ang Kinatawang ito ay nananawagan ng isang kagyat na imbestigasyon ng Kapulungang ito sa problemang paglilimbag at pagpoproseso ng ating mga pasaporte, specifically po ang ipinasok na joint venture agreement ng APO-PU at ng UGEC.

Sana po sa kagyat na panahon ay mapagbigyan ito ng ating Kapulungan para na rin po sa kagalingan ng ating mga mamayan at ng ating mga OFW.

Maraming salamat at magandang gabi, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Garin, S.). Thank you, Congressman Zarate.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Carlos Isagani Zarate to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move that we terminate the same.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we include the additional coauthors to House Bills No. 6893, 6908 and 6923, as contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

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

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF CERTAIN MEASURES

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of certain measures:

1. House Bill No. 201, from the Committee on Aquaculture and Fisheries Resources to the Special Committee on Climate Change;

2. House Bill No. 1509, from the Special Committee on Reforestation to the Special Committee on Climate Change;

3. House Bill No. 3260, from the Committee on Natural Resources to the Special Committee on Climate Change;

4. House Bills No. 685 and 6916, from the Committee on Public Information to the Committee on Justice; and

5. House Resolution No. 360, from the Committee on Health, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, there being no other matters for today, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, January 23, 2018, at four o’clock in the afternoon.

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

The session is adjourned.

It was 8:12 p.m.