



# Congressional Record

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

## House of Representatives

Vol. 4

Wednesday, January 24, 2018

No. 54

### CALL TO ORDER

*At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Pia S. Cayetano called the session to order.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The session is called to order.

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Everyone is requested to rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Please remain standing. The Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD, of the Party-List COOP-NATCCO will lead us in prayer.

*Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.*

### INVOCATION

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

Heavenly Father, we stand before You in humble prayer before we start the session today.

We pray for guidance in the matters at hand so we could produce the best decisions and results beneficial to our constituents.

Show us how to deal with our work and responsibility to the public with enthusiasm and joy.

Grant us wisdom and strength as we go on with our daily endeavors to make sure that our work is in accordance with Your will.

Help us to work together and encourage each other to do what is just and right.

We thank You for the many blessings that You shower us, and may we learn to share these blessings to the people who need them most.

Amidst the issues and conflicts confronting our society, we pray for a peaceful resolve.

We pray in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Amen.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

### ROLL CALL

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). 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. 54, dated January 24, 2018.\**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 199 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). With 199 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mme. Speaker, I move for the deferment of the approval of the Journal of the previous session.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 6979, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE GUIMARAS LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) EXTENSION OFFICE INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE”

By Representative Nava

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6980, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING REPRESENTATION OF SENIOR CITIZENS IN THE DIFFERENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Datol

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 6981, entitled:

“AN ACT SETTING THE AGE AND HEALTH QUALIFICATIONS FOR CHAIRMAN AND COMMISSIONERS OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION”

By Representative Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 6982, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING RESOURCE CENTERS FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bernos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

House Bill No. 6983, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE GAMES AND AMUSEMENT BOARD IN THE OPERATION OF COCKFIGHTING IN THE PHILIPPINES, AMENDING THE COCKFIGHTING LAW OF 1974 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bernos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Bill No. 6984, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE AUTOMATIC REHABILITATION OF ARRESTED/APPREHENDED PERSONS FOUND TO BE DRUG DEPENDENT, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9165, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘COMPREHENSIVE DANGEROUS DRUGS ACT OF 2002’, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Bernos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS

House Bill No. 6985, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING ARTICLE 2206 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CIVIL CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Bernos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 6986, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING A STANDARD OF CARE FOR THE TREATMENT OF PERSONS WITH BLEEDING DISORDERS, ESTABLISHING TREATMENT CENTERS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Herrera-Dy

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 6987, entitled:

“AN ACT TO RECLASSIFY THE MANGABUL RESERVATION IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAYAMBANG, PROVINCE OF PANGASINAN, INTO ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LAND OF THE PUBLIC DOMAIN FOR THE PURPOSE OF REDISTRIBUTING THE SAME TO THE BONA FIDE AND LONG-TERM FARMERS/OCCUPANTS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Arenas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6988, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING MEDICAL EDUCATION, LICENSURE, RESIDENCY, AND PRACTICE IN THE PHILIPPINES, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSES REPUBLIC ACT NO. 2382 OR THE MEDICAL ACT OF 1959, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tan (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 6989, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING HAZARD PAY TO ALL PUBLIC PROSECUTORS IN THE PHILIPPINES DURING THEIR INCUMBENCY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gonzaga

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 6990, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE QUEZON PROTECTED LANDSCAPE IN THE MUNICIPALITIES OF ATIMONAN, PAGBILAO AND PADRE BURGOS, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AS A PROTECTED AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF PROTECTED LANDSCAPE, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANAGEMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Tan (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 6991, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING A CLASS ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS”

By Representative Zubiri

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6992, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA OF AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT WORKERS”

By Representative Panganiban

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 6993, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE ISABELA COASTAL SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE (ICSEZO) IN THE PROVINCE OF ISABELA, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE

ISABELA COASTAL SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Panganiban

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 6994, entitled:

“AN ACT REINSTITUTING THE MANDATORY DRUG TESTING FOR APPLICATION/ RENEWAL OF DRIVER’S LICENSE, THEREBY REPEALING A PORTION OF SECTION 19 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10586”

By Representative Mariño

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 6996, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A MAGNA CARTA FOR WORKERS IN THE ENERGY SECTOR OF THE PHILIPPINES, AUTHORIZING THE COLLECTION AND APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Arenas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 6997, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A RURAL DEVELOPMENT AMELIORATION FUND”

By Representative Ramos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT

House Bill No. 6998, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE TAWANTAWAN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TAWANTAWAN, BAGUIO DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY TO BE KNOWN AS AGLAY AYAG ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Ungab

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 6999, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAGUINBANUA EAST ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LAGUINBANUA, MUNICIPALITY OF NUMANCIA, PROVINCE OF AKLAN, INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN

AS ‘LAGUINBANUA EAST INTEGRATED SCHOOL’, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Marquez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 7000, entitled:

“ANACTRECOGNIZINGTHEBOYSCOUTSOFTHE PHILIPPINES AS AN INDEPENDENT, VOLUNTARY AUTONOMOUS, NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION, INSTITUTING ITS NEW CHARTER, DEFINING ITS OBJECTIVES, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE, COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 111, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Relampagos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 7001, entitled:

“AN ACT DELIMITING THE EXTENT OF ALIENABLE AND DISPOSABLE LANDS VIS-A-VISFORESTLANDSANDNATIONAL PARKS IN THE PROVINCE OF PALAWAN BY CLASSIFYING PARCELS OF PUBLIC FORESTS AS AGRICULTURAL LANDS UNDER THE 1987 CONSTITUTION”

By Representatives Alvarez (F.), Abueg and Acosta  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7002, entitled:

“AN ACT UPHOLDING THE SANCTITY OF FAMILY LIFE”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 7003, entitled:

“ANACTDIVIDINGBARANGAYADAMSINTHE MUNICIPALITY OF ADAMS, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE INTO TWO (2) DISTINCT AND INDEPENDENT BARANGAYS TO BE KNOWN AS BARANGAY ADAN AND BARANGAY BUCAROT”

By Representative Fariñas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1595, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING FILIPINO

SCIENTIST APOLLO ARQUIZA, Ph.D., FOR BRINGING HONOR AND PRESTIGE TO THE PHILIPPINES AS THE FIRST SCIENTIST TO COOK BY FRYING IN A SIMULATED LOW GRAVITY ENVIRONMENT ON THE G-FORCE ONE PLANE UNDER THE N.A.S.A. REDUCED GRAVITY PROGRAM”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Resolution No. 1596, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING HILLARY ANDALES OF THE PHILIPPINE SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL EASTERN VISAYAS CAMPUS FOR BRINGING HONOR AND PRESTIGE TO THE PHILIPPINES AS THE FIRST FILIPINA TO WIN IN THE JUNIOR BREAKTHROUGH CHALLENGE 2017”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Resolution No. 1597, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE DEATH OF 38 WORKERS IN THE NCCC MALL FIRE IN DAVAO CITY AND PROBE THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY (PEZA), DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (DOLE), AND THE DAVAO CITY GOVERNMENT”

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

House Resolution No. 1598, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO EXPRESS ITS PROFOUND SENSE OF LOSS FOR THE PASSING OF PHILIPPINE FASHION ICON JOSE ‘PITTOY’ MORENO”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1599, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED MISUSE OF FUNDS OF THE PHILIPPINE CHARITY

SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE AS WELL AS THE VARIOUS CHARGES OF CORRUPTION AND ANOMALIES”

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

House Resolution No. 1600, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE(S) TO CONDUCT A PROBE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED INCREASE IN BANK FRAUD INVOLVING BDO UNIBANK”

By Representative Bertiz  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1601, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE TERRITORIAL LIMITATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS”

By Representative Suarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1604, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EARNESTLY URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT (DBM) TO ABIDE THE PROPER IMPLEMENTATION OF R.A. 7171 AND R.A. 8240 FOR THE PROMOTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALL THE FARMERS IN THE VIRGINIA TOBACCO PRODUCING PROVINCES”

By Representatives Savellano, Ortega (P.), De Venecia, Vargas-Alfonso, Mangaoang, Eriguel, Go (A.C.), Aggabao, Bataoil, Bernos, Cuaresma, Arenas, Baguilat, Primicias-Agabas and Singson (E.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 1605, entitled:

“RESOLUTION COMMENDING MR. ANTONIO ‘TONITO’ PAYUMO FOR WINNING THE CHAMPIONSHIP IN THE RECENTLY-HELD WORLD AMATEUR GOLFERS INVITATIONAL (WAGI) FINALS AND THE ENTIRE PHILIPPINE TEAM FOR BEING AWARDED THE 2017 TUMBA TROPHY IN THE SAME COMPETITION IN KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA LAST NOVEMBER 18 TO 25, 2017”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 576), re H.B. No. 7005, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE EVEREST ACADEMY AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER AND GRANTING THE ACADEMY CERTAIN PREROGATIVES TO PROMOTE ITS DEVELOPMENT”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4512

Sponsors: Representatives Durano and Uybarreta  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 577), re H.B. No. 7007, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE DAVAO ORIENTAL STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CITY OF MATI AND ALL ITS SATELLITE CAMPUSES LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE DAVAO ORIENTAL STATE UNIVERSITY, INTEGRATING THEREWITH THE GOVERNOR GENEROSO COLLEGE OF ARTS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GOVERNOR GENEROSO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4218

Sponsors: Representatives Hofer, Nograles (K.A.), Cua and Almario  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6649 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6649, contained in Committee Report No. 477, as reported out by the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6649, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING FURTHER THE PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS TO INCLUDE FINANCIAL AND ENTREPRENEURIAL EDUCATION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINOS ACT OF 1995.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs, the Hon. Jesulito A. Manalo, be recognized to begin his sponsorship of the measure.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Chairperson, the Honorable Manalo, is hereby recognized.

Please proceed.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech thereon.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Explanatory Note of the Bill is considered as the sponsorship speech thereon.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is terminated.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby opened.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to make amendments, I therefore move that we close the period of amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 6649, as contained in Committee Report No. 477.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 6649 on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6649 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6649 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6306 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6306, contained in

Committee Report No. 503, as reported out by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6306, entitled: AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER, GRANTING CERTAIN PREROGATIVES CONDUCIVE TO ITS DEVELOPMENT AS SUCH, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Basic Education and Culture, Rep. Ramon “Red” H. Durano VI, be recognized to sponsor the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Chairperson, the Honorable Durano, is hereby recognized to deliver his sponsorship speech.

REP. DURANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I ask that the Explanatory Note of the said measure be considered as my sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Explanatory Note of the Hon. Red Durano is hereby considered as the sponsorship speech.

Please proceed.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby opened.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby opened.

#### COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider and adopt the following Committee amendments as contained in the Committee Report:

1. On page 3, after the last sentence of Section 3, insert the following new Section: SEC. 4. SUPERVISION AND REGULATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION. – NOTWITHSTANDING THE RECOGNITION AND PREROGATIVES UNDER THIS ACT, THE BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA SHALL BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND REGULATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SHALL ADHERE TO BASIC LAWS, AND RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL OR FOREIGN SCHOOLS. And renumber the succeeding sections accordingly;

2. On page 3, delete Section 6 and in lieu thereof insert the following Section: SEC. 7. EFFECTIVITY. – THIS ACT SHALL TAKE EFFECT FIFTEEN (15) DAYS AFTER ITS PUBLICATION IN THE OFFICIAL GAZETTE OR IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION; and

3. The title of the bill is hereby amended as: AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER AND GRANTING THE SCHOOL CERTAIN PREROGATIVES CONDUCIVE TO ITS DEVELOPMENT.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Committee amendments as contained in the Committee Report are hereby approved.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to consider individual amendments, and I move that we recognize the Hon. Ron P. Salo for his individual amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Ron Salo is hereby recognized.

REP. SALO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker. May I inquire if the Honorable Chairman would be willing to accept some individual amendments.

REP. DURANO. May we first hear the amendment, Mme. Speaker.

#### INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENT

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, I respectfully move to amend Section 4 of the Bill, to respectfully propose, Mme. Speaker, to remove the phrase “Notwithstanding the recognition and prerogatives under this Act.” As such, Section 4 shall now read as follows:

SEC. 4. SUPERVISION AND REGULATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION – THE BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA SHALL BE UNDER THE SUPERVISION AND REGULATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SHALL ADHERE TO BASIC LAWS, AND RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION GOVERNING INTERNATIONAL OR FOREIGN SCHOOLS.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

REP. DURANO. The Committee does not object to the amendment, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). There being no objection from the Chair ...

The Majority Leader is recognized. Yes?

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we accept the amendment, as proposed.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. SALO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). That is all?

REP. SALO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Okay. Thank you, Hon. Ron Salo.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes, Majority Leader.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we close the period of amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is closed.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes?

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 6306, as amended, as contained in Committee Report No. 503.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). There is a motion for the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 6306, as amended.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6306, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6306, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6710 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6710, contained in



Committee Report No. 490, as reported out by the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6710, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR ADDITIONAL PROHIBITIONS TO AND INCREASING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8484, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “ACCESS DEVICES REGULATION ACT OF 1998.”

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries, Rep. Ben P. Evardone, be recognized to begin his sponsorship of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Honorable Evardone is hereby recognized to deliver his sponsorship speech.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. EVARDONE

REP. EVARDONE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Honorable Speaker, esteemed colleagues:

An impending crisis is at hand that must be addressed swiftly and decisively to prevent an erosion of confidence in our banking system that could hamper our country’s economic expansion.

Mme. Speaker, with the pleasure of the Body, I would just like to have this piece be entered in the records.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the sponsorship speech of the Sponsor is hereby inserted in the records.

REP. EVARDONE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby opened.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby opened.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I therefore move that we proceed to consider the individual amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Jose Enrique “Joet” S. Garcia III for his individual amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Honorable Garcia is hereby recognized to propose his amendments.

REP. GARCIA (J.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, I would like to propose the following amendments and I would like to ask if the Sponsor is open to amendments.

REP. EVARDONE. With pleasure, Mme. Speaker.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

## INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENTS

REP. GARCIA (J.). Mme. Speaker, on page 5, line 19, insert a new Section 5 to read as follows:

A CARDHOLDER WHO ABANDONS OR SURREPTITIOUSLY LEAVES THE PLACE OF EMPLOYMENT, BUSINESS OR RESIDENCE STATED IN HIS APPLICATION OR CREDIT CARD, WITHOUT INFORMING THE CREDIT CARD COMPANY OF THE PLACE WHERE HE COULD ACTUALLY BE FOUND, IF AT THE TIME OF SUCH ABANDONMENT OR SURREPTITIOUS LEAVING, THE OUTSTANDING AND UNPAID BALANCE IS PAST DUE FOR AT LEAST NINETY (90) DAYS AND IS MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P200,000.00), SHALL BE PRIMA FACIE PRESUMED TO HAVE USED HIS CREDIT CARD WITH INTENT TO DEFRAUD.

So, Mme. Speaker, the first amendment is the one on page 5, line 19, inserting what I read in the new Section 5.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Thank you.

What does the Sponsor say?

REP. EVARDONE. We accept, Mme. Speaker, the proposed amendment.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes, thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move to accept the individual amendment, as proposed.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment, as proposed by the Honorable Garcia, is hereby approved.

Please proceed, Honorable Garcia.

REP. GARCIA (J.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, on page 5, after Section 5, insert another new Section to read as follows:

SEC. 6. SECTION 16 OF R.A. 8484 IS HEREBY AMENDED TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 16. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. – ALL COMPANIES ENGAGED IN THE BUSINESS OF ISSUING ACCESS DEVICES, INCLUDING BANKS, FINANCING COMPANIES AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ISSUING ACCESS DEVICES, AS WELL AS ALL PARTNER MERCHANTS, SHALL CONDUCT INITIAL INVESTIGATION ON ANY REPORTED ACCESS

DEVICE FRAUD AND FURNISH REAL-TIME REPORTS ON THE RESULT THEREOF TO THE NATIONAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (NBI) AND THE ANTI-CYBERCRIME GROUP OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP).

THE REPORT SHALL CONTAIN AN NARRATION ABOUT THE FRAUD COMMITTED AND AN IDENTIFICATION OF THE PERPETRATOR, IF FEASIBLE. THE REPORT SHALL FURTHER CONSTITUTE THE COMPLAINT NECESSARY FOR THE NBI OR THE ANTI-CYBERCRIME GROUP OF THE PNP TO PURSUE FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF THE FRAUD.

NOTWITHSTANDING THIS REQUIREMENT, BANKS, FINANCING COMPANIES AND OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS, INCLUDING THEIR SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATES, ISSUING ACCESS DEVICES SHALL CONTINUE TO BE REGULATED AND SUPERVISED BY THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS WHILE OTHER COMPANIES ISSUING ACCESS DEVICES SHALL CONTINUE TO BE REGULATED AND SUPERVISED BY THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.

THE NBI AND THE ANTI-CYBERCRIME GROUP OF THE PNP MAY COMPEL ACCESS DEVICE ISSUERS AND PARTNER MERCHANTS TO COOPERATE AND ASSIST IN INVESTIGATIONS ON ACCESS DEVICE FRAUDS AS WELL AS THE SUBMISSION OF ADDITIONAL DATA AS NEEDED ON A CASE TO CASE BASIS.

FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE ORDERS FROM LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES SHALL BE PUNISHED AS A VIOLATION OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE 1829 WITH IMPRISONMENT OF *PRISION CORRECCIONAL* IN ITS MAXIMUM PERIOD OR A FINE OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (PHP100,000.00) OR BOTH, FOR EACH AND EVERY NONCOMPLIANCE WITH AN ORDER ISSUED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITIES.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). What does the Sponsor say?

REP. EVARDONE. The Committee, Mme. Speaker, accepts the amendment.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve the individual amendment, as proposed.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment, as proposed, is hereby approved.

You may proceed.

REP. GARCIA (J.). Lastly, Mme. Speaker, the succeeding sections of the Bill are renumbered accordingly.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). That is an administrative matter. So, if that is okay with the Sponsor, Majority Leader, ...

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve the individual amendment as proposed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). It is just a renumbering.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the renumbering is hereby noted.

I believe there are no other amendments.

REP. GARCIA (J.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, there being no other individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of amendments is hereby closed.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 6710, as amended, as contained Committee Report No. 490.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). There is a motion to approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 6710, as amended, All those in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). All those against, please say *nay*. (*Silence*)

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6710, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6710, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

REP. EVARDONE. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

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

#### CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6973 ON SECOND READING

#### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6973, contained in Committee Report No. 572, as reported out by the Committee on Metro Manila Development.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6973, entitled: AN ACT ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE METROPOLITAN MANILA COUNCIL IN FORMULATING POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS, AND IN ENACTING ORDINANCES FOR METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7924, ENTITLED "AN ACT CREATING THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Metro Manila Development, the Hon. Winston "Winnie" Castelo, be recognized to begin the sponsorship of the measure.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Hon. Winnie Castelo, the Chairperson of the said Committee, is hereby recognized to deliver his sponsorship speech.

REP. CASTELO. Thank you very much, Mme. Presiding Officer.

To save precious legislative time and to abbreviate the proceedings, Mme. Presiding Officer, I move that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

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

As stated by the Sponsor to save precious time, the Explanatory Note of the Bill is hereby considered as the sponsorship speech on the measure.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate on the measure.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby opened.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Gentleman from the BUHAY Party-List, the Hon. Lito Atienza, for his interpellation.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Hon. Jose "Lito" L. Atienza Jr. from BUHAY Party-List is hereby recognized for his interpellation.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you, Majority Leader. With the kind indulgence of the Gentleman, the Chairman of the Metro Manila Development Committee, we would like to ask many questions on his proposed creation of a new MMDA.

REP. CASTELO. Willingly, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. Let us go back a bit in history as we go through the judgment of how this experiment, a hybrid form of government, that was given to Metro Manila.

Sometime in 1975, by virtue of Presidential Decree No. 824, binuo po itong Metro Manila Commission. Then, it was recreated after EDSA into the Metro Manila

Authority. After that, it turned into the Metro Manila Development Authority. Tama po ba iyon?

Doon sa tatlong hakbang na iyon, ang pakay po ng ating pamahalaan at ng mga namuno ng mga panahong iyon ay mabigyan ng epektibong pagpapalano ang rehiyon ng Metro Manila para po naman ito ay mabuo at umunlad. Kaya po ito ay tinatawag natin ngayong Metro Manila Development Authority.

Ang tanong ko po ay, una, nakabuo po ba ng development plan ang Metro Manila Development Authority sa panahon ngayon? Mayroon na po ba silang sinusunod na plano na binuo nila sa pamamagitan nitong kapangyarihang ito? Do they have a development plan for Metro Manila, Mme. Speaker?

REP. CASTELO. Mme. Presiding Officer, with respect to the query and interpellation of the Representative from BUHAY Party-List and a former Mayor of Manila, through you, may we request also that a former Mayor of Marikina, Rep. Bayani "BF" F. Fernando, be recognized to answer the interpellation of Representative Atienza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Hon. Bayani Fernando is recognized to respond to the question.

REP. FERNANDO. Thank you, Congressman Castelo, Mme. Speaker.

Metro Manila has a complete development plan. The MMDA, the department headed by an assistant director, handles this planning for Metro Manila. We do have. As a matter of fact, we even had a complete study, a complete plan on how to handle the number one problem of Metro Manila, the 550,000 squatter families in Metro Manila. We do have such plans, complete plans. When I left the office, it was there, and it is for you, anybody can have a look at it.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, I would like to direct the question now to the Gentleman standing up to explain this measure.

Kung mayroon po silang development plan, iyon po ba ay development plan ni Bayani Fernando o development plan ng Metro Manila Development Authority?

REP. FERNANDO. Iyon po ay institutionalized. Iyan ay development plan of the Metro Manila Development Authority, prepared and approved by the Metro Manila Council.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyan po ay simula ng problema. Mayroong planong binuo ang kagalang-galang na

Kongresista Fernando subalit hindi po naisama sa institution ng Metro Manila governance. It became a program of Chairman Fernando that during his time he was probably following, but after him, kung tatanungin ko po siya ngayon, sinusunod ba iyong plano ninyo?

REP. FERNANDO. Iyan ang pinakamalaking problema, Mme. Speaker, how to institutionalize things. How can they survive with the exigencies of politics? So, that is the very essence of this proposed Bill, as to how it can help to institutionalize things. If I may be allowed to read to fully explain this—I am supposed to make this an opening statement.

Anyway, 24 years since the MMDA was created, we have yet to see a single ticketing system for Metro Manila. We would have seen by now much disciplined roadway users in Metro Manila if we had this 24 years ago. This is just one among the many things we need to solve, the traffic crisis we are in now. Tasked to put this up is the MMDA, as especially mentioned in the MMDA Law. Now, we have 17 LGUs in Metro Manila and each has its own unique ticketing system, and one of MMDA's single ticketing system. In the ensuing confusion, the people learned to live with it and suffer.

The MMDA single ticketing system has been there complete for adoption a decade before this time, which would have given our motorists by now no quarters to abuse. I am to blame. I could not find any means to find a solution to the question of autonomy which has bogged Congress in the very inception of the MMDA Law. All I had then was a wishful thought of a mechanism that we may now find in the spirit of this proposed amendment.

Authored by 30 of the 31 Congressmen of Metro Manila and the concurrence of the local government representative-members of the Technical Working Group, who worked on it for the purpose, and the unanimous approval of the Committee of Metro Manila concerned and its Chair, Congressman Castelo, we now present this to this big Chamber with high hopes of eliciting the brilliant collective thoughts of all our colleagues ...

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker.

REP. FERNANDO. ... who by the way ...

REP. ATIENZA. Is the Gentleman delivering a sponsorship speech or is he responding to my question? I will sit down first if he is delivering a sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). I think he mentioned that it is a part of the speech which was in response to His Honor's question, so if that is the response then ...

REP. ATIENZA. I have one question ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). ... let us ask the Hon. Bayani Fernando to finish ...

REP. ATIENZA. If you allow this, Mme. Speaker, I would like to request the Chair to deduct the time he is consuming. He has already consumed six minutes of my time because, otherwise, baka mamaya hindi na po ako makapagtanong dahil sasabihin ninyo mahaba na masyado ito. I am willing to listen to him but let us not consider that as part of the interpellation of this Representation. Well, I have one question, I want an answer, not a lecture on the concept of the Gentleman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). So, I think that is noted. Let us proceed.

REP. BAYANI. I think I have answered your question, Mme. Speaker. Well, anyway, if I had not done so, will you please repeat the question?

REP. ATIENZA. Nakalimutan po niya, tingnan ninyo. Kaya malayo na po ang usapan. Ang tanong ko po ay iyong kanyang sinasabing plano na binuo niya ay naging matagumpay po ba? Tinutupad po ba ngayon ng MMDA o nakalimutan na sa kasaysayan ng ating Metro Manila experience or experiment?

REP. FERNANDO. Precisely, Mme. Speaker, that is the essence, that is the spirit of this law that we are considering right now.

REP. ATIENZA. So, you are admitting that the initiate ...

REP. FERNANDO. From the very start, when the bill creating Metro Manila was discussed in this Chamber, the framers had a big problem on how to pierce the veil of autonomy of the local governments so that they can create a more effective Metro Manila Development Authority. But all that they were able to do was to give the Chairman of the MMDA a Cabinet seat and place this agency under the Office of the President.

Precisely, Mme. Speaker, the policymaking body, according to the MMDA Law is the Metro Manila Council. But in my experience, in my eight years with the agency, we could not do much in having ordinances that would actually make more effective enforcement of policies and rules and regulations. Everything is put to question in the courts. That is why this Bill would solve that problem.

REP. ATIENZA. Again, Mme. Speaker, I am

reiterating my question. Is this plan being implemented or not? I need an answer before I proceed. Otherwise, he is now deviating from other topics which I intend to question later on. But he is answering already before I even ask the question.

Ang tanong ko lamang po, iyon po bang plano ninyo na sinasabi ninyong nabuo ninyo ay sinusunod o hindi?

REP. FERNANDO. I am sorry. Okay. Hindi po nasusunod lahat.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi po nasusunod.

REP. FERNANDO. Hindi po lahat. Mayroon pong nasusunod, mayroong hindi.

REP. ATIENZA. Dahil kung sinabi ninyong nasusunod, eh kayo pala ang may kasalanan nitong kapalpakan ngayon.

REP. FERNANDO. Ako po ay kabahagi ng kapalpakan na iyan, kung mayroon man.

REP. ATIENZA. Opo. Hindi nasusunod. Alam ninyo po kung bakit hindi nasusunod? Siguro aaminin ninyo.

REP. FERNANDO. Uhhh.

REP. ATIENZA. Sapagkat iyong ginagawa ng MMDA before and now in another direction today ay lihis sa ating Saligang Batas. The Metro Manila experiment is an experiment. It is not contained in our Constitution because the Constitution respects local autonomy. Kaya iyong kanilang eksperimentong ginawa, dinala sa Korte Suprema, talo sila. Di po ba natalo kayo? Sabi ng Korte Suprema, hindi kayo puwedeng gumawa ng ordinansa sapagkat ang ordinansa ay local government function. Malinaw po iyon dahil dinaanan natin pare-pareho iyon. Iyon po ba ay sinasang-ayunan ninyo o hindi? Tama po, hindi po ba?

REP. FERNANDO. Iyan pong sinasabi ninyo ay bahagi ng batas na ginawa ng Kongresong ito.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang sinasabi ninyo ngayon, gumagawa kayo ng batas to overrule, override local autonomy as a principle enshrined in the Constitution. Iyon po ba ang sinasabi ninyo? This law will now override the impact and effect of local autonomy as a principle of governance.

REP. FERNANDO. Actually, it will thus make it more effective. But actually in the MMDA Law, the Metro Manila Council or the MMDA has that authority

to make ordinances. But somehow, in the course of these law suits and all these questions, they have missed the point that the MMDA has the authority. It can make—not the MMDA, it is the Metro Manila Council—ordinances but restricted to the functions, to the mandate of the MMDA, restricted to the specific mandate of the MMDA but not totally without that power to legislate.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, I can see the passion of the Gentleman in sponsoring this Bill because he would like to see an effective regional government in Metro Manila, and I share that with him.

Kami ho ay nagtrabahong magkasama at one point in our history. But, that passionate sentiment has to be delayed in consonance with the intention of the Constitution. And we cannot pass a law today giving the Metro Manila government unit more powers, what precisely the Supreme Court cautioned them, dahan-dahan kayo. Hindi kayo puwedeng gumawa ng batas for Metro Manila. You will have to consult the mayors and the mayors will have to work with their Sangguniang Bayan. Hindi po ba iyon ang wording ng Supreme Court decision? And each local government unit will have to pass an ordinance because sila ang tunay na gobyerno at kayo naman ay eksperimento lang. You are a special body that cannot be over and above local government units, which are directly elected by the people.

Ito tayo ngayon, nag-uusap tayo para bigyan ng mas higit na kapangyarihan, pero hindi po natin puwedeng tawirin iyong provision of the Constitution, kaya binabasa ko po ito from page one up to the last page. It is full of inconsistencies because they would want to comply with the constitutional mandate of giving the local government units the power, but at the same time, they want to usurp that same power by repeating in many instances of this proposed Bill that the MMDA will now set the policies, laws, and even collect and impose taxes on Metro Manila, which they cannot do. That will be taxation without representation which is another violation of the Constitution. Kaya ako po ay naniniwala sa kanya, hinahangaan ko siya, pero ito pong batas na ito ay hindi makatutulong, bagkus, makapagpapagulo pa lalo ng buhay nating lahat with regard to the basic services which they should really be planning.

Ang MMDA po ay development planner at hindi po local government unit iyan. Ang local government units po sa Maynila ay mayroong mayor, may mga konsehal, at may vice-mayor na hindi puwedeng saklawan ng isang appointed official. Kaya kung gusto po natin talagang ayusin ang mga problema natin sa Metro Manila ay ayusin natin iyang internet connection, ayusin natin ang baha, at ayusin natin ang lahat ng mga serbisyong nagpapahirap sa ating buhay dahil hindi po ito ang solusyon.

Iyon lang naman po ang pinupuna ko. The solution is disjointed to the problem. They want to give the Metro Manila government, which is appointed by the President, more powers than what the Constitution directly provides.

I will join him in any effort to really solve the problem, but not to create a bigger one, dahil po lahat tayo mananagot later on. Sino na naman ang mga gumawa niyang mga batas na iyan? I would want to say, hindi po ako iyan. Iyong mga nakapirma po roon, sila po ang may gawa.

Ang tanong ko pong susunod ay, do you plan to impose new taxes for Metro Manilans?

REP. FERNANDO. Hindi po. Wala pong karapatang mag-ano ng taxes ang MMDA. Ever, not ever. Not, it is not in the MMDA Law; it is beyond the authority of the agency.

REP. ATIENZA. Eto po e, under your proposed new section, or portion of the section, Section 4 which is Section 6 in this Act. You are giving the power, the mandate of the MMDA to prescribe and collect service and regulatory fees. E wala po kayong power na ganun e.

REP. FERNANDO. No regulatory fees, but not taxes, ...

REP. ATIENZA. Sapagkat hindi kayo halal. Sabi nga, mga marami sila, ...

REP. FERNANDO. ... penalties.

REP. ATIENZA. ... tayo ay inihalal, sila ay hangal, because you are usurping functions which are not in accordance with the law. Eto na naman, inulit na naman ninyo. Do you think if this is passed, nobody will question it in the Supreme Court? This is a decided issue, Mme. Speaker. The MMDA cannot collect taxes nor impose taxes on the people. You have to pass through ...

REP. FERNANDO. Wala pong taxes, ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... the local sanggunian.

REP. FERNANDO. ... regulatory fees. Wala pong taxes.

Well, anyway, Mme. Speaker, ...

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon bang regulatory fee ay hindi taxes? Hindi po ba pera iyon? Unless you are talking about bitcoin which is imaginary. When you pass a regulatory fee and collect from the people, you are taxing the people. That is as clear as daylight.

REP. FERNANDO. No. It is a ...

REP. ATIENZA. But you do not have that power. So, how? Where will you derive the authority that you envisioned in this proposed law?

REP. FERNANDO. Actually, to make things clear, the intent of the Bill is, actually, to reduce the power of the MMC. Ang magkakaroon ng poder ay ang local government units. Ang local government sanggunian will approve resolutions and ordinances proposed by the Metro Manila Council, and it is now the 17 Local Government Councils who will decide, who will approve this thing, so that we can now question the autonomy. There will be no fear. It should be—the local governments will not feel that their local autonomy will be violated. It is their Local Government Council who will now approve—the Metro Manila Council will put up any question—stop work and all these things with due consultation, everything. They will prepare the draft of the bill or regulation and then, it will be presented to the 17 local government councils.

This time, because we have 17 mayors in Metro Manila and about 287 councilors, it is almost the size of the Congress of the Philippines, so we cannot afford having it like that. We never had a common ordinance for Metro Manila because there are too many players in this.

Now, with this—the proposal of the Metro Manila Council, having been studied and approved by the technical working group, if there be a necessity, will be presented to the Council, and they will vote on the proposal; but this time, a vote of a yes or no without any amendment. And the majority vote will determine—will decide—if it is approved, with the majority of the local government councils, then the MMC will do nothing but to promulgate the regulation or the ordinance.

Wala pong ano, wala pong kukunin na ...

REP. ATIENZA. Samakatuwid, ...

REP. FERNANDO. ... you do not want to usurp any power of any local government unit. As a matter of fact, it will now give the councilors of every city—to determine the fate of the 13 million Metro Manilans. They will not only be deciding on their cities, but they will now also be deciding for the whole metropolis. Iyan po ang ano, ang espiritu ng Bill na ito.

REP. ATIENZA. Sa aking pakikinig, Mme. Speaker, tinatanggap ng ating kagalang-galang na Kongresista Fernando na itong batas na ito ay kinakailangan ding sang-ayunan ng lahat ng local government units. Iyong Metro Manila Council ay kailangang isabatas ng lahat ng mga sanggunihan. Tama po ba iyong pagkakadinig ko sa inyo? Hindi yata narinig.

I would suggest that the Lady interfering with our interpellation stand ...

REP. CASTELO. May I ...

REP. ATIENZA. ... as an exception. Siya na po ang aking kakausapin.

REP. CASTELO. ... Mme. Presiding Officer, to augment the answer of Rep. Bayani Fernando.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Hon. Winnie Castelo is hereby recognized.

REP. CASTELO. Yes, I would like to allay the fears of the Representative from BUHAY Party-List on his fear that the proposed Bill will usurp the power of the local government units.

No Sir, nothing in the Bill would allow that to happen. In fact, a provision is stated that all resolutions adopted by the Metro Manila Council will be returned to the Sanggunian, and the Sanggunian will be voting over the proposed Bill that was adopted by the Metro Manila Council.

So, at no part in the proposed Bill would there be any intention for the Sanggunian, for the Metro Manila Development Authority, to overlap and usurp the function of the LGUs. So the local autonomy will be respected here. There is no violation of the Constitution here. We will just change the procedure because history would show that there is no proposal from the Metro Manila Council when they convene. When you say Metro Manila Council, Mme. Presiding Officer, this would refer to the Metro Manila mayors. Iyon pong proposal ng “no smoking” ban, iyon pong proposal po ng unified ticketing system, it has not yet been realized and put into fruition because there are no LGUs respecting all the resolutions adopted by all the Metro Manila Councils.

So, lahat po ng mga naaprubang sa Metro Manila Council will be returned to the different sanggunian. There are 17 cities and municipalities that would table it in their agenda, in their sanggunian, and vote upon it.

So, we respect the concern of the Representative from BUHAY Party-List, and I assure him that local autonomy will still be respected, and there will be no usurpation of the functions of the Sanggunian here, Mme. Presiding Officer.

REP. ATIENZA. We thank the clarification of the Gentleman. Are we to understand that he is also accepting our issue with the basic differences of our appreciation, that you cannot deviate from the powers of the local government unit as defined by the Constitution?

REP. CASTELO. We accept that, Mme. Presiding Officer.

REP. ATIENZA. Iyon po ang inyong ipinaliliwanag at tinatanggap.

REP. CASTELO. In fact, during the deliberations, we incorporated that position that there is already a jurisprudence in the Supreme Court, I think in *Bel-Air versus MMDA*. Now, we took that into consideration that is why we are very clear and concerned about it, we emphasize that Sanggunian resolutions or ordinances would not be side-stepped and put in the back corner. We will be respecting them. The only amendment here is procedural, Mme. Presiding Officer, so lahat po ng mga naaprubahan po ng Metro Manila Council will be referred to the Sanggunian po for votation, for deliberation, and for public consultation and public hearing.

REP. ATIENZA. For the information ...

REP. CASTELO. So if they will adopt it, well and good; kapag hindi po na-adopt po iyan, we will be respecting it.

REP. ATIENZA. For the information of the Body, respected colleagues, iyong sinasabi nila ngayon ay intensyon nitong panukalang ito ay iyon na po ang kanilang ginagawa sa nakaraan, so walang pagbabago, ang sinasabi nila, walang pagbabago. Ganoon din ang susundin. Metro Manila Council is supreme. Lahat ng kanilang desisyon ay padadaanin sa local government unit, individually, pareho po ang sistema. Tama po ba iyon?

REP. CASTELO. This would be different, Mme. Presiding Officer. Because in the past, whatever is approved in the Metro Manila Council, e hindi po automatic. It is not mandated that the Sanggunian will act on it. But in the proposed law that we are now asking this Body to have it approved, it will now be a requirement that the Sanggunian will take action on whatever product of the Metro Manila Council we will be having.

REP. ATIENZA. Are you saying ...

REP. CASTELO. Because, for example, there is the “no smoking” ban, there is the unified ticketing system, there is the comprehensive and holistic traffic code that each individual city and municipality is implementing differently, there is a proposal that it be unified; however, because in the absence of that law, kanya-kanya pong mga traffic ang Makati, ang Manila, ang Taguig at ang Quezon City. So, if a commuter,



a passenger or a vehicle would traverse to different cities, iba-iba po ang mga reglamentos na susundin. Pero with this proposed Bill, it would now mandate that lahat po ng Metro Manila Council resolutions and ordinances that are approved will be taken up by the different Sanggunian.

Hopefully, it will be approved, dahil kapag hindi, we will be respecting the autonomy of the Sanggunian in that particular local legislature, Mme. Presiding Officer.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, the Gentleman keeps on mentioning the success of the “no smoking” ban. I would like to put it on record, hindi po dahil sa MMDA iyan. Iyan po ay dahil sa Executive Order ng ating Pangulo na nagbigay ng paraan—iyong dating batas na binuo ng dating Kongreso, ngayon ay ipinapatupad ng gobyerno. That is the main reason why people now are following the law, not because of a Metro Manila edict or proclamation, but the President himself said, “I will not allow under this Executive Order which is in implementation of an existing law of the land that smoking will not be allowed in public now.” Hindi po MMDA iyan, so I would like to clarify that. The success of the “no smoking” ban is not an MMDA success. In fact, the MMDA has not fulfilled its mandate. This law is a 10-year old law. Hindi po ipinatutupad ito. Bakit? Dahil hindi nila nakikita po iyan. Nakita ng Pangulong Duterte, ipinagbawal at sinusunod ngayon, hindi lang dito sa Metro Manila iyan, kundi sa buong bansa.

Again, I will overstress the fact that Metro Manila should be given a development plan or a bible of development which all mayors should read, memorize and follow. But definitely, giving the bureaucracy more powers now will solve the problem. Traffic will be worse if we follow this proposed law. Lalong madi-diffuse po ang responsibility. Sino ba talaga ang may kargo ng traffic management? Sabi nila sila. E iyon po ang iginigiit nila noon pa. So I would like to ask the Gentleman now, he is from Metro Manila, he is a noted leader of Quezon City, is the traffic condition today better than yesteryear?

REP. CASTELO. Before, Mme. Chairman, Mme. Presiding Officer, before I could answer the last part of the question, I think the good interpellator misread or misunderstood me. I did not say that the “no smoking” ban was effective because of an ordinance created by the Metro Manila Development Authority. It is on the contrary. The very reason that it is not effective, the very reason that it failed was because we did not have a unified law sa Metro Manila and we are so happy that the President intervened.

Had there been a law that would allow the Metro Manila Council as envisioned by this Bill, I think the

“no smoking” ban would be effective. Hindi na po sana kailangan ang Office of the President.

So, it failed because of this and it is for this reason that we are asking this Body to have it approved, so that there will be no intercession from the President anymore. The Metro Manila Council composed of many Metro Manila mayors will sufficiently tackle all the Metro issues as mandated by law that are granted powers by the MMDA like garbage, problems on traffic, and problems on sanitation and public order. I hope the good Gentleman would understand me there. With respect naman doon po sa last part of his query as to the effectiveness of the traffic situation, we understand that it is a thankless job.

In fact, this Representation has been calling and summoning the Metro Manila Development Authority officials and blaming them for the horrendous traffic that we are experiencing right now. But this is not a game, a game that would be finding fault. Hindi po natin sinisisi ang ating mga sarili dito. What is important is that we move forward, and we legislate measures that we think are important so that could address the problem of traffic here.

The position of the members of Metro Manila right now is, this proposed law that is pending before us would also help contain the traffic situation, because there are different traffic codes, iba po ang traffic sa Taguig, iba po ang traffic sa Manila, iba po traffic sa Marikina. There are streets that traverse different subdivisions, cities and municipalities at iba-iba pa po. It is for this reason, Mme. Speaker, that we would like to empower the Metro Manila mayors to put up a unified, holistic and comprehensive traffic code that is implementable and uniformly applicable to all the streets of Metro Manila, to address this big problem of traffic that we are now experiencing.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang tatanungin ko na nga po ngayon ay ang mga problemang inaako nila noon at nakalagay na naman dito, that they will take care of not only traffic, but also of the garbage and flooding problems. Nakalimutan nilang ilagay ang mga mas importante ring bagay, kagaya ng peace and order condition, wala yata rito sa naisip ninyong programa. Kapag walang peace and order, walang development, walang gobyerno, so wala rin tayong epekto.

Wala rin po ang problema ng baha, ang basura. Ang basura po ngayon, kapag dumaaan kayo sa ilang lungsod, naku, nagkalat sa mga sidewalk, nagkalat sa lansangan. Where is the MMDA? Alam ko kung nasaan sila, nasa ilalim ng puno, nagbabantay ng magkakamaling motorista at magpapakilalang MMDA, tapos magdedelihensya. Iyan po ang nagaganap ngayon sa mga lansangan at ang programang sinasabi nila, hindi naman inaasikaso.

I heard the Gentleman in the committee, and I am hearing it now again, that traffic management is best handled by a centralized traffic management system. Iyon po ang kanilang iginigiit. Mayroon pa silang mga Kalayaan Avenues o kung tawagin ay alternative routes. Sabi sa mga taumbayan, motorista, diyan kayo dumaan, maluwa diyan, para hindi kayo gamit nang gamit ng EDSA lang, alam naman ninyong masikip diyan. Subukan po ninyo kung gusto ninyo, pag-uwi natin, sabay tayo at daanan natin ang tinatawag nilang Kalayaan Avenue. Umpisahan po natin sa Kalayaan Avenue between Makati and Manila, sa Zobel-Roxas which was constructed by the government where we spent hundreds of millions of pesos for that avenue. We defined it as Kalayaan Avenue pero hindi po ninyo madadaan iyan nang maluwa sapagkat ang daming nakatirang informal settlers, mayroon din mga double-parked vehicles ng junk dealers, mayroon pang mga batang naglalaro sa kalye na kapag nasagasaan ninyo, may problema po tayo roon. Doon po iyon sa distrito ng San Andres Bukid, at marami pang ganyan na alternative routes na hindi nagagamit sapagkat hindi nga po napapasunod ng centralized traffic management ang programa na matino at magpapatakbo ng ating mga behikulo nang maayos.

Noong ako po ay bagung-bagong mayor, in 1998, mayroon pong announcement ang Metro Manila Authority pa noon o MMA, mayroon silang intelligent traffic light system na itatayo o itatatag, at gagastusan nila ng P4.5 billion. Nagbungkal po nang nagbungkal ng mga panulukan, street corners, junctions of streets and avenues. Nasaan po ang intelligent traffic light system na iyon ngayon? Wala na po dahil hindi po ito na-deliver. Isa iyan sa mga dapat nating imbestigahan. Saan napunta ang P4.5 billion na inilaan for an intelligent traffic light system for Metro Manila? Again, I would like the MMDA proposals to mention this particular growing problem. Dapat mayroon po kayong plano. Anong gagawin natin sa traffic situation? Ang narinig ko noon, hindi naman naganap, nawala ang pera kaya hindi nailagay ang traffic light.

Kung mapupuna ng aking mga kaibigan, mga kasama, kapwa mga Miyembro ng Kongreso, kapag pumunta kayo sa ibang bansa, sa Singapore, sa Hong Kong, ang mga panulukan doon ay mayroong automatic sensor, na kapag wala nang dumadaan, automatic, green light na iyon at tatakbo naman iyong nasa kabila dahil stop sa kabila kasi wala namang dadaan. Dito po sa atin baliktad, kapag dumadaan kayo sa isang main avenue, pipigilin kayo. Dito po sa Commonwealth palabas ng EDSA, pipigilin tayo diyan nang mahaba, limang minuto kapag tumatawid kayo ng Agham. Wala na pong dumadaan sa Agham, parada pa rin tayo. Tapos go ang Commonwealth for 32 seconds, kapag hindi ka mabilis-bilis na makatawid, five minutes ka na naman

maghihintay. Nasaan ang pagmamaneho? Nasaan ang Metro Manila Development Authority? Nasa ilalim ng puno at likod ng poste at naghihintay ng huhulihin. Kaya kapag ito ay binigyan pa natin ng kapangyarihan, palagay ko lalala pa ang problema ng traffic sa Metro Manila.

Kayo po ba ay may kinalaman diyan sa inyong master plan na isinumite? Sinabi ba ninyo sa mga enforcer na dumiskarte, kapag maraming jeepney o bus na dumadaan, bibigyan ninyo ng paraan dahil mayroon tayong daily collection diyan.

Pinag-uusapan din lang ang traffic, Mme. Speaker, dumadaan naman kayo sa EDSA, about six months ago, we heard about the nose in-nose out. Sabi nila, wala nang bus na papasok sa terminal na hindi lalabas sa kabilang lansangan. Tatanungin ko po sila, mga Sponsor ng ating proposed law, nasusunod po ba iyan o iyan po ay public announcement lang o press release lang?

Is the MMDA enforcing their own direction, their own policy that they said they will put order in the otherwise chaotic situation of the bus terminals. There are 47 bus terminals along EDSA from Balintawak up to Pasay. Not one of them has been touched by the MMDA.

I am asking a question and if it cannot be answered, I will give the answer to the question.

REP. FERNANDO. Let me, respond.

REP. ATIENZA. Why? Because the bus terminals, I am sure, are making it very comfortable for those who are running the traffic management in a centralized manner for their own benefit and not for the public. Makukunsumi kayo kapagka ang mga bus ay laganap at pinakawalan sa EDSA, may problema tayong lahat pag-uwi. Kapag walang bus—and they do that sporadically para tayong lahat ay malinlang—magaan ang biyahe sa EDSA. Pagmasdan ninyo, kapag walang bus, magaan. Kapag pinakawalan ang mga bus, ibig sabihin, mayroon silang schedule ng pagkakawala, mayroon na naman tayong problema. From here to your residence in Manila, it will take you an hour-and-a-half or two hours because EDSA becomes impassable. Pumasok ka sa alternative route, ang tinatawag nilang Kalayaan Avenue, hindi po naman nakakadaan doon sapagkat may nakaburol kung minsan sa gitna ng kalye, baka mabangga mo pa ang yumao, lumala pa ang problema mo.

Mme. Speaker, this law proposes to improve life in Metro Manila. But may I reiterate, my respected colleagues, it is not new to us who have suffered and are suffering in Metro Manila. If we would want to improve life in Metro Manila, let us clearly follow the intention of the Constitution. Let Taguig be managed by the Taguig elected officials there and not the Metro Manila Development Authority, usurping that power

and authority but not being responsible. In this proposed Bill they will still not be responsible, ituturo na naman nila na hindi nagtatrabaho ang Mayor doon.

What am I proposing, Mme. Speaker? Let us review this Bill before we even act on it. Baka ito ay maipasá natin nang wala sa takdang panahon na kung saan ang lahat ng mga itinatanong ko ngayon ay nasasagot nang malinaw, kaya huwag muna nating ipilit ito ngayon.

I asked the first question, did they ever have a written development plan, and Cong. Bayani Fernando said during his time, mayroon siya. Can you provide us a copy of that para po naman magamit nating justification?

Bakit hindi kayo gumaya na lang kay Chairman Fernando at lahat tayo ay makikinabang diyan, dahil hanggang ngayon, wala akong alam na bibliya ng development ng Metro Manila Development Authority. They exist on a day-by-day whimsical decision of the Chairman. Sinabi nila, once upon a time, “Lahat iyang mga billboards sa Metro Manila, tatanggalin namin.” Palakpak naman ako sa sideline, sabi ko, “Naku, nagising ang gobyerno.”

Dito lang po sa mga lungsod natin, ang may naglalakihang billboards na kapag tiningnan ninyo, very minimal ang pakinabang ng gobyerno natin, ano ang pakinabang ng MMDA diyan? Sa palagay ko, maximum. Sinabi nila, aalisin nila, pero hindi po, dumami pa nga. This is the only city in Asia where billboards are lording over. Billboards have already been regulated all over Asia. In the Philippines, in Metro Manila, it is an exclusive domain of the Metro Manila government.

Marami po akong itatanong pa pero siguro umpisahan na natin sa sinabi ninyo, mayroon kayong development plan kaya bigyan ninyo kami ng kopya and I will make it an official part of my interpellation. I will provide you with support if that plan was ever implemented during your time. Maybe the present Chairman of the MMDA should learn from it; otherwise, my own knowledge of the weakness of the system today will be exacerbated, lalala kapagka binigyan pa natin ng higit na kapangyarihan at hindi natin ginawa pa ang tama.

Ito na po ang pagkakataon. Pinag-uusapan na natin ang Metro Manila, ito po ang sentro ng ating komersyo, ito po ang sentro ng ating gobyerno, ito po ang sentro ng lahat ng mga pinagkakaabalahan ng ating pamahalaan. Kailangang ayusin natin ang mga problema rito, dahil kung hindi, naiwanan na po tayo ng maraming Metro Manila region.

Tokyo has its own metropolitan government with an elected governor. Ang lahat po ng mga mauunlad na bansa na mayroong metropolitan government ay elected governor ang namumuno.

Dito lamang po sa atin, na nag-umpisa sa eksperimento, ang ginang na may kontrol ng kapangyarihan noong mga panahong iyon, 1975,

ginawa siyang Chairman ng MMC o Metro Manila Commission, at nagtagumpay siya. Why? Not because of the system or the experiment, but because she was Mrs. Marcos. Whatever she said, all the mayors did not question at all. That was the time when there was no local autonomy principle in the Constitution. I congratulate Mrs. Marcos for having done a good job because she was Mrs. Marcos.

Kung sasabihin sa akin ng mga nagpo-propose nito, ang Chairman ay magiging si Mrs. Duterte, palagay ko sasang-ayon ako dahil makikinabang po tayong lahat diyan. Susunod lahat ng local government officials kapag ang nag-uutos ay may kapangyarihan.

The basic defect of governance in Metro Manila is that the layer of leadership is not elected, but appointed; while those under them, to get elected as a councilor of Taguig, for example, I am sure, is not as easy as that. To get elected as a councilor in Manila is a very difficult vision and ambition. But you are putting them now under the baton, the power and the authority of a created commission which is still a continuing experiment.

It is about time that we decide, give it genuine powers of a regional government. Let us elect the governor of Metro Manila, once and for all, giving him the mandate of the people because he is the duly-elected governor, or let us limit the existence of the Metro Manila Development Authority to a well-defined planning authority. Dahil iyon po naman talaga ang vision nito—sila ang magpapalano at ang local government units ang magpapatupad. Pero hanggang ngayon, walang planong maipapakita.

Alam ko Congressman Bayani was playing it by ear during his time. He did very well, but how many Bayani Fernandos do we have? After him, all the other Chairmen did their best and I have nothing but praises for them because they were working in a situation where they have to work with elected officials while they are appointed.

I appeal to my colleagues tonight, let us consider a genuine solution and not a palliative one which will aggravate the situation. With the kind indulgence of the ones sponsoring this on the floor, I will wait for that promised development plan to prove, once and for all, that in this little world, once upon a time, a plan was made by the Metro Manila people. Otherwise, I will continue my objection and we will bring this issue to any forum, to any public square, to explain to the people that this will not work. It will make our lives harder, and we will be giving powers to non-elected people who are lording it over. They have not solved the problem. The garbage is still with us. Flooding is still with us. Traffic is worse today than before. Peace and order, telecommunications, transportation, lahat po ng mga basic services na ipinapangako ng metropolitan government ay hindi po naibibigay, at iyon po naman ay bagay na may solusyon.

Ang solusyon po diyan ay ang principle of accountability. Hindi pupuwede na ang mga may hawak ng kapangyarihan ay walang accountability. The most that he will get is to be driven out of office kasi hindi po siya halal. Sabi nga po ng maraming tao, halal ang namumuno sa mga lungsod, hangal ang namumuno sa Metro Manila government. Gawin na nating halal din para naman siya po talaga ang managot sa bayan. Kung nagtatagumpay, siya ang may kredito. Kung hindi po magtagumpay, hindi na mananalò iyan sa susunod na halalan.

Rather than giving more powers to the existing structure, we propose that kind of theory, philosophy, that election is still the best mode of giving a quality public service our people deserve.

I know that the Gentleman from Marikina is imbued with the same good intention. I know that the Chairman of the committee, knowing him as a local official through and through and he may even be considered to be the next good leader of Quezon City, I appeal to him, let us do the right thing so that this measure will go down in history as a creation of Congressman Castelo, Cong. Bayani Fernando and the rest of this Seventeenth Congress.

Uulitin ko po, hihintayin ko ang development plan na nabanggit ninyo.

Salamat po.

REP. FERNANDO. Mapapasainyo po iyan sa lalong madaling panahon. Sadyang totoo po ang nabanggit ninyo, napakarami pong pagkukulang at maraming pangangailangan ang MMDA. Kung hindi ko lamang pinasok ang Bill na ito, sa dami ng problemang alam ko ng Metro Manila, dapat ay isinusog ko dito na gawan ng bill ang lahat ng problema na iyan, subalit I do not want to belabor this Chamber.

I think this will resolve the issues, the 101 problems of Metro Manila will be resolved by this Bill, by people now, with the council and with the mayors of Metro Manila, and with every Metro Manilan because this Bill will form a new culture, a contemporary culture for this very diverse culture of Metro Manila which will be formed and nurtured by law. Iyan ang gagawin nitong Bill na ito.

Sana ay makuha ko ang tiwala ng aking mga kasamahan sa aking karanasan na ito na aking pinu-push ngayon.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker, my former colleague from the MMDA, for patronizing me, and our Chairman, Congressman Castelo. And I assure you, you will have the—and I will even bring—I will ask my former planning officer to sit down with you with all the documents that we may have.

Thank you very much.

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

## SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move for a two-minute suspension of the session.

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

*It was 5:40 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:41 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

## SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6973

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 6973 under Committee Report No. 572.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The consideration of House Bill No. 6973 is hereby suspended.

## CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6775 *Continuation*

### PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6775, contained in Committee Report No. 532, as reported out by the Committees on Government Reorganization, Housing and Urban Development, and Appropriations.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of House Bill No. 6775.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6775, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DEFINING ITS MANDATE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, the parliamentary status is that the Bill is in the period of sponsorship and debate.

May we recognize the Chairman of the Committee on Government—one of the authors of the Bill, the Honorable Ron P. Salo, to be recognized, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Honorable Ron P. Salo is hereby recognized.

REP. SALO. Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker. We are ready to accept interpellations.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from the Party-List BUHAY, the Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr., for his interpellation.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Hon. Jose “Lito” Atienza from BUHAY Party-List is hereby recognized for his interpellation.

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

Ako po ay humihingi ng paumanhin sa mga kasamahan natin. Parang ako na naman ang mag-i-interpellate samantalang, siguro, kayo naman ang magtanong dito. Pero kung mamabutihin po ng Majority Leader kami po ang magtanong ay tatanungin ko na po iyong mga relevant questions on the practicality and the full impact and effect of creating a Department of Human Settlements. With the kind indulgence of the sponsoring Member of Congress, Congressman Salo, I will proceed with my interpellation.

REP. SALO. We are very willing to accept interpellations, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Unang tanong ko po ay para sa lahat. Ano po ba ang magiging benepisyo nitong bagong layer of bureaucracy that will be controlling many facets of development, development which is entrusted to the LGUs, especially housing which is now a major, major concern and priority of all local government units because of the Housing and Urban Development Act which was passed about two decades ago and it is now

in full effect. Many LGUs are just starting to realize the relevance and the importance of this law which is now directing the development of housing projects all over the country? Ito po bang batas na ito ay makatutulong sa Housing and Urban Development Act o ito po ay magiging panibagong batas na magbibigay ng hadlang sa mga programa ngayon sa local government level?

REP. SALO. Maraming salamat po sa inyong mga katanungan.

Certainly, Mme. Speaker, the proposed DHSUD does not actually create a new layer of bureaucracy, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, but it seeks to simplify and significantly improve the current one. Among the objectives of this particular Bill, the proposed measure, is to establish an efficient, effective, comprehensive, and integrated national local housing and urban development program aimed at adequately addressing the basic housing needs and requirements of the Filipino people, as well as to rationalize and coordinate the functions and powers of the National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation, Home Guaranty Corporation, Home Development Mutual Fund, and National Housing Authority, among others.

So, basically, Mme. Speaker, it seeks to ensure coherence in the housing sector. We respectfully note the fact that at present, the HUDCC is the policymaking, and the HLURB, the regulatory arm of the government, but there are other agencies within the housing sector that are also doing their own functions. In this particular regard, this particular Department that is being created would rationalize, simplify and integrate all these functions of the government relating to housing, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. In practical terms, Mme. Speaker, is the Gentleman saying that the Department of Human Settlements shall control, and for the purpose of facilitation, control activities related to housing?

REP. SALO. So, there will be one, Mme. Speaker, there will be one department that will oversee and implement all the policies relating to housing, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Naniniwala po ba sila na centralization is the solution to improve the delivery of housing in the country? Is it more superior as a philosophy and theory than decentralized housing to be handled by the local government units? Iyon po ba ang paniniwala nila kaya ito ay ipinapanukala?

REP. SALO. Basically, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker, it is centralization of all national government offices, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker. But, of course, under the Local Government Code, still the local government

units are empowered to undertake housing programs and activities for their constituents.

REP. ATIENZA. Is the Gentleman aware or familiar with the Housing and Urban Development Act sponsored by then Senator Lina, if I am not mistaken, or otherwise called as the Lina Law?

REP. SALO. Yes, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Binasa po ba ninyo iyon?

REP. SALO. Yes, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker,

REP. ATIENZA. Are you familiar with it?

REP. SALO. In addition doon sa binanggit ko po kanina, Mme. Speaker, this particular law, proposed measure, will ensure that the Department being created will assist LGUs in strengthening the role and building the capability of provinces, cities, and municipalities as primary entities of urban development and management. It will also monitor local government compliance with housing and urban development laws, as well as support local government partnerships with communities, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi ko po nakuha iyong gist ng sagot.

REP. SALO. So, basically, Mme. Speaker, iyong binabanggit ninyo po kanina, so primary arm pa rin would still be the LGU, as what you have been saying. But the Department will certainly assist all LGUs in strengthening your capability and your role in order for them to be able to achieve your objectives of ensuring housing within your constituency.

REP. ATIENZA. Sa tingin ninyo ay tutulong ang Human Settlements Department sa trabaho ng local government units?

REP. SALO. Ia-assist po sila, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Sa tingin ninyo, iyan ang tamang sistema?

REP. SALO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Lahat ng projects ng local government units or provincial government ay padadaanin natin sa Department of Human Settlements?

REP. SALO. Not exactly, Mme. Speaker. Ang sinasabi po natin dito—because that particular work na sinasabi po ninyo, it is a primary duty of the local

government units. Nandito po iyong departamento para tumulong po sa kanila, Mme. Speaker. At the same time, tutulongan sila in order for them to be able to undergo the necessary processes, as well as doon sa mga pag-secure ng mga—it will streamline the process, as well as the necessary requirements in order for them to undertake that particular projects.

REP. ATIENZA. Kung pareho po ang functions, bakit po tayo bumubuo pa ng another layer? Kung ang kanilang gagampanan ay housing din, hindi po iyong halal ang talagang dapat managot with the national leadership pushing for the enforcement of the Housing and Urban Development Act, sa tingin po ng inyong lingkod ay wala na pong makakadaig doon sa batas na iyon?

REP. SALO. Maraming salamat po sa inyong tanong.

REP. ATIENZA. Pati po iyong illegal occupation of public and private land, nandoon po. How to address the problem of informal settlers, nandoon din po.

REP. SALO. Opo.

REP. ATIENZA. Requiring all local officials to have their own local housing board created, nandoon din po. Eh ano ang gagawin ng Department of Human Settlements?

REP. SALO. Doon sa tanong po ninyo, Mme. Speaker, mapapansin po ninyong hindi naman po lahat ng local government units are on the same status such as Manila or some other urban areas in Metro Manila. Marami po sa mga local government units which have these concerns with respect to informal settlers, walang capability. That is the reason we are creating this particular Department, para mas higit silang makatulong, maka-address po doon, lalo na doon sa mga walang kakayanan na mga LGUs.

REP. ATIENZA. As a basic question and issue, Mme. Speaker, what is more effective in government, centralization or decentralization? They are proposing a centralization. What we have now is a decentralized function. So, there is a basic incongruence. Lihis po sa isa't isa iyan. It is not enough to say that tutulong naman kami. Papano po kung iba ang pag-iisip noong mamumuno sa Human Settlements Department? Papano po kung hindi kaibigan ng local officials iyan? Eh di idi-disapprove iyong kanyang housing projects for the informal settlers. Idi-disapprove na iyong programa ng housing niya dahil mananaig ang Department of Human Settlements. Ganoon po ba ang sistema?

REP. SALO. Iyong punto po ninyo, Mme. Speaker,

with respect to centralization, decentralization, iyong decentralization function po ng LGUs, hindi po natin ginagalaw po iyon. Ang ginagalaw po natin dito sa centralization with respect to national government agencies na nandito na po sila, existing na po iyong iba't ibang national government agencies. Ang ginagawa po nito is to streamline that particular process among those various departments of the national government para hindi na po makikipag-deal with so many departments, agencies, bureaus or offices of the government.

REP. ATIENZA. Is the Gentleman implying that they will have a say in the public works projects and the planning of the nation's development that are now on the shoulders of the NEDA and the Department of Public Works? Now, we will add the Department of Human Settlements, ganoon po ba iyon?

REP. SALO. Hindi po. Ang sinasabi po natin dito with respect to housing. So, there are various housing departments, units and offices of the government tasked at the present. Ang krine-create po ng Department of Housing will be coming from HUDCC at iyong HLURB, as well as attached agencies ngayon at iyong mga iba't ibang ahensya dealing with the housing sector.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, are we talking about the Department of Housing creation or Department of Human Settlements?

REP. SALO. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development.

REP. ATIENZA. Ah, you just mentioned Department of Housing.

REP. SALO. My apologies po.

REP. ATIENZA. So, I want to clarify that.

REP. SALO. Yes.

REP. ATIENZA. Baka iba iyong pinag-uusapan natin eh.

REP. SALO. Ah, it is ...

REP. ATIENZA. Department of Human Settlements.

REP. SALO. The total, the full name is Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, Your Honor.

REP. ATIENZA. So, nagkamali po kayo roon sa Department of Housing?

REP. SALO. Yes.

REP. ATIENZA. Hindi po ito Department of Housing?

REP. SALO. I apologize po.

REP. ATIENZA. Department of Human Settlements.

REP. SALO. Malinaw po iyon.

REP. ATIENZA. Parang lumabas yata iyong, ang tawag diyan ay Freudian slip. Ang dapat—ang gusto ninyo yata talaga ay kontrolin ang housing. This is creating actually a Department of Housing disguised as a Department of Human Settlements.

So, therefore, I will still cite the same principle of whether centralization is more effective than decentralization. I will insist that decentralization is better than centralization. If we create a centralized body to control the development of housing and the development of local communities and many other requirements of a decent life in the communities, dahil pakikialaman po nila ang mga settlements eh, eh babalik tayo sa panahon na ngayon ay binabago na sana natin.

Decentralization ang atin sinusunod, nirerespeto natin ang local autonomy. Ngayon ay bubuo tayo ng super body—the Department of Human Settlements, medyo nakakatakot ah. Baka akala ninyo ay matatakot ang mga official at susunod na lamang nang nagbubulag-bulagan. Palagay ko ay hindi na mangyayari iyon dahil sa mga malagim na nakaraan eh babalik sa kanilang isipan heto na naman, papunta na naman yata tayo roon sa ating kinatatakutan.

Eh, housing pala ang pinag-uusapan eh mayroon na tayong Housing and Urban Development Act. Gaya ng sinabi ko, kung iyon ay binasa ninyo, katulad po ng binasa ko rin iyan, andiyan na po lahat ang problema at ang paraan ng solusyon, na ang local government unit kinakailangang managot sa lahat ng mga pangangailangan sa pabahay lalung-lalo na sa mga mahihirap. The communities of the homeless should be addressed by whom? The national government? No, the local government. Eh hindi pa po nagkakabisa iyong batas na iyon in full swing, we are now creating another body. Iyon po ang aking agam-agam na baka hindi makatulong kung hindi lalong makasama sa buhay ng mahihirap ...

REP. SALO. Opo.

REP. ATIENZA. ... dahil maraming...

REP. SALO. Maraming salamat.

REP. ATIENZA. ... marami sila ngayong dapat kausapin samantalang dati-rati'y lumuwag na nang konti ang kanilang buhay.

REP. SALO. We certainly respect the opinion of the esteemed Representative from BUHAY Party-List but as I have said a while ago, we are not actually centralizing housing and urban development. What we are doing is to create this particular Department in order to strengthen a national agency to lead a harmonized housing and urban development framework, as well as to ensure the capability-building, building the capabilities of LGUs.

So, basically tutulong po. Sabi ko nga po kanina, hindi naman po lahat ng LGUs ay pare-pareho po ng kapasidad. May mga kinikilala po natin, iyong Metro Manila, for example, may have that capacity and capability to undertake housing programs for your poor constituents pero hindi naman po lahat pare-pareho po ng kapasidad.

So, basically, this will ensure that those LGUs na kulang iyong kapasidad at kapabilidad nila, matutulungan po sila in order to ensure na ma-address iyong housing needs within your areas as well as to strengthen them. And, magkakaroon ng national framework and national—and to ensure coherent po iyong policies po natin when it comes to housing.

REP. ATIENZA. Mme. Speaker, my main observation and my main objection, you can consider it such to this Bill is that, it will only create an additional body and make it more difficult for our people to really own their own houses. Samantalang mayroon tayong production arm ngayon, the National Housing Authority, mayroon tayong Home Guaranty Corporation na ngayon ay HIGC, mayroong insurance corporation, at mayroon po tayong batas na nagbibigay-paraan upang ang LGUs ay makapag-float ng bonds, makapag-raise ng pondo, at humingi ng tulong sa national government upang magkaroon sila ng kanilang sariling Housing Board.

Hindi pa natin naipapatupad ito, eh mao-overtake po nitong panukalang ito. So, I am anchoring my observation and my objection. Let us see if the Housing and Urban Development Act will now be ready for setting aside. If we cannot answer that, para bagang inilagay natin sa cabinet ng kawalan iyong batas na iyon sapagkat gagawa na naman tayo ng panibagong batas.

Kung may pondo ang national government, bakit hindi ibigay sa National Housing at bumuo ng mas maraming socialized housing para sa mahihirap? Huwang lang nilang gagayahin iyong nakaraan na mga ginawa nilang bahay—bahay-kalapati at hindi po talaga matirhan, tapos ay ibibigay sa pulis. Eh, wala po naman talagang pagkadisente iyong bahay na maaaring tirahan ng isang alagad ng batas o ng isang sundalo.

Ilagay lang natin sa tama ang pagpapatakbo ng ating paggamit ng salaping-bayan. Mayroon na pong mga ahensiya na maaaring magpatupad nito. Housing is already a matter that is accepted by LGUs as a primary responsibility to our people. The protection of the rights of the urban poor is now in the hands of local government units and not national agencies which are more insensitive. And I would say local government units are more sensitive to the social problems of our poor. So that if we create another level of bureaucracy, the Housing and Urban Development Act will become useless and will be thrown into the archives, and this new law will, again, be created. When a new department is created, ang lahat ng ia-appoint diyan, mag-aaral, mag-aagawan muna ng turf definition. Wala pong gagalaw sa housing for the rest of the term of our well-intentioned President. I hope he vetoes it if it passes Congress.

Maraming salamat po.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, maraming salamat din po, and to our esteemed colleague, sa lahat po ng mga sinabi po ninyo. Sabi ko po kanina, inuulit ko po, kinikilala po natin at nirerespeto natin iyong opinyon ninyo, subalit kagaya rin po ng sinabi ko po kanina, hindi po ito nagke-create ng bagong byurukrasya. Actually, sa mga binanggit po ninyo, ang dami pong ahensiya po noon, at ang kailangan po natin talaga ay isang Departamento na mag-e-ensure na coherent, integrated at comprehensive po iyong pagpasá po sa pangangailangan po natin sa housing.

Sa lahat po ng mga binanggit po ninyo, magiging—magkakaroon po ng isang tutunguhin, isang direksyon iyong housing concerns po natin sa pag-address po ng lahat pong ito sa pagpasá po ng batas po na ito.

Muli, maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Thank you, Majority Leader.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from the Party-List GABRIELA, the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas, for her interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Hon. Arlene Brosas is recognized.

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Maaari po bang sumagot sa ilang mga katanungan ang ating good Sponsor kaugnay sa Bill na ito?

REP. SALO. Karangalan po natin na sagutin ang mga katanungan po ninyo, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker. Maraming salamat, G. Isponsor.



Matagal nang panahon na umaalingasaw ang problema ng bansa sa kakulangan sa pabahay at matitirhan. May mahigit sa 5.7 million na housing backlog ang bansa na patuloy namang lumolobo sa kaliwa't kanang demolition na walang matino at maayos na reloksyon. Kung mayroon man na reloksyon na ibinibigay sa mga maralitang taga-lungsod, ito naman ay malayo sa kanilang pinagkakakitaan, walang pasilidad para sa kuryente, at walang maiinom na tubig. Kaya patuloy din iyong pagbalik noong mga na-displace na ito dito sa kalunsuran. Karamihan sa kanila ay mas pinipiling manirahan sa tagpi-tagping yero, plywood, karton, ilalim ng tulay, riles, estero, tabing-ilog o kung saan mang may espasyo o di kaya ay nagrerenta kung ano lang ang makakayanan nila.

May mga tangka na din dati na isulong at isabatas ang pagkakaroon ng isang departamento na hahawak sa pag-aayos ng pabahay at urban development sa bansa. Ngunit, ang mga tangkang ito ay nakabatay sa pagpapalakas ng burukrasya, public-private partnerships, na mas lalong nagdulot ng malawakang demolisyon ng mga nakaraang administrasyon.

Malakas ang pagtutol ng mamamayan sa panukalang batas na tinaguriang pagpribatista sa pabahay kagaya ng Department of Housing and Urban Development Act of 2001, dahil nga ito ay matagal nang isinusulong, ilang Kongreso nang ito ay isinusulong.

Ang DHUD Act of 2001 ay pagnanais na magpalit ng kagampanan ng gobyerno sa usapin ng pabahay sa tuwirang pagpapatupad patungong pagtimon lamang, timon o monitoring lamang. Sa halip na gampanan ng gobyerno ang responsibilidad nito sa mamamayan sa pabahay ay ibinibigay ang nasabing gawain sa ibang entity o pribadong sektor. So, hindi mapapasubalian na hakbang kaugnay ng pribatisasyong ito ang pagbuo ng isang sektor ng isang housing finance system na self-sustaining at private-sector led.

Ngayon po, nais pong malaman ng Kinatawan na ito, tama po ba na ang House Bill No. 6775 o ang Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development ay geared towards pushing for more joint ventures with private sector, private-public partnership, o mayroon po bang local or foreign investors na makakasama rito?

REP. SALO. Hindi po. Ang primary aim po ng ating pagbuo po ng Departamentong ito is to ensure na iyong mga pangangailangan po ng mga kababayan po natin sa disenteng pabahay ay matutugunan sa iba't ibang pamamaraan. Actually, isa sa mga nakasaad po rito, pinapaimbentaryo ng pamahalaan iyong lahat ng mga government properties nito at nang iyong mga suitable para sa housing ay magamit para sa housing.

REP. BROSAS. So, iyong paglilina po ng policy framework, ano po ang gagamitin na termino ninyo

kaugnay dito? Ito ba ay para sa government mass housing? Ganoon po ba?

REP. SALO. Kung mapapansin po ninyo, sa laman po ng Bill po na ito sa Section 37, makikita po ninyo dito iyong binabanggit ko po kanina na magkakaroon po ang ating gobyerno ng ...

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ano pong linya sa ...

REP. SALO. Sa Section 25 po, nakasaad po diyan, Identification, Designation of Lands for Human Settlements and Urban and Rural Development. So malinaw po diyan, binabanggit po niya na ide-designate:

For the purpose of designating lands for human settlements and urban and rural development, the DHSUD, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Agrarian Reform, the Department of Agriculture, the Land Registration Authority shall, x x x, jointly identify agricultural lands which, under Republic Act No. 6657, as amended, otherwise known as the "Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law," and other existing laws, rules and regulations are already exempted from conversion x x x

—and to ensure that these particular areas or lands will be used primarily for housing, so hindi po tayo magkakaroon po noong binabanggit po ninyo sapagkat ang primary purpose po natin ay kung ano po iyong existing na government lands, iyon po iyong gagamitin po natin para sa binabanggit din po ninyo na mass housing.

Iyong financing, mayroon din po tayo na Social Housing Finance Corporation na siya po iyong mag-a-address noong pangangailangan noong mga beneficiaries in order to fund or to finance the availability of those particular housing units.

REP. BROSAS. G. Isponsor, Mme. Speaker, nais ko pong itanong, kung magbabago ba ang mandato ng NHA kaugnay dito sa Bill na ito, ano po iyong magiging pagbabago? Dahil mayroon pong charter ang National Housing Authority. Ano po ang kaugnayan na mangyayari dito sa charter ng National Housing Authority sa Bill na ito?

REP. SALO. Sa kasalukuyan, lahat po ng mga ahensyang ito—National Housing Authority, Home Guarantee Corporation, National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation, Home Development Mutual Fund, Social Housing Finance Corporation—na nakasaad

sa Section 23 will remain to be attached for purposes of policy and program coordination, monitoring, and evaluation.

As such, ang gagawin po nila, they will enter into a performance monitoring with the Department being created to ensure na iyong performance contract po nila based on their mandates—kung ano iyong mandato po nila na nakasaad po doon, that they are able to deliver. So kung sa kasalukuyan wala naman pong ganoon, they are free on their own to undertake their respective mandates, Mme. Speaker.

Ang mangyayari po dito, mayroon na pong isang departamento na magbabantay sa kanila, titingin to ensure that that particular performance contract is being delivered by that particular agency. So, iyon po iyon, magkakaroon po sila ng kontrata na ito iyong kanilang ide-deliver for the next year. Ganoon pa rin pero it will ensure efficiency as well as strengthen accountability within those departments—those existing agencies that you mentioned, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ibig po bang sabihin ninyo ay hindi na gagawa or gagawa pa ba ng mga pabahay para sa pinakamahihirap natin ang National Housing Authority?

REP. SALO. Gagawa po sila, Mme. Speaker, at mas higit pa sapagkat magkakaroon na po sila ng malinaw na per key indicators—key performance indicators based doon sa performance contract po nila.

Kung sinabi po nila na isandaang libong units ang kailangang ipo-produce, then malinaw po na iyon dapat ang kanilang i-deliver at mayroong departamento na siyang magbabantay, magmo-monitor whether they are delivering on that particular mandate.

REP. BROSAS. Isa po sa mga inaalala ng National Housing Authority ay kung hindi na sila makagagawa ng mga bahay, ano ang mangyayari sa kanilang engineers? Ano ang mangyayari sa kanilang architects? Ano ang mangyayari sa mga trabaho na iyan?

REP. SALO. Ika-clarify po natin. Uulitin po natin, gagawa po sila. So, mukhang mali iyong premise na pinanggagalingan. Sinasabi nga po natin dito, Mme. Speaker, it will even strengthen o mas lalaki pa nga actually. Kung sa ngayon, kung ilan lang iyong kaya nila, but of course, iyong Departamento na kine-create po natin, sila po iyong mas magpu-push po sa kanila. At the same time, malinaw po dito, may mga additional staffing patterns at mas mae-empower po sila para mas magampanan pa po nila iyong kanilang mga mandato.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, nais ko pong malinawan. Mayroon pong pito na key shelter

agencies, right, na narito. Sa mga key shelter agencies, isa po doon ang NHA. Tama po ba?

REP. SALO. Opo.

REP. BROSAS. Sinasabi niyo po na kapareho pa rin ng mandato nila, ibig sabihin, iyong pito na iyan, alin po ang magbabago? Iyong lima at iyong HLURB at saka iyong HUDCC? Ano po ang mangyayari sa kanila?

REP. SALO. So, basically iyong Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development will merge the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board. So, ito po iyong magbubuo noong core office noong Departamento. At iyong limang offices, Mme. Speaker, the National Housing Authority, Home Guarantee Corporation, National Home Mortgage Finance Corporation, Home Development Mutual Fund and Social Housing Finance Corporation, mananatili po sila as is, but ang ipinagkaiba po nito, mayroon pong Departamento na mag-e-ensure, mag-o-oversee at mag-i-integrate—to ensure a comprehensive approach to our housing needs.

So, lahat po ng polisiya, mai-integrate at mai-streamline iyong mga polisiya ng iba't ibang ahensya po na binanggit po ninyo. At mayroon po sila ngayon na performance contract that they are going to enter into with the Department being created to ensure that they will really deliver based on that particular performance contract.

REP. BROSAS. So, Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ilan po iyong maaapektuhan na empleyado ng mga ahensya na ito na sinasabi ninyo na mai-streamline? Ilan po silang maaapektuhan ng sinasabi ninyong reorganization at pag-restructure?

REP. SALO. Uulitin po natin, dito, ang ini-streamline po natin iyong proseso, hindi po iyong mga empleyado o iyong mga existing na nandoon na po.

REP. BROSAS. Okay.

REP. SALO. Ang sinasabi po natin dito, kung titingnan po ninyo doon sa transitory provision, nandoon pa rin po sila. Actually, it is in fact, Mme. Speaker, better for the employees, existing employees, because they would actually have the option if they want to continue serving or working with the government. Puwede po iyon, iaayos lang po doon sa kung saan po sila doon.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, nais kong sabihin na noong nakaraan po, ang NHA ay pumasok na sa reorganization. So, nagkaroon na po

sila ng process kung saan lumalabas po na mayroong tinatawag na CTI na mga regular employees na bumibilang ng, sa ngayon, 300 plus, 381. Ito iyong tinatawag na “floating.” Ito po iyong naging epekto noong nakaraan.

Ngayon po, sinasabi natin na hindi naman maapektuhan pero nakalagay po sa Section 28, page 22, line 16, “Absorption or Separation from Service of Employees of the Consolidated Agencies,” mayroon pong mga mawawalan ng trabaho doon sa process ng streamlining. Iyong existing, nakalagay po dito:

The existing employees of HUDCC and HLURB shall enjoy security of tenure and shall be absorbed by the Department or the HSAC, in accordance with their staffing patterns and the selection process as prescribed under Republic Act No. 6656, otherwise known as the “Government Reorganization Law” x x x.

Ngayon, sinabi ninyo rin po iyon kanina, iyong employees opting to be separated from the service, puwede silang pumili ng ganoon. Iyong nangyari na po sa mga CTIs o iyong tinatawag na “coterminous with the incumbent,” nagkaroon na po sila ng mga floating nga, hindi alam kung saan ilalagay, at nahihirapan po iyong mga tao na ito sa ngayon kung ano ang mangyayari. Nade-demoralize sila dahil alam ninyo naman po na nagtatrabaho sila nang matagal sa mga ahensya na iyan, tapos biglang mafo-floating sila, anong mangyayari sa kanila? At ngayon, nagsa-suggest po kayo ng mga pagbabago na ganito na nagtitiyak na maaaring ma-separate from service, mawalan ng trabaho iyong ilang mga empleyado. Paano po kayo nakakasiguro na ito talaga iyong makakatulong para sa ating mga nandito na empleyado na sa ahensya?

REP. SALO. Maraming salamat po sa inyong paglilinaw. Lilinawin din po natin, sa kasalukuyan, iyong HUDCC, mayroon lang 120 po na empleyado. Iyong HLURB, mayroon pong 602 na empleyado sa kasalukuyan. Kapag naipasá na po ang batas na ito, iyong DHSUD, iyong Department na binubuo po nito, magkakaroon po ng minimum na 700 employees. Iyong HSAC, iyong HLURB which shall be converted into HSAC, magkakaroon po ng minimum na 300. So, tinitingnan po natin dito, actually, magkakaroon pa po ng additional na mga 300 employees. So, iyong agam-agam po ninyo, mukhang papansinin po natin dito, naa-address po iyong concern po ninyo.

Ngayon, iyong tanong po ninyo with respect to the floating, mga coterminous, I suppose, malinaw naman po sa batas po natin sa kasalukuyan na kung coterminous ka, malinaw kung hanggang kailan ka lang. Kagaya rin po nito sa Kongreso, iyong mga staff

po natin, coterminous po iyan, so alam din po nila, malinaw po sa kanila na ang maximum that they can stay in the service is only up to the time na nandoon po iyong kanilang boss.

So, I suppose, kung ganoon po iyong kalalagayan po nila, at actually, magkakaroon pa po sila ng pagkakataon po ngayon sapagkat dadami nga po iyong positions that will be available.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, sa totoo lang po, ang mga balita natin ay demoralized ang mga empleyado at bumababa ang kanilang job satisfaction sa mga nagaganap. Ngayon, ang itinatanong ko po kanina, paano mae-ensure ng Bill na ito na hindi sila mawawalan ng trabaho? Samantalang iyong sinasabi ninyong staffing patterns, iyong sinasabi ninyong mga performance-based and selection process, ang iniresulta po niyan sa mga na-reorganize na mga ahensiya ay technically pagkawala nga ng trabaho dahil hindi umaangkop iyong kanilang skills, capabilities, at ayon doon sa performance—ano ba iyong ano noon—sa staffing pattern at selection process, hindi sila pumapasok doon. Hindi kaya ang ma-create lang nito ay mas maraming hindi natin mailalagay na mga empleyado sa trabaho?

REP. SALO. Ulitin po natin, Mme. Speaker, sabi ko nga po kanina, kung sa kasalukuyan, mayroon lang po silang 700 na employees, kapag na-approve po iyong batas na ito, magiging mahigit 1,000 iyong available na positions. So, ibig sabihin po noon, mas marami iyong pagkakataon po sa kanila. At the same time, sinasabi rin po natin dito, iyong security of tenure po nila, mas kinikilala po iyon. So, kung permanent po sila, they will remain permanent.

Of course, iyong concern po ninyo doon sa coterminous, actually they will then have more opportunities na mapunta po doon sa mga permanent position because we will be creating more items for them. Nonetheless, I suppose nanggagaling po, Mme. Speaker, iyong concern po ninyo doon sa kasalukuyan na nagkaroon po ng Rat Plan 1, Rat, first part. Ngayon, ongoing po, halimbawa sa National Housing Authority ang Rat Plan 2, and iyong kanilang General Manager has already created an oversight committee to look into the concerns being raised.

Kagaya po ng sinasabi natin kanina, kagaya rin po dito sa Kongreso na iyong binabanggit po ninyo mga coterminous employees, by the time you accept a coterminous employment, alam mo exactly kung hanggang kailan ka. Ngayon, magkakaroon pa nga sila ng oportunidad na maging permanente by creating this particular Department sapagkat mas dadami iyong mga available item. Kung sa kasalukuyan ay walang available permanent items dahil nga po mas maliit iyong ahensiya na nagha-handle po nito, creating this

particular Department, Mme. Speaker, will actually give them more opportunities sapagkat magkakaroon ngayon ng mas maraming items, permanent items for them. At the same time, dahil sila naman po, kung matagal na po sila, binabanggit po ninyo, diyan sa departamento—sa opisinasang iyan, I suppose may leverage po sila at mas may pagkakataon po sila na sila iyong mas matanggap doon sa mga permanent item. Doon sa mga permanente, wala po tayong usapin po doon sapagkat sinasabi po natin dito sa section na binasa rin po ninyo, kinikilala ng gobyerno iyong security of tenure po nila.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, gusto ko lang sabihin po na ito ngang reorganization na naganap, ang iniresulta ay ang pag-float ng mga empleyado. Ang itinatanong ko po kanina, paano sila maa-absorb at paano sila magagawan ng paraan na makapagtrabaho? Iyon po iyong tanong. Tapos, magkakaroon ulit ng reorganization sa pamamagitan noong isina-suggest noong Bill. So, ibig sabihin magkakaroon na naman ng ganoon ulit na hindi pa ito ina-absorb o hindi pa nga natutugunan iyong problema, ano po. So, parang nag-reorganization kayo, tapos nag-reorganization ulit, ano na lang ang resulta nito sa mga manggagawa natin?

REP. SALO. Uulitin ko lang po, iyong premise po natin, iyong pinag-uusapan po natin, Mme. Speaker, iyong mga coterminous. Iyong mga permanent, sinabi naman po natin na wala naman po, kinikilala po iyong kanilang security of tenure. Ngayon, doon sa mga coterminous dahil nga magkakaroon nga ng mas maraming items, maraming mga gagawin, lalaki iyong burukrasya, mas magkakaroon sila ng opportunities ngayon. In fact, sabi nga rin po ninyo matagal na po sila doon sa kanilang ginagawa. So, I suppose mayroon na po silang expertise and sila ngayon iyong mas may edge, mas may leverage na makakuha ng mga permanent item that will be created when this particular Department is approved.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ang gusto ko lang tiyakin ay kung ma-absorb nga ito. Kung hindi nga nagawa ito sa 381 ngayon na naka-floating, 100 percent ba itong magagawa kapag maipasá itong Bill na ito? Kasi, importante pong malaman natin dahil marami po ang maaapektuhan na empleyado. Kung ang iniresulta ng unang reorganization ay ganito, tapos nagsasabi tayo na magkakaroon tayo ng suggestion na mag-reorganization ulit, baka nga po ang pangamba po ng Kinatawan na ito ay magresulta ulit sa ganyan, sa floating status ng ilan. So, iyon lang naman po iyong nais nating sabihin. Ipinapaalala natin na iyong mga nagtatrabaho, empleyado ngayon ay demoralized nga sa nangyari na iyon at iyong pagbaba ng kanilang job satisfaction.

Kung kaya, kung tatanggalin po natin iyong HUDCC, tatanggalin po natin iyong HLURB at papalitan po ng HSAC, na sabi ninyo ay magdudulot ng mas marami pang empleyado na pupuwede nating ma-absorb or puwede pang ibigay sa ating mga kababayan, sana nga po ganoon ang maging resulta niya.

REP. SALO. Lahat po ng concerns po ninyo, Mme. Speaker, are being currently noted at sisikapin po natin na iyong concerns po ninyo ay ma-address po ito once this particular law is approved and implemented.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Sa next point ko po, nais ko sanang tanungin, babalikan ko lang po iyong point ko ng privatization noong ano—ang pangamba po namin, kasi may example po kami ng joint venture ng private sector, sinabi ninyo po kanina, uulitin ko lang, kino-confirm ko lang, na hindi makikipag-partner or walang ganoong policy na makikipag-partner with the private sector.

REP. SALO. Uulitin po natin, Mme. Speaker, wala tayong binabago doon sa charter ng National Housing Authority. Iyong binabanggit po ninyo na makipag-partner, nasa charter po nila iyan ngayon. So, kasalukuyan po nilang ginagawa. So, isa po iyan sa mode na puwede nilang i-undertake. Hindi po natin tinatanggal iyon, hindi po natin binabago iyon. Ang sinasabi po natin, ang mas focus po na binabanggit po sa Bill na ito is on government lands at iyon po iyong gamitin. Of course, it is one of the modes na magkaroon sila ng private arrangements with existing private companies, hindi natin tinatanggal; pero ang sinasabi rin po natin dito, mas magkakaroon po ngayon sila ng opportunity to use existing government resources, government properties.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, iyong mandato po na service-oriented and for public housing ang priority, tama po ba na ganoon pa rin ...

REP. SALO. Opo.

REP. BROSAS. ... ang National Housing Authority?

REP. SALO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. BROSAS. Tama po bang isipin na medium- at high-rise condominiums ang maaaring iluwal din ng ganitong mga proyekto?

REP. SALO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, kino-confirm po natin. Public housing ang isa talaga sa main focus ng NHA.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. So, sinabi ninyo rin po na bukás for private sector nga ang pagve-venture sa ganito.

Inaalala po namin iyan kasi may halimbawa kami ng kung saan ang Barangay San Roque, na ang NHA ay nakipag-joint venture with the Ayalas, ano po, na ang Vertis North iyong niresulta. Ngayon po, nagpalayas po ito ng 9,000 informal settlers simula noong 2010 hanggang ngayon. Kaya iyong mga transaction na ganito, paano po tinitingnan ng Bill na ito? Paano po iyong kaugnayan kung hindi naman po nagbabago ang mandato at sinasabi natin na service-oriented, that public housing ang priority ng NHA?

REP. SALO. Ang focus po at ang parameters po ng Bill na ito, ng proposed measure na ito, are affordability, availability, quality, efficiency noong paggawa ng mga bahay. So, whether it is being undertaken by the private or the NHA itself, ito po iyong primary parameters natin. Ergo, kung mas efficient po iyong private sector at mas affordable po iyon sa publiko, hindi po tayo nagkakaroon ng pagtatangi na sasabihin nating dapat gobyerno lang ang gagawa sapagkat iyon po, malinaw po iyong standards natin, iyong parameters natin.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, ...

REP. SALO. Ngayon naman, doon sa tanong po ninyo ...

REP. BROSAS. ... G. Isponsor, hindi po talaga nag-serve para sa mga mahihirap iyong Vertis North.

REP. SALO. Mapapansin po natin, doon po sa tanong ninyo, Mme. Speaker, with respect doon sa mga settler doon sa area na binabanggit po ninyo, sinasabi po ng National Housing Authority na nagkaroon rin po sila ng in-city resettlements doon sa North Triangle.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ang DHSUD ang magiging sole and main planning policymaking, regulatory body on all matters pertaining to housing and human settlements. Katulad po ng mga example na ito ang haharapin ng super body na sinasabi ninyo, kung ipapasok natin ang private sector at private-public partnerships, hindi ba ito magresulta sa annual increase ng mga low-cost housing?

REP. SALO. Sabi ko nga po kanina, Mme. Speaker, those are existing modalities na ginagawa po ng National Housing Authority po ngayon. Hindi po natin binabago iyon kung hindi ang sinasabi po natin, nandito iyong Departamento na created para magbantay and to ensure that iyong key performance indicators po nila, taking into account the affordability, the efficiency, effectiveness ng mga ahensiya, mas magagampanan po nila at made-deliver po nila iyong mandate po nila.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, kung

monitoring po, hindi po ba napakalaki at napaka-top-heavy nitong gagawin natin na ito na ang Secretary, undersecretaries, ano po ba iyong nilalaman, structure nitong DHSUD na sinasabi natin? Hindi ba ito ay mga top-heavy na ang gagawin lamang ay mag-monitor?

REP. SALO. Hindi po.

REP. BROSAS. Tapos, ilan po ang ieempleyo nito?

REP. SALO. Siguro i-invite ko po iyong attention ninyo, Mme. Speaker, sa Section 5, on the "Powers and Functions" of the Department. Una po, ang sinasabi po niya diyan sa letter (a), it is "On Policy Development, Coordination, Monitoring and Evaluation." So, iyong monitoring na binabanggit po ninyo, nasa letter (a) po siya at isa lamang po siya sa functions doon sa within letter (a). Sa letter (b), "On Environmental, Land Use and Urban Planning and Development," so malaking bahagdan din po at malaking bagay din po iyong gagampanan po nila with respect to ensuring na iyong mga polisiya ay naka-anchor po doon sa Environmental, Land Use and Urban Planning. Pangatlo po, "On Housing and Real Estate Development," so basically, this is promotion, development of mechanisms and implementing programs, in coordination with the key shelter agencies. Ito po iyong housing and real estate development. Letter (d), of course, sa kasalukuyan may "Homeowners Association and Community Development" po tayo. Isa rin po ito sa magiging primary function po ng Departamentong kine-create po natin. And, of course, under letter (e), there are a lot of "Other Powers and Functions," so makikita po ninyo diyan naka-delineate iyong mga major function that will be undertaken by this particular department that is being created.

Hindi lang po ito simpleng pagmo-monitor lang. Iyon po siguro iyong pinanggagalingan po ninyo sa kasalukuyan and that is exactly bakit natin kailangan ng bagong batas at kailangan nating mag-create ng isang Departamento sapagkat sa kasalukuyan, iyon po iyong concern ng marami na iyong HUDCC, wala na pong ibang ginawa kung hindi monitoring and coordination. Pero dito, sa sinasabi po natin, malinaw kung ano iyong functions, ano iyong kailangan nilang gawin, ano iyong mga mandato po nila to ensure na iyong aim po natin that every person ay magkaroon ng disenteng bahay under his roof ay magkaroon po ng katuparan.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, ang inaalala po ng Kinatawang ito, dahil ang gusto po natin ang makinabang primarily ay ang ating mga mahihirap na mamamayan, na nasa mandato naman ng National Housing Authority, iyong pinaka-30 percent ng ano, ay dapat magkaroon ng programa para sa pabahay, e kung

ngayon po ay hindi iyon natutugunan at ang inireresulta ay malawakang dislokasyon, paano po makakatulong itong istraktura na sinasabi ninyo kung iyong mga problema nga sa mga iba't ibang ahensiya na idinulog ng mga mahihirap natin ay hindi natugunan? Paano pa kaya ito? Ang pangamba po namin, baka hindi naman masa ang makinabang sa ginagawa nating ito. Baka ang mga contractor at developer na naman ang makinabang sa mangyayari na ito.

REP. SALO. Sabi ko nga po kanina, dito sa kinecreate na Departamento pong ito, magkakaroon po ng performance contract with those agencies that you mentioned kagaya ng NHA. At kung sa kasalukuyan, ilang percentage iyong kanilang nadi-deliver, of course, nandito iyong Departamento to really mandate and really ensure that they are able to deliver kung ano iyong pangangailangan po natin. Number two, tama naman po kayo na ang isa sa primary mandates din po nila, i-address iyong pangangailangan po ng mga talagang mahihirap po natin, subalit tatandaan din po natin na sa kasalukuyan, hindi lang naman po sila iyong kanilang kliyente sapagkat marami naman po, even within the middle class ay hindi po nagkakaroon talaga ng opportunity to really have decent homes para sa kanila.

So, I suppose, it cuts across iyong kanilang concern. It pertains exactly—entirely doon sa pangangailangan po ng buong Pilipinas.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, wala pong idinagdag na probisyon patungkol sa pagbabawal sa mga demolisyon, marahas na pagpapalayas sa mga mahihirap maliban sa pagbatay din sa batas ng Urban Development and Housing Act of 1992. So, wala po tayong inaasahan dito na pagbabago. Ganoon pa rin po ang mangyayari kasi alam po natin na ang ginagamit din sa malawakang pagpapaalis sa mga ating mga informal settler ay iyong UDHA ng 1992 sa mga probisyon na iyan. Wala po bang idinagdag na iba pang mga probisyon kaugnay dito?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, kinikilala po namin na iyong UDHA sa kasalukuyan ay sapat para protektahan po iyong karapatan ng mga tinatawag po natin na mga informal settler. Actually, hindi na po natin binanggit dito sapagkat malinaw na po kung ano iyong proseso na dadaanan bago po sila magkaroon ng resettlement o relocation. Ang kailangan lang po talaga siguro is to ensure that this particular law is properly implemented. Pero hindi na po siya kailangang banggitin, ulitin, because I suppose that would be redundant at hindi naman po natin binabago iyong mga probisyon po na iyon.

REP. BROSAS. Ang last ...

REP. SALO. But at the same time, tatandaan po natin na may Code of Conduct for Demolition and Eviction Bill naman po tayo na kasalukuyan po na dinidinig ngayon doon sa Committee.

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Alam po ninyo, mayroon kaming mga suggestion din kaugnay diyan sa Urban Development and Housing Act dahil ito po ay nahihirapan din ang ating mga mamamayan lalung-lalo na ang complaints ng mga mahihirap nating kababayan kung papaano talaga nagagamit sa kanila sa pagpapaalis at higit na pagsasamantala sa kanilang karapatan sa paninirahan iyong mga ganitong pamamaraan.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, this Representation will gladly accept any proposal. Titingnan po natin kung may mas maganda po kayong proposal to enhance the provisions of this particular Bill. We shall gladly do so.

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, maraming salamat po sa pagbubukas ng ganoong dayalogo at ganoong tulong para sa ating mga kababayan na mahihirap.

Last point po, ayon sa batas na ito, ang Human Settlements Adjudication Commission replaces the function of the actual court system over disputes relating to land and housing. A representative from the private sector will be installed as a commissioner to handle the disputes. Iyon po iyong nakalagay doon. Paano po tayo makakasiguro na hindi ito magbubukas sa may mga pansariling interes o corporate point of view sa usapin sa pabahay?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, itatanong ko lang po kung anong section po iyong binasa po nila.

REP. BROSAS. Sa HSAC po sa Adjudication Commission, mayroon kayong representative from the private sector, kasama doon.

REP. SALO. I suppose, Mme. Speaker, you are referring to Section 14, letter (a).

REP. BROSAS. Composition.

REP. SALO. Ang binabanggit po niya dito:

(a) Commissioners. – The Commissioners must be natural born citizens of the Philippines, of good moral character and have been engaged in the practice of law and a member of the Philippine Bar of good standing for a period of at least ten (10) years prior to the appointment: *Provided*, That three (3) Commissioners each

shall be nominees of the planning sector, urban poor and homeowners' associations, and the real estate trade or business, with experience in urban development planning, sustainable development, climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction and/or real estate development.

So, ang sinasabi po natin dito, holistic po iyong approach po natin, na iyong mga maa-appoint po na commissioners, mayroon po silang mas malawak na pagtingin. Hindi lang po sila nanggaling sa isang sektor, na iyong sektor lang na iyon ang kanilang isusulong. Kung sinasabi po natin dito sa isang mas maayos na diskusyon, mas maganda siguro kung nakikita po nila iyong iba't ibang anggulo, iba't ibang perspektibo, perspektibo ng iba't ibang mga sektor sa lipunan. Kaya, kung papansinin po natin dito, isa lang naman po iyon kung saka-sakali in order to ensure that that particular discussion noong komisyon na iyon ay mas malawak at mas komprehensibo.

REP. BROSAS. So, ganoon nga, Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, mayroong representative ng estate developer ...

REP. SALO. Magkakaroon po, opo.

REP. BROSAS. ... sa mga commissioners.

REP. SALO. Maaaring isa sa mga commissioners. So, mayroon siyang, at least, sinasabi po natin kanina, hindi lang po isang pananaw, isang perspektibo ang kailangan nilang sundin sa kanilang pagdidiskurso, bagkus nakokonsidera iyong iba't ibang aspeto sa lipunan.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. G. Isponsor, Mme. Speaker, nais ko pong sabihin na itong mga katanungan kaugnay sa ano iyong policy framework, kung para ito talaga sa mahihirap, hindi pa rin po ganoon kakumbinsido ang Kinatawan na ito kaugnay sa mga ipino-propose na pagbabago nito. Sa tingin po namin, bibigat lang po lalo iyong estruktura at hindi naman talaga matutugunan iyong mga basic problems na inihahain ng ating mga mamamayan, lalung-lalo na iyong mga mahihirap nating kababayan. Hindi po kaila sa atin na iyong pagbubukas ng housing sector sa intervention ng private sector ay hindi naman talaga nagdudulot ng ginhawa at lalo pang nagpapalala noong backlog issue natin ng housing sa bansa.

Isa pa po, iyong mga ipinapasok po natin na mga joint ventures na nagpapalayas sa ating mga mahihirap na mamamayan, marami-rami po iyan. Kasi, ang mga itinatayo ngayon na mga growth centers na tinatawag,

napakarami po niyan and mga developed areas, ano po.

Kasunod po nito, palaisipan pa rin po sa amin kung ang makikinabang ba talaga dito sa pagpapabigat ng estruktura na ito ay masa o baka mauwi nga naman ulit tayo na mga kontrata o super profit ng mga developers ulit ang mangyari at marami na naman ang—katulad ng lesson natin ng nakaraan, iyong mga tiwangwang na bahay nga ngayon, hanggang ngayon ay nakatiwangwang pa rin eh, di ba? Hindi pa nga natin natutugunan iyon eh. So iyon po.

Iyong panghuli, iyong reorganization will not solve iyong housing problem ng masa natin. Mas sa tingin namin magmamahal lang iyong mga pabahay at ang talagang problema ay iyong housing framework at iyong policy talaga natin.

Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker. Maraming salamat po, G. Isponsor.

REP. SALO. Maraming salamat din po, Mme. Speaker. Uulitin ko po iyong sinabi ko na po kanina. Kinikilala po natin at nire respeto po natin iyong pananaw po ninyo, iyong perspektibo po ninyo. Natutuwa po kami na nailahad po ninyo dito sa Kapulungan kung ano iyong pananaw po ninyo. Subalit mas maganda nga rin po siguro kung mayroon po kayong mas magandang maibibigay po, may maimumungkahi tungkol dito sa pagpasá po natin ng Bill na ito. Sinabi ko nga rin po kanina, bukás po tayo at iko-consider po natin iyan. Sa totoo lang po, nagkaroon po kami ng mahigit 10 miting at mas maganda nga po siguro kung aktibo rin po kayo na nakasali doon sa mga pag-uusap po na iyon, sa diskurso po na iyon, para iyong mga pananaw po na binabanggit po ninyo ngayon, definitely, na-consider po siya.

So, muli, maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from Party-List ANAKPAWIS, the Hon. Ariel "Ka Ayik" B. Casilao, for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Honorable Casilao is hereby recognized for his interpellation.

REP. CASILAO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Will the distinguished Sponsor yield to some clarificatory questions and I promise I will be brief?

REP. SALO. Willingly, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CASILAO. Distinguished Sponsor, I would like to begin my questions with a comparative data of statistics.

While my colleague in the GABRIELA Women's Party mentioned that there are about 5.9 million informal settlers that are currently with the status of backlog as to the supposed beneficiary of the housing program of our government, do you agree with these current statistics? Or if you have other statistical references, can you provide this Representation with the seemingly accurate from the government agency themselves that will be providing such data?

REP. SALO. Base po, Mme. Speaker, sa datos ng ating HUDCC, lumalabas po na sa kasalukuyan, ang sinasabi po nila, ang accumulated needs po natin are around 1.4 million housing units, total housing. Although ang total housing needs from—it is accumulated, from 2017 to 2022, iyon po iyong binabanggit po ninyo na 5.1. So, accumulated po iyon for the next five years. Sa kasalukuyan, ang kailangan po natin, ang housing backlog is around 1.4, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CASILAO. Ilan po ang target na beneficiary nitong 1.4?

REP. SALO. Ayon po sa HUDCC, Mme. Speaker, based sa budget na mayroon po tayo ngayon, magpo-produce po ito ng 200,000 units.

REP. CASILAO. Hindi. I was referring to sa 1.4 million, ilang informal settlers ang magbe-benefit nito? The target beneficiary will reduce—expectedly, bababa iyong number of current, ang status nila ay mga homeless informal settlers, am I correct?

REP. SALO. Sabi po ng NHA, Mme. Speaker, it is project-based, depende po kung ano iyong kasalukuyan na budget nila. Sa kasalukuyan, ang target po nila is around hundred thousand. Iyon po ang current na target. Ulitin po natin dahil nga—iyong NHA po ito, sapagkat ang masasabi po natin, depende rin po iyong mapo-produce ng NHA, depende sa budget po na in-allocate po natin sa kanila.

REP. CASILAO. Diyan po pumapasok iyong dilemma ng Kinatawag ito, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, that of course, under the UDHA, iyong papel po ng pribadong sektor to produce or to construct the necessary housing facilities to accommodate government-accredited or -approved beneficiaries ay dependent, una, doon sa—ano iyong nakalagay sa budget, iyong alokasyon. Alam naman po natin ngayon iyong alokasyon for the GAA 2018 ay mababa sa housing agencies dahil nga mayroong sinasabi na mayroon pa namang unimplemented. Although na-allocate na ito, mari-release ito kapag natapos na iyong mga construction. Pero is it not addressing the significant problem of reducing the number of informal

settlers? Dependent iyong construction ng NHA doon sa alokasyon na ibinigay.

Ngayon, totoo naman na kada taon at bawat taon, tumataas po iyong bilang ng mga projected beneficiaries dahil nga iyong kalagayan ng ating maralitang lungsod ay hindi lamang ito question ng, they are homeless. Masalimuot po ang sanga-sangang problema kung bakit lumolobo ang bilang ng ating mga maralitang lungsod. Naniniwala po ang Kinatawag ito na, at batay sa aming pag-aaral, kalakhan ng mga rural poor na nagbabakasakali na pumunta sa mga urbanized cities at mag-venture, or iyong, nakalimutan ko iyong Tagalog na term na makikipagsapalaran ano, at dahil walang katiyakan sa kanilang pakikipagsapalaran, magdudulot ito ng palobo o pataas na bilang ng mga informal settlers and homeless poor.

My point here, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, how would this Bill address the perennial problem of a yearly increasing number of informal settlers? That is one question. Related to that first question, since the policy and program, even if there is a structural change—currently we have seven shelter agencies in addressing these problems—there is a proposal that will create a super agency or a super department that will take care of this particular problem.

Now, may I get an answer from the distinguished Sponsor with regard to the first question so that I can eventually proceed with my next question which is—iyon na nga, iyong papel ng private although my colleague here has already pointed out iyong agam-agam at iyong pagtingin natin na ginagawang negosyo ang serbisyong pabahay na dapat ay pangunahin na responsibilidad ng isang gobyerno.

Now, can you provide the answer, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor? How would this Bill address the perennial problem of our informal settlers and the ballooning number on a yearly basis of our informal settlers?

REP. SALO. Maraming salamat po doon sa inyong katanungan. Ang Representative po na ito ang—ay hindi po natin kini-claim Mme. Speaker, na ito po iyong panacea, ito ho iyong cure-all sa lahat ng problema na kinakaharap ng Pilipinas. I suppose isa lang po ito doon sa mga approaches na ginagawa ng gobyerno at hindi po ito hiwalay doon sa iba't ibang programa at iba't ibang polisiya na ginagawa ng gobyerno. Kung ang tanong po ninyo ay paano ito maii-stop iyong paglobo ng mga tao mula sa pagmamigra nila papunta ng Metro Manila, hindi po ito iyong tugon doon po sa katanungan po ninyo.

Ang tinutugunan po ng panukala pong ito, is to ensure that the existing departments or agencies of the government doon sa pagtasa sa housing sector, mas maging episyente po sila, mas maging effective po sila, mas maging affordable iyong housing, at mas marami



pang ma-produce na housing units para sa kanila. Pero kung ii-stop po sila ng pagpunta po rito, hindi po ito iyong tugon, Mme. Speaker.

Number two, sa housing production may epekto po iyong availability po ng lupa. That is precisely iyon po iyong ina-address ng Section 25, ng batas po na ito sapagkat iyon naman po ang isa sa primary na kailangan mo in order to produce a house is the land. The availability of that particular land, iyon po ang may direktang epekto kung makakapag-produce ka ba ng isang unit ng housing o hindi.

That is precisely kaya po nilagay po natin iyong Section 25 po dito na mag-identify at mag-designate ng lands for Human Settlement and Urban and Rural Development. Iyong departamento pong ito in coordination with the agencies of the government. Mapapansin po natin dito, of course, kapag na-identify mo po iyong budget din po, I suppose, susunod din po iyong binanggit din po natin kanina, if we are going to require, and let us say for example, to produce more houses, mayroon naman po silang available lands na na-identify na pwedeng gamitin, then susunod po doon iyong budget na kakailanganin po nila.

REP. CASILAO. Mme. Speaker, I thank the Sponsor for admitting that this is not a cure-all for the existing problem. Sa paniniwala po ng Kinatawang ito, bago sana natin or kasabay ng structural na pagsasaayos ng usapin ng mga ahensiyang dapat nakatalaga sa pagtugon sa ganitong problema, sana din po ay nakita ang kahalagahan at ang kabigatan ng importance ng salalayan, how the agency will operate? Of course, it will be based on the existing law. Currently, the existing law provides the Urban Development Housing Act at doon na nga, sa tingin po ng Kinatawang ito, malaki at malalim ang problema ng kasalukuyang batas sa usapin ng Urban Development Housing Act na nagulangang tayo at namulat sa kabilang banda.

Noong nagkaroon ng malaking pagkilos ang mga maralitang lungsod sa pangunguna ng Kadamay na inokupahan nila ang mga tiwangwang na pabahay sa Pandi, Bulacan. Bago ito ginawa ng Kadamay, hindi po nailagay sa pambansang attention ang malalim na problemang iniluwal ng batas ng UDHA sa usapin ng sistemang pabahay sa ating bansa. Mabuti po iyon na nagiging usap-usapan at naging usapin sa pambansang attention that it is high time to review the policies or the laws governing—papaano naging—nagluwal ng napakarami o libu-libong mga tiwangwang na pabahay na sa loob ng limang taon ay hindi inokupahan ng supposed beneficiaries.

I understand, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, that there is a separate avenue for that and there is a separate approach to address the law, whether or not to amend, to replace the law, or to pass a new one with regard to the defects of the Urban Development

Housing Act. Mme. Speaker, GABRIELA Women's Party-List, together with the entire Makabayan Bloc, is currently working on a new Bill with regard to repealing the defective provisions of UDHA. Pero, mahalaga din po, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, na kung hindi naman pala ito a cure-all formula, at ang magiging pagsasaayos lamang nito ay itong pag-rationalize, as presented by the first objective of this Bill, Mme. Speaker, to establish an efficient, effective, comprehensive and integral national local housing, dahil nga hiwa-hiwalay ang pitong shelter agencies na ito, kailangang ayusin.

Sa totoo lang po, Mme. Speaker, maganda sana ang intention na magkaroon ng isang ahensiyang nasa kanya ang responsibilidad, buong-buo. Hindi tulad ngayon, mayroon kang seven shelter agencies na iba-iba ang mandato, iba-iba ang function. Iyong ibang mga kababayan natin ginagawang pingpong ball, pinapapunta sa NHA, pinapapunta sa iba't ibang ahensiya at hindi malinaw iyong particular and distinctive function of each agency. Maganda sana iyon, pero, nakatali, and definitely, the distinguished Sponsor will agree, nakatali pa rin naman ang batayang oryentasyon ng panukalang-batas na ito sa batas ng UDHA. Am I correct?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, lilinawin po natin ulit. Ang kini-create po natin dito iyong departamento, at iyong UDHA po—at natutuwa po tayo na nabanggit ng Kinatawan ng ANAKPAWIS na mayroon po silang panukala para amyendahan po iyong UDHA. Ikatutuwa po ng Representative din na ito na mabasa po iyan. Hopefully, kung ito nga, iyan nga po iyong maging tugon o sagot doon sa mga kinikilala po natin na problema sa kasalukuyan, matutuwa po tayo at sana nga po, makakaasa rin po kayo, susuportahan po ng Representative na ito.

REP. CASILAO. Salamat po, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor.

Nabanggit po ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor na pabilisin ang proseso. Isa pong tumingkad sa aking pakikinig kanina sa sagutan, sa interpelasyon at sagot ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, ay iyong to fast-track and to ensure efficient process. Lalo pa, dahil isang Departamento na iyan, ay hindi na—mawawala iyong agam-agam na pasa-pasa sa mga iba't ibang ahensya.

Sana din po hindi mafa-fast-track nito ang mga demolisyon. Alam naman po nating bagamat mayroon tayong standing policy ngayon na no demolition if no relocation, pero alam naman natin na naiikutan iyan, katulad ng ginagawa o nagawa sa Pasig, iyong mga nasa danger zone kuno na floodway sa Pasig, na by act of the local government, naisagawa nila itong pagde-demolish. Unfortunately, there are still a lot of victims doon sa marahas na demolisyon sa floodway, na nagkakampo

pa ngayon sa Mendiola, dahil nga hindi malinaw iyong usapin ng relokasyon. Iyong usapin ng papaano pakikinggan ng ating mga ahensya ng gobyerno ang usapin ng kapag ito ay act of the local government, hindi ito iyong requirements ng—mayroong prepared relocation—take or leave it. If you leave it, ito iyong perang ibibigay, at demolished ka. After matanggap iyong pera, bahala ka na sa buhay mo.

The fear of this Representation, Mme. Speaker, ay baka din mai-streamline at mas mapabilis ang mga ganitong kalagayan na magdudulot ng mabilisan din ngunit marahas na mga pamamaraan ng demolisyon. May I get the comment of the distinguished Sponsor.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, natutuwa po tayo na kinikilala po ng Kinatawan mula sa ANAKPAWIS ang napakagandang intensyon po ng panukalang batas na ito na i-streamline po iyong proseso. Hindi ka na po kinakailangang magkaroon ng pingpong, at pumunta sa iba't ibang ahensya ng gobyerno sapagkat mayroon na pong isang departamento na siyang mag-o-oversee to ensure also na-streamlined iyong proseso at naa-address iyong concern immediately ng mga kliyente, ng mga tao. But at the same time, iyong agam-agam po ng Kinatawan mula sa ANAKPAWIS, pinapawi po natin ito sapagkat sinasabi naman po natin na kung ano iyong proteksyon that is being accorded to them by the Urban Development and Housing Act, mananatili po iyon.

Ngayon, of course, alam ko naman, at nabanggit din po ninyo na may mga concerns po kayo doon sa batas na iyon at may mga sinasabi po kayo, na may ipapanukala po kayo para amyendahan ito para mas mapaganda pa iyong mga probisyon na ito. Sabi ko nga po kanina, natutuwa po tayo na may ganoong proseso at mayroon po kayong ganoong ipapanukala, at ang Representasyon na ito, sinabi ko rin po kanina, will definitely support that particular proposed measure in order to strengthen the provisions of the UDHA.

REP. CASILAO. Ang inaalala ko po, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, dahil nga salalayang batas pa rin ang UDHA, at malinaw naman po sa inyong first page ng Chapter I, sa Declaration of Policy that:

The State shall, by law and for the common good, undertake, in cooperation”, with specific highlight, “in cooperation with the private sector, a continuing program of housing and urban development...

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, this Representation, frankly and honestly speaking, cannot harmonize the different interests of a market-driven housing project and a supposed government-driven housing project to cater to one and the same set of urban

poor beneficiaries—the homeless poor. Whether we like it or not, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, there is really a major difference as to the interest they represent.

The government can really pursue a housing program free from any market-driven private entities. Likewise, the private entities can pursue most especially when the government requires them. Iyan po iyong matagal ng problema sa usapin ng serbisyong pabahay sa kasalukuyan, ng nakaraang mga rehimen, ng nakaraang administrasyon at ng kasalukuyan. But then again, my second to the last question, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, in your definition, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, of “human settlement,” it refers to the integrative concept that comprises: a. Physical components of shelter and infrastructure; b. Community services to which the physical elements provide support, such as education, health, culture, welfare, recreation, food and nutrition.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, there is a significant element which is lacking or missing. The definition of the Bill misses the point that integral components should include livelihood and employment.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, this is the very reason the urban poor is subjected to demolitions, and to negotiations where the relocation is too far from the very source of their livelihood. Marami pong mga kadahilanan kung bakit bumabalik ang ating mga kababayan na biktima ng demolisyon o ma-i-offer ng relokasyon dahil sa malayong pinagkikitaan o hanapbuhay. That is the very reason the perennial problem of our relocatees in relocation sites remain unaddressed because of the lack of livelihood and employment component.

May I know from the distinguished Sponsor, Mme. Speaker, why is it so that a very important component in human settlement—employment or livelihood—is not part of the Definition of Terms in your Bill?

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, doon sa binasa po ng Kinatawan mula sa ANAKPAWIS, malinaw po iyong sinasabi niya: “Human settlement refers to the integrative concept that comprise of a) physical components of shelter and infrastructure; and b) community services to which the physical elements provide support, such as education, health, culture, welfare, recreation, food and nutrition.”

Ang papansinin po natin dito ay iyong kanilang phrase na ginamit po diyan, “such as.” Hindi naman po niya sinasabi na ito lang po iyon. Ngayon, kung nais po ninyo na include po iyong livelihood, iyong employment, then by all means, Mme. Speaker, pagpasok po ng sa period of amendments, we shall certainly welcome those specific amendments that you will propose, Mme. Speaker.

Isa pa, iyong binabanggit ninyo kanina with respect doon sa, in cooperation with the private sector, paalala lang din po siguro, nais ko ring i-point out na iyan po ay nakasulat din, nakasaad po sa Konstitusyon. Wala naman po tayong binago, kinopya lang naman po natin. So, I suppose iyong batas po na ipino-propose po natin dito nakaangkla rin po mismo sa Konstitusyon po natin.

REP. CASILAO. Thank you very much for that possible suggestion, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, that this Representation, at the proper time, probably will propose such an amendment, pero gusto ko rin pong malaman, intentional ba na kalimutan or talagang for the sake of interpretation of “such as” ay hindi inilagay, knowing the fact that ito naman iyong parating paulit-ulit na problema ng ating mga relocatees? Probably, the cure will be in the period of amendment which I probably will consider, but again, mahalaga po iyon dahil nga sa mismong batas nga ng UDHA, nakalimutan na rin iyan e, hindi nga nakalagay diyan.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, sabi ko nga po kanina, hindi naman po kabuuan po iyan kaya ginamit po diyan ang, “such as”. Natutuwa po tayo na na-call po iyong attention natin ng Kinatawan po mula sa ANAKPAWIS, and certainly, kagaya rin po ng binabanggit po ninyo, doon sa UDHA mismo, wala po iyon. I suppose, it is high time for us to include that as well.

REP. CASILAO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, my other question was already raised by my colleague with regard to the possible displacement of our government employees. However, there is a provision of absorption, but in lieu of the existing Rightsizing Law and the possible enactment or the operation of the Rightsizing Law, we will really expect loss of jobs from, of course, the seven shelter agencies. From the data or from the information I have, I do not know if I am mistaken, almost 7,000, sa lahat po, sa pitong shelter agencies, from Director, Assistant Director, regular, rank and file, job orders and contract of service.

Definitely, whether we like it or not, tanggapin man natin o hindi, malalagasan ito, and especially, kapag in-invoke ang Rightsizing Law, mas matindi pa at liliit pa ang bilang ng ating mga—sa halip na sana ay i-absorb at gawing regular dahil alam naman natin, malaking employer ang ating gobyerno sa mga contractual na empleyado.

Now, my last point, Mme. Speaker, we maintain that the struggle for a people-responsive, urban-poor responsive program of the State, of the government, with regard to addressing the housing problem, is not an independent or a separate issue.

Gaya ng aking binanggit sa unang pagtatanong, masalimuot po at kabit-kabit po ang mga problemang ito. Urban development requires not only an efficient

and effective urban planning. Essentially, it requires addressing not only the problem in the urban centers, but also most especially problems in the rural part. Mahalaga po na kakabit nito ang usapin ng tunay na reporma sa lupa. Mahalaga po na kakabit nito ang usapin na maka-mamamayan talaga at government-initiated na katugunan sa serbisyong panlipunan.

Again, Mme. Speaker, the Bill may only address structural problems but the perennial and the chronic problems lie partially in the major part of the law, of UDHA. The system itself requires revision and a necessary, genuine change.

Maraming salamat po sa mga kasagutan ng ating kagalang-galang na Sponsor, at sa pagkakataon na marinig ang mga agam-agam at katanungan ng sektor na kinakatawanan ng Representasyong ito.

Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

REP. SALO. Mme. Speaker, maraming-maraming salamat po sa Representative ng ANAKPAWIS. Muli, inuulit po natin iyong kanilang pananaw, kinikilala po natin ito at nire respeto po natin ito. At iyong kanilang mga panukala na binabanggit po nila kanina, pagbabago ng mga pananaw o pagbubuo ng mga bagong framework, ikatutuwa po natin ito and this Representation would definitely support those particular measures once they submit them for discussion. And, we will definitely welcome all those proposals and consider them in the Committee for discussion.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Lady from Party-List GABRIELA, the Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus, for her manifestation.

REP. DE JESUS. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus is recognized.

REP. DE JESUS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker at G. Sponsor.

Una po, bago po iyong aking maikling manifestasyon, gusto ko pong kilalanin ang presensya noong ilang matiyagang naghihintay dito na mga stakeholders natin galing sa mga ahensya na sabi nga kanina ay kinakabahan doon sa magiging epekto noong reorganization, at iyong ating ilang grupo ng mga hanggang ngayon ay nakabitin iyong paglutas doon sa kanilang housing problems. Kaya, kinikilala ko po ang kanilang presensya.

Pangalawa, ang manifestation pong ito ay pagsusog doon sa mga nabanggit na rin ng ating mga naunang

interpellators na, unang-una ang gusto kong bigyang pansin, na hindi nilulutas ng simpleng reorganisasyon iyong malalim na problema ng isang mayor na batayang karapatan ng marami nating mamamayan, ang usapin ng pabahay. At kung doon po sa balangkas, iyong framework, ang napansin ko po dito sa Declaration of Policy, ay nabanggit doon iyong continuing program, ang gusto kong itala o irehistro, saan kayo magsisimula o saan sisimulan? When in fact, the ongoing programs that we have now are, as mentioned, hindi talaga naglilingkod sa mamamayan. Kaya, ano ba ang kahulugan ng continuing program? Will the reorganization resolve the problem? At iyon pong binanggit din doon sa framework na iyong “productive economic activity led by market forces,” medyo nakakabahala ito eh, kasi ibig sabihin nito prevailing pa rin talaga ang value o ang magiging dominant pa rin ang papel ng merkado o iyong mga negosyante.

Ang ikatlong punto po ay iyong kaugnay ng guarantee the preservation of agricultural lands necessary for food security. Noon pong panahon pa ni Pres. Fidel V. Ramos, iyong inilunsad po niya iyong PDP, at nagkaroon talaga ng massive land conversion at marami pa, ano pa ang garantiya o ano iyong ipe-preserve natin na lupa na necessary for food security, when in fact, hanggang ngayon nga patuloy ang land conversion?

At pang-huling punto po, ang alam natin na inaprubahan na pangunahin at flagship program ng Pangulong Duterte ay iyong kaniyang “Build, Build, Build Infrastructure Program.” Ano ang magiging kaugnayan nito dito sa inihahain na panukalang batas na magkakaroon ng tunggalian, at lalabas na wala rin namang epekto sa ikabubuti ng ating mamamayan dahil naririyang ang isang programa na sabi nga namin baka instead na “Build, Build, Build” ay maging “Destroy, Destroy, Destroy”?

So, sa bahaging ito, Mme. Speaker, G. Isponsor, itinatala po ng Representasyong ito ang manipestasyong iyon at nakahanda po kami para sa patuloy na pakikipag-usap sa mga stakeholders para sa kanilang kahingian—para po maibahagi at maipahayag iyong nais nating baguhin o amyendahin.

Maraming salamat po.

REP. SALO. Muli, Mme. Speaker, nagpapasalamat rin po tayo sa manipestasyon po ng Representative ng GABRIELA. Nagpapasalamat po tayo sa kanilang mga manipestasyon, and please be assured that we take note of all of these. At the same time, iyong mga panukala po ninyo, makakaasa po kayo, we highly welcome them. At kung mas may mga pamamaraan pa po kayo na mas ma-enhance po natin iyong probisyon po ng batas na ipinapanukala po dito ay welcome na welcome po.

Maraming salamat muli.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Thank you.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mme. Speaker. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6775

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 6775.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the consideration of House Bill No. 6775 is hereby suspended.

#### CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. NO. 1614

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, included in the Business for the Day, I move that we consider House Resolution No. 1614.

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

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

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Resolution No. 1614, entitled: RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILY OF ENGINEER OSCAR R. SARMIENTO, FATHER OF EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FIRST DISTRICT OF SAMAR, AND MEL SENEN S. SARMIENTO, FORMER MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND FORMER DILG SECRETARY.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

ADOPTION OF H. RES. NO. 1614

REP. GONZALES (A.P.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we adopt House Resolution No. 1614.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; House Resolution No. 1614 is hereby adopted.

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

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we include additional coauthors to House Bill No. 6306, as contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the additional coauthors to House Bill No. 6306 are hereby included.

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF CERTAIN MEASURES

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of the following measures:

House Bill No. 4108, from the Committees on Basic Education and Culture, and on Higher and Technical Education to the Committees on Higher and Technical Education, and on Basic Education and Culture; House Bill No. 5752, from the Committee on Natural Resources to the Committee on Transportation, and House Bill No. 6761, from the Committee on Appropriations to the Committee on Revision of Laws.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the transfer is hereby made of record.

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, before we approve Journal No. 53, dated January 23, 2018, I move that we amend the same to correct the entry therein, to reflect the attendance of Rep. Eleanor C. Bulut-Begtang who was inadvertently marked as absent by the Secretariat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the proposed amendment to the Journal is hereby noted and made of record.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL,  
AS AMENDED

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 53, dated January 23, 2018, as amended.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Journal dated January 23, 2018, as amended, is hereby approved.

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, earlier we adopted House Resolution No. 1614. I move that we adopt the same, in consolidation with House Resolution No. 1606.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the consolidation of the two measures is hereby approved.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. NOEL. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until January 29, 2018, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The session is adjourned until four o'clock on January 29, 2018.

*It was 7:24 p.m.*