



# Congressional Record

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

## House of Representatives

Vol. 4

Monday, January 29, 2018

No. 55

### CALL TO ORDER

*At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Bai Sandra Sinsuat A. Sema called the session to order.*

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

### NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Everybody will please rise to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Everybody will please remain standing for the Invocation to be led by Rep. Jose Carlos L. Cari from the Fifth District of Leyte.

*Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.*

### INVOCATION

REP. CARI. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Before we start our session, we ask You to cleanse us, clear our thoughts, purify our hearts, forgive our sins and the things we failed to do to glorify You.

We thank You for giving us this opportunity to make a difference for our country.

We ask You to guide us, that we may not falter.

Show us Your ways, teach us Your path that the good, the best, and the truth will prevail in this House.

This we ask through Your Son, Jesus Christ.

Mother Mary, Blessed Virgin, pray for us.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). *Hamdulillah.*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

### ROLL CALL

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). 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. 55, dated January 29, 2018.\**

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Sema relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Pia S. Cayetano.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. 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.

### APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 54 of the session on January 24, 2018.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

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, Message from the Senate, Communications, and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 7004, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE METROPOLITAN TRIAL COURT TO BE STATIONED AT THE CITY OF VALENZUELA, METRO MANILA, AND AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE SECTION 27 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Gatchalian  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7006, entitled:

“AN ACT ENSURING FOOD SECURITY, INCREASING AGRICULTURAL YIELD, PRODUCTIVITY, AND FARMERS’ INCOME BY CONSOLIDATING OWNERSHIP, RIGHTS AND UTILIZATION OF SMALL LANDHOLDINGS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Yap (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

House Bill No. 7008, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING THE CONVERSION OF IRRIGATED LANDS IN THE PHILIPPINES, IMPOSING FEES AND PENALTIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Cua  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM

House Bill No. 7009, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTION, AND SALE OF PERSONAL COSMETIC PRODUCTS CONTAINING MICROBEADS”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7010, entitled:

“AN ACT DEFINING THE CRIME OF INDISCRIMINATE FIRING WITH CASUALTY, PRESCRIBING PUNISHMENT THEREFOR, INCLUDING IT IN THE CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS AS ARTICLE 254-B, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE THE REVISED PENAL CODE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7011, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE PROVINCIAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY CENTER INTO PROVINCIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OFFICE IN EVERY PROVINCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives Aumentado, Mangaoang and Jalosjos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 7012, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS BY RATIONALIZING THE FORMULA OF THE ANNUAL INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT SHARE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Alejano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 7013, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING THE HOLDING PERIOD (LOCK-IN) OF MOBILE PHONES (DEVICES) TO A TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY (SERVICE PROVIDER), ALLOWING SUBSCRIBERS TO UNLOCK THE DEVICE BEFORE THE END OF ITS SUBSCRIPTION, TO FOSTER CONSUMER PROTECTION UNDER THE DURATION OF ITS SERVICE CONTRACT, PROVIDING PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 7014, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) TO INCLUDE A COURSE ON MODERN

POLITICAL SYSTEMS, WITH EMPHASIS ON FEDERALISM AND PARLIAMENTARY FORMS OF GOVERNMENT, AS A MANDATORY SUBJECT IN THE HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM”

By Representative Chipeco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 7015, entitled:

“AN ACT EXTENDING THE LIFE OF POWER SECTOR ASSETS AND LIABILITIES CORPORATION (PSALM), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9136 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Uybarreta  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Bill No. 7017, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE MAINSTREAM USE OF ELECTRIC, HYBRID AND OTHER ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 7018, entitled:

“AN ACT ABOLISHING THE NATIONAL COORDINATING AND MONITORING BOARD AND CREATING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, AMENDING THEREFOR REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257, AS FURTHER AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010’ ”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 7019, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING PROTECTION AND INCENTIVES FOR FREELANCE WORKERS”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 7020, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE, WITH STATIONS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SINDANGAN AND THE CITY OF DIPOLOG, AND ONE (1) BRANCH OF MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT

IN CITIES, WITH STATION IN THE CITY OF DIPOLOG, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’ AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Labadlabad  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7022, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE MUNICIPALITY OF STA. CRUZ IN THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Velasco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 7023, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING POCTOY WHITE BEACH IN THE PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE AS AN ECOTOURISM SITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Velasco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 7024, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE LUZON DATUM LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MOGPOG, PROVINCE OF MARINDUQUE A TOURIST SPOT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Velasco  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 7025, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ENHANCED PROTECTION FOR SUBSCRIBERS OF BASIC UTILITY SERVICES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 7026, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPOSING STIFFER PENALTIES ON MEDICAL AND DENTAL MALPRACTICE”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7027, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE MEDINA HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF

MEDINA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL TO AN EXTENSION HOSPITAL OF THE NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER, CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS THE NORTHERN MINDANAO MEDICAL CENTER EXTENSION HOSPITAL”

By Representative Unabia  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7028, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PALLIATIVE CARE SYSTEM, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Lanete  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1615, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON THE DEMISE OF FASHION DESIGNER JOSE ‘PITOY’ MORENO”

By Representative Nieto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1616, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF PARAFFIN TESTS CONDUCTED BY THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE (PNP)”

By Representative Biazon  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

Message dated November 29, 2017 informing the House of Representatives that on even date, the Senate designated Senators Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, Win Gatchalian, Sonny Angara, Emmanuel “Manny” D. Pacquiao and Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1311, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9485 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ANTI-RED TAPE ACT OF 2007, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE BUSINESS ANTI-RED TAPE AND COMPETITIVENESS BUREAU, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

and House Bill No. 6579, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL POLICY ON EASE OF DOING BUSINESS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE EASE OF DOING BUSINESS COMMISSION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

COMMUNICATIONS

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

Consolidated Senate Bill No. 209 and House Bill No. 6136, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE TWENTY-FIFTH DAY OF AUGUST OF EVERY YEAR AS THE NATIONAL TECH-VOC DAY”

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letter dated December 8, 2017 of Arsenio M. Balisacan, Chairman, Philippine Competition Commission, providing the House of Representatives a copy of the Commission’s 2016 Annual Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

Letter dated 14 December 2017 of Nestor A. Espenilla, Jr., Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives their Report on Economic and Financial Developments in the Philippines, Third Quarter 2017, pursuant to Section 39(a), Chapter I, Article V of the New Central Bank Act (R.A. No. 7653).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

Letter dated 15 December 2017 of Maria Almasara Cyd N. Tũaño-Amador, Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Governor, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, submitting the data on outstanding Philippine external debt as of 30 September 2017 which were noted by the Monetary Board on 15 December 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated December 18, 2017 of Evelyn S. Maraňon, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Corporate Government Sector III, Water Districts and Other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Regional Office No. XVI, Commission on Audit furnishing the House of Representatives with the 2016 Annual Audit Reports on the following water districts in Negros Occidental:

1. Binalbagan Water District, Binalbagan, Negros Occidental;
2. Escalante Water District, Escalante City, Negros Occidental; and
3. Manapla Water District, Manapla, Negros Occidental.

## TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated December 19, 2017 of Catalino S. Cuy, Officer-in-Charge, Department of the Interior and Local Government, submitting the Statement of Allotments, Obligations and Balances (Current and Cont. Appropriations) of the Office of the Secretary, this Department, as of November 30, 2017, in compliance with Section 91 of the General Provisions of Republic Act No. 10924.

## TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 3, 2018 of Allan S. Borromeo, Regional Director, Regional Office XI, Department of Public Works and Highways, submitting the Monthly Progress Status Report for the month of December 2017, for projects implemented by their office within the First Legislative District of Davao del Norte.

## TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Letter dated January 8, 2018 of Maria Gleda E. Lim, State Auditor V, Supervising Auditor, Office of the Supervising Auditor, Audit Groups CGS I and II – Water Districts and Other CGS Stand Alone Agencies, Regional Office No. VI, Commission on Audit, furnishing the House of Representatives the Annual Audit Report on the Dingle-Pototan Water District for CY 2014-2016.

## TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2016 Annual Report of the Board of Investments.

## TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

2016 Annual Report of the Social Security System.

## TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

Letters dated January 8, 11 and 19, 2018 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Circular Letter No. CL-2017-080 dated 20 December 2017;
2. Memorandum No. M-2017-038 dated 28 December 2017;

3. Memorandum No. M-2017-039 dated 28 December 2017;
4. Circular No. 986 dated 29 December 2017;
5. Circular No. 987 dated 28 December 2017;
6. Circular No. 988 dated 20 December 2017;
7. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-001 dated 5 January 2018;
8. Circular No. 989 dated 4 January 2018;
9. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-002 dated 9 January 2018;
10. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-003 dated 9 January 2018;
11. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-004 dated 9 January 2018; and
12. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-005 dated 12 January 2018.

## TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 579), re H.B. No. 7016, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE POSITION OF ASSISTANT CITY ADMINISTRATOR, EMPHASIZING THE PROHIBITION ON ILLEGAL GAMBLING, AND ESTABLISHING THE CITY REGISTRY OF DEEDS OFFICE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 7, 10, 36, 51 AND 52 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8983 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BAYAWAN”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2766

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Teves  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 580), re H.B. No. 7021, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE WALING-WALING ORCHID AS THE NATIONAL FLOWER OF THE PHILIPPINES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1561

Sponsors: Representatives Durano and Garcia-Albano  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Population and Family Relations and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 581), re H.B. No. 7030, entitled:

“AN ACT PROTECTING SENIOR CITIZEN

FROM VIOLENCE, DEFINING ELDER ABUSE, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 865, 2989, 4708 and 4980

Sponsors: Representatives Aragonés, Nograles (K.A.), Yap (V.), Gatchalian, Antonino, Batocabe, Garbin and Co

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Social Services, the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 582), re H.B. No. 7033, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE SYSTEM FOR REGISTRATION AND LICENSING OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES AND ACCREDITATION OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS AND SERVICES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 438

Sponsors: Representatives Eriguel, Bravo (A.), Canama, Nograles (K.A.) and Cua

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

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

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

#### NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6923 ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6923 and direct our Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to*

*the Members on January 23, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6923, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION (PCIC), REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1467, ENTITLED “CREATING THE ‘PHILIPPINE CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION’ PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND ACTIVITIES, PROVIDING FOR ITS CAPITALIZATION AND FOR THE REQUIRED GOVERNMENT PREMIUM SUBSIDY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES,” AS AMENDED BY PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 1733 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8175.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated January 29, 2018.*

#### APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6923 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). With 197 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6923 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6686 ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6686 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 25, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6686, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING FULL INSURANCE COVERAGE TO ALL QUALIFIED AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES OF

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9700, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM PROGRAM EXTENSION WITH REFORMS.”

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated January 29, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6686  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). With 201 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6686 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, before we proceed, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Gentleman from 1-PACMAN, the Hon. Michael L. Romero, PhD. They are members of the United Community Alliance of Pasig. We have Gil Austero, Marcos Aquino, Helen Vasquez, Antonio Bello, Romy Tubale, Yolanda Arrol, Alma Austero, Teresita Hernandez, Dolly Paler, and Patricio Ramirez. Also, from Batang Spartan, Marikina, we have Eric Songkuan, Ma. Cecilia Peol, Leo Genesis Nicolas, Hero Juachon, Jeffrey Angeles, Sharlene Dela Paz, Marydee Gonzaga, and Kristine Anne Santos.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). May we ask the guests to stand up so the Members of the House may greet and give you our warm welcome. Welcome. Thank you. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6743  
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6743 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 25, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6743, entitled: AN ACT ENCOURAGING VOLUNTEERISM DURING EMERGENCIES BY PROTECTING VOLUNTEERS FROM LIABILITY.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated January 29, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6743  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). With 202 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6743 is approved on Third Reading.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests. They are the guests of the Representatives of the province of Isabela: Rep. Rodolfo T. Albano III, Rep. Ana Cristina Siquian Go, Rep. Napoleon S. Dy, Rep. Ma. Lourdes “Nettie” R. Aggabao, Rep. Jose T. Panganiban, and yours truly, Rep. Arnel U. Ty. They are my parents, Engr. Honorio Ty and Conchita Ty, and my wife, Mari Antonette Ty, and also, my relatives who are in the gallery.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). May we ask our guests to rise so they may be acknowledged and welcomed by the Members of the House of Representatives. Welcome, especially to the parents of Honorable Ty. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6779  
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6779 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)



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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 25, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6779, entitled: AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE CIVIL EFFECTS OF CHURCH ANNULMENT DECREE.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated January 29, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6779  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). With 203 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6779 is approved on Third Reading.

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker.

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

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6893  
ON THIRD READING

REP. TY. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6893 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 25, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6893, entitled: AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF

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

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated January 29, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6893  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). With 204 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6893 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6908  
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6908 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 25, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6908, entitled: AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SECURITY OF TENURE OF WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.”

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated January 29, 2018.*

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)



REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes. What is the pleasure of Her Honor?

REP. BROSAS. Mme. Speaker, may I be allowed to explain my vote with regard to House Bill No. 6908.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes, you may, later. Under our Rules, you can do so later.

REP. BROSAS. Later?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). After the announcement of the results.

REP. BROSAS. Okay. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). But, would you like to put on record your vote as they need to record it.

REP. BROSAS. My vote is “No,” Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Okay. Thank you. We will call on you later.

REP. CASILAO. Mme. Speaker, my vote is “No” and I would like to reserve my right to explain my vote later.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Thank you. We will note that.

REP. CASTRO (F.L.) Mme. Speaker, my vote is “No.”

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Noted.

REP. DE JESUS. Mme. Speaker, my vote is “No” and I will submit the explanation of my vote later. Thank you.

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

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes, what is His Honor’s pleasure?

REP. LAGMAN. At the proper time, may I be allowed to explain my affirmative vote with reservation?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. Affirmative vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). And your vote is?

REP. LAGMAN. “Yes.” Affirmative.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes. Okay, we will call on you later. Thank you, Honorable Lagman.

REP. TINIO. Mme. Speaker, I vote “No.”

REP. ZARATE. Mme. Speaker, may I be allowed later to explain my negative vote.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes, Honorable Zarate.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request the Chair to allow me to explain my vote as I am voting in favor, but I would like to explain it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Noted. We will call on you later, Honorable Atienza.

#### RESULT OF THE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The result shows 199 affirmative votes, 7 negative votes and no abstention.

House Bill No. 6908 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### EXPLANATION OF VOTES

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, may we now proceed with the explanation of votes in the order they were manifested.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Please, proceed.

Majority Leader, maybe you can call on them. I think it was Rep. Arlene D. Brosas who was the first.

REP. DEFENSOR. In that case, may we now recognize the Honorable Brosas for her explanation. I also move that the Lady be given three minutes for her explanation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Yes. The Honorable Brosas is recognized. You may proceed. You have three minutes.

### REP. BROSAS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, mga kapwa ko Kinatawan, ang Representasyong ito ay tutol sa pagsasabatas ng House Bill No. 6908. Mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, sa pagsisimula pa lamang ng bagong administrasyon, ibinandera na ni Pangulong Duterte ang diumano ay kanyang adhikain na wakasan ang endo. Ang kontraktwalisasyon ay isang masahol na modus ng mga kapitalista upang alisin ang tuwirang relasyon nito sa mga manggagawa. Sa ganitong eskema, kadalasan ang mga manggagawang kontraktwal ay tumatanggap ng pinakamababang sahod, walang seguridad sa pangkabuhayan, pinagkakaitan ng mga benepisyong itinatakda ng batas at hinahadlangan silang mag-uyon na kanilang tanging sandata upang igiit ang kanilang mga karapatan bilang manggagawang siyang lumilikha ng yamang pinagmumulan ng tubo para sa mga kapitalista.

Sa kabila ng dekadang pakikibaka at pagharap ng mga manggagawa sa mga ganitong usapin, walang iniaalok na solusyon ang House Bill No. 6908 para wakasan ang kontraktwalisasyon, bagkus ay lalo pa nitong pinalala at nilegalisa ang mapagsamantalang eskemang ito. Sa pamamagitan ng bagong probisyon na ipapasok sa Labor Code hinggil sa licensing ng job contractors at outsourcing firms, Article 106-A. Ibig sabihin ay pinapayagan ang relasyong principal-contractor-employer. Anu't anupaman, legal pa rin ang kontraktwalisasyon sa ilalim ng panukalang-batas dahil may pagkilala sa job contractor o middle man.

Gusto ring tanggalin ng panukalang-batas na ito ang isa sa mga esensiyal na pagkilala sa "necessary and desirable" na paggawa na lalo pang magiging dahilan para maikutan ng mga malalaking kapitalista ang pagreregularisa sa mga manggagawa. Bagama't may mga pabalat-bungang probisyon tulad ng pagpapalawak ng benepisyong matatanggap ng mga manggagawang tinanggal, o pagbabawal sa broken o discontinuous employment o pagpapaikli sa probationary employment mula six months tungong three months, hindi nito nireresolba ang isyu ng malawakang tanggalan at dekadang pahirap ng kawalan ng seguridad sa trabaho.

Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Thank you, Representative Brosas.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

I believe Representative Casilao is the next one in line to explain his vote. You may proceed.

### REP. CASILAO EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. CASILAO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

"No" po ang boto ng Kinatawang ito sa mga kadahilanang sumusunod: una, the Bill fell short of

genuinely addressing the problem of contractualization. Institutionalizing the practice of so-called permissible job contracts or permissible job contracting, despite putting in place the requirements of registration and accreditation, will still be prone to circumvention and abuse. Thus, iyong laganap na kontraktwalisasyon ay mangyayari at mangyayari pa rin.

Pangalawa, the authors themselves admitted in the series of deliberation, interpellation and debate, na ang ma-identify na permissible job contracts will be limited to certain fields, ngunit dahil nga na-delete o tinanggal ang depinisyon sa pagiging regular na empleyado, when his or her work is necessary and desirable, to that effect, Mme. Speaker, iyong direktang pagtatrabaho ng manggagawa sa isang necessary and desirable to the business of the principal employer na tinanggal sa depinisyon sa panukalang-batas na ito, ay isang malaking pag-atras sa natamong tagumpay ng uring manggagawa sa usapin ng pagkadeklara ng kanyang regular na status.

Pangatlo, Mme. Speaker, sa kabilang banda na tinaasan ang mga elemento ng pagdeklara ng labor-only contracting, at nawa ay magdudulot ito ng malaking kabawasan sa mga nagpa-practice ng labor-only contracting, alalahanin natin, Mme. Speaker, na ang kalakhan ng mga malalaking negosyo ay nasa likod ng LOC na ito.

Kaya, ang pang-apat ko na argumento, kahit pa tinaasan ang mga penalties at babayaran ng mga madedeclarang magpa-practice ng LOC, hindi tinanggap na panukala ng Kinatawang ito ang kriminal na pananagutan ng mga gagawa ng LOC, dahil nga sa takot na baka raw ang ating mga negosyante ay matakot na magnegosyo.

Sa punto de bista ng Kinatawang ito, Mme. Speaker, kung ikaw po ay tapat na magnenegosyo lamang at walang balak o walang planong mang-abuso sa iyong mga manggagawa, hindi ka matatakot na sundin ang mga batas na itinakda. Pero kapag ikaw ay ang nasa isip mo lamang ay kung paano magkamal ng higitang kita mula sa dugo at pawis ng lakas-paggawa ng mga manggagawa, talagang iikutan mo ang batas sa usapin ng paggawa.

Sa mga kadahilanang ito, Mme. Speaker, naniniwala ang Kinatawang ito na mananatili sa lakas ng kilusan ng mga manggagawa ang kanyang paglaban para wakasan ang kontraktwalisasyon sa ating bansa.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

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

I believe Representative Castro wanted to explain her vote as well. But now, no more. Representative Lagman, please proceed.

### REP. LAGMAN EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, thank you.

Stamping out irregular contractualization and the pernicious practice of endo is long overdue. For this

reason, I vote “Yes” on the Bill but I have serious concerns and reservations which could be addressed in the bicameral conference committee like the following:

All possible loopholes in the Bill which could be exploited by erring employers must be flagged or much better, deleted;

Provisions protecting workers from illegal dismissal must include constructive dismissal like, among others, transfer to an inferior position;

Project employees who are repeatedly rehired by their employers should be considered regular employees consistent with decisions of the Supreme Court;

The jurisdiction toward moral and other damages over illegally dismissed workers should be with the National Labor Relations Commission and the competent regular courts, with the aggrieved worker exercising the option as to where to file the claim because the NLRC, in most cases, failed to award damages; and

In addition to a fine, appropriate imprisonment must be imposed on errant employers based on *malum prohibitum* and their special penal laws, not on *malum in se* or malice under the Revised Penal Code.

I reiterate, Mme. Speaker, that I vote “Yes” but with strong reservations which could be addressed in the Bicameral Conference Committee.

Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Thank you, Representative Lagman.

Representative Zarate may proceed.

#### REP. ZARATE EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ZARATE. Maraming salamat. Salamat, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, bagama’t ang Kinatawang ito ay author ng House Bill No. 1208, prohibiting labor contractualization, at isa sa mga panukalang-batas na na-consider bago nagkaroon ng substitute bill, tayo po ay bumoboto ng “No” dito sa House Bill No. 6908.

Matagal na pong panawagan ng ating mga manggagawa ang pagwawakas ng kontraktwalisasyon at ipinaglalaman po ito ng BAYAN MUNA sa loob at labas ng Kongreso. Ngunit hindi po ang House Bill No. 6908 ang katuparan sa pagwawakas ng mapagsamantalang kontraktwalisasyon sa ating bayan. Sa halip, ito ay puspos ng mga probisyong madaling paikutan ng mga negosyante at korporasyong sumisiil sa karapatan ng mga manggagawa at humuhuthot ng pinakamalaking tubo sa kanilang pinagpapaguran.

Isang usapin dito ang pagtanggap, Mme. Speaker, ng terminong “necessary or desirable” sa Section 295 ng panukalang batas. Ang pagtanggap ng katagang ito ay bumabakbak sa pag-asang regularisasyon

ng mga manggagawa, dahil, Mme. Speaker, kahit kinakailangan ang lakas-paggawa o kakayahan ng isang manggagawa sa operasyon ng negosyo ay hindi na dahilan ito upang siya ay maging regular. Sa halip, ibabatay na lamang ang regularisasyon sa tagal ng kanilang pagseserbisyo. Delikado po ito sapagkat karanasan na ng mga manggagawa lalo na sa malalaking kompanya na ang kanilang trabaho kahit ito ay parte ng pagpapatakbo ng negosyo o opisina ay ginagawang kontraktwal. Nagbubukas ang pagtatanggal ng terminong “necessary or desirable” sa lalong paglaganap ng kontraktwalisasyon na trabaho sa lahat ng bahagi ng operasyon ng mga negosyo.

Isa pang malaking usapin ay ang pagpapalawig ng depinisyon ng job contractors habang pinapakitid ng panukalang batas na ito ang depinisyon ng regular na empleyo. Tila бага, Mme. Speaker, na habang ipinagbabawal natin ang labor-only contracting, tuloy na isinasabatas pa naman din natin ang job contractualization.

Mga kapwa Mambabatas, Mme. Speaker, malayo na ang naabot para sa kasiguruhan ng empleyo ng ating mga kababayan. Sana ay isagad na natin ang kanilang tagumpay.

Wakasan ang kontraktwalisasyon!

Karapatan sa seguridad sa trabaho, dapat ipaglaban!

Maraming salamat at magandang hapon po .

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Salamat, Representative Zarate, and may we call on Representative Atienza.

Representative Atienza, it is your turn. You may proceed.

#### REP. ATIENZA EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po, Mme. Speaker.

Thank you, Mr. Majority Leader.

Matagal na panahon na pong pinagsasamantalahan ang hanay ng manggagawa dito sa tinatawag nating contractualization, at itong batas na ito ay naghahangad na maging panimula ng unang hakbang upang bigyan ng proteksyon ang ating hanay ng mahihirap.

Nakikita ko po ang problema ng kabilang panig, ng kapitalista-negosyante, samantalang gusto nating mapalayang tunay ang kamay ng ating mga manggagawa na huwag silang mapagsamantalahan. They have been exploited, manipulated and continued to be used by the business sector and the capitalists in their weaknesses.

This law, as I see it, would give the government now an opportunity to put in more controls on the bad practice of contractualization as we have seen it in the past years. Kaya ako po ay bumoto ng “Yes” ay sapagkat ito po ay pinaniniwalaan kong simula lang ng ating

mahabang landasin sa pagbibigay ng mas magandang buhay sa lahat.

Inaasahan ko rin ang pangako ng mga Sponsor na ito ay bahagi lamang ng problemang pangkalahatan sapagkat ang mga casual sa gobyerno ay hindi man lamang natin binabanggit dito. Ito ay casual sa pribado, pero iyong mga casual sa gobyerno na mas marami ang bilang ay hindi man lang natin binigyan ng pansin.

As I have pointed out in my interpellation, and we got the concurrence and agreement of the Sponsors, we will now follow through with attending to the situation of the government casuals. Marami pong casual sa gobyerno na bumibilang na ng dekada—mayroong dalawang dekada, mayroong magre-retire na as casuals. Panahon na upang sila naman ay bigyan din ng katiyakan sa kanilang kalagayan. They have to be given permanent employment if we are to really attend to the totality of the problem of the exploitation of our helpless poor.

With that assurance from the Sponsors, we agree also with their proposed measures today and that is the reason we voted “Yes,” but with the intention that we will follow through with a law that will now attend to the problem of our civil servants who are also being taken advantage of by the government.

Maraming, maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Thank you, Honorable Atienza.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6908  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). With 199 affirmative votes, 7 negative votes and no abstention, House Bill No. 6908 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6922  
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6922 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 25, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6922, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 30 OF EVERY YEAR AS “NATIONAL PRESS FREEDOM DAY.”

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated January 29, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6922  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). With 210 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6922 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6619  
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6619, and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 25, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6619, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE BAGUIO GENERAL HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER FROM FIVE HUNDRED (500) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) BEDS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated January 29, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6619  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). With 211 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

abstention, House Bill No. 6619 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6971  
ON THIRD READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6971 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

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

*Thereupon, the Secretary General read the title of the measure, printed copies of which were distributed to the Members on January 25, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6971, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY 184, ZONE 19, MARICABAN, PASAY CITY TO BE KNOWN AS PRESIDENT CORAZON “CORY” C. AQUINO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

*The Chair directed the Secretary General to call the roll for nominal voting. Thereafter, pursuant to the Rules of the House, a second roll call was made. The result of the voting on Third Reading\* on the aforesaid measure is reflected in Journal No. 55, dated January 29, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6971  
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). With 212 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6971 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, Mr. Speaker, today being a Monday, and pursuant to our Rules, I move that we proceed to the Privilege Hour.

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, first to speak is the distinguished Gentleman from the Third District of Negros Oriental. I move that we recognize the Hon. Arnolfo “Arnie” A. Teves Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Honorable Teves is recognized. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TEVES

REP. TEVES. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Good afternoon. Good afternoon, everybody.

I stand here again today to speak on a very important topic which is “TRO for Sale.” Ang pagbebenta ng TRO ay corruption that breeds further corruption. How does it happen? May taong nagkasala dahil sa corruption. Bibili siya ng TRO para mapawalang-sala siya. So, again, it is corruption breeding further corruption.

Imagine, a P100-million case, more than P100-million na kasong ginawa ng CA na simple misconduct. Hindi niya lang pinawalang—o hindi lang nila sinalba sa kaso, kundi ibinaba pa iyong kaso to a simple misconduct case. How can a P100-million case be simple misconduct? Dapat plunder na iyan, hindi ba?

Sa amin, ang gobernador ay tatlong beses nang nakakuha ng TRO. Mayroon daw sa ibang lugar na 11 times nang nakakuha ng TRO. Anong ginagawa ni Justice Sereno dito? Dapat punahin na ito ng Supreme Court, because the Court of Appeals is under pa rin iyan ng Supreme Court kahit papaano.

Sa CA Cebu, si Associate Justice Contreras, dati siyang nagbigay ng favorable na decision sa kaso ng governor namin. Ngayon, hindi siya nag-inhibit, nagbigay na naman siya ng another favorable decision. Nagbigay rin siya ng TRO. Hindi ko nga maintindihan bakit si Justice Louis Acosta na appointee ng ating Presidente ay pumirma din doon sa TRO.

Ang isang mas kahina-hinala, there were three Justices: Contreras, Acosta and Delos Santos. Si Justice Delos Santos, nag-inhibit, biglang may pumasok na bagong Justice, Yap iyong apelyido. Isang araw pa lang nakapapasok ang bagong Justice, napirmahan na ang TRO. Ibig sabihin, kapapasok pa lang niya, hindi pa niya nababasa iyong kaso, pumirma na kaagad siya sa TRO. Sa tingin ko dito at sa balita ko, may napag-usapan dito na P22 million para sa TRO.

Bakit ako nagsasalita ngayon kahit tapos na ito? The TRO is good for 60 days. I heard, kasama na sa usapan ang permanent injunction. Dati nangyari din ito. Pagkatapos ng TRO, injunction naman iyong binili. Sa alam ko ngayon may injunction na naman na naka-ready. Hindi ko alam kung kasama na doon sa bayad or kailangan pang magdagdag.

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Sana bantayan ito ng media at bantayan ito ng Supreme Court kung totoo iyong sinasabi ni Congressman Teves na may lalabas na namang injunction sa kaso ng governor ng Negros Oriental. Sana lang mali ako sa sinasabi ko na may injunction na lumabas. Pero kung may lumabas na injunction, sana naman punahin na ito ng Supreme Court.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Cayetano relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Linabelle Ruth R. Villarica.*

How can somebody foresee a TRO, and how can somebody foresee an upcoming injunction? Hindi pa lumalabas iyong TRO, nagyayabang na iyong may kaso na kaya nilang kumuha ng TRO. And they were right, nakakuha nga ng TRO. Sabi ni Presidente Duterte, ayaw niya ng corruption. Kanina, may sinibak si Presidente dahil sa mga ganitong klaseng bagay. I do not know if it was corruption, but may sinibak siya sa Ombudsman. Sana makita ni Presidente how rampant the trading of TRO is. Ang laking pera ang nagpapalit-kamay dahil lang sa pagbebenta ng TRO at ng injunction. Again, Supreme Court Justice Sereno, kailan ninyo ito pupunahin at kailan ninyo ito gagawan ng paraan nang matigil na ang ganitong corruption that breeds further corruption? That is all, Mme. Speaker.

Thank you very much. Good afternoon.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, next to speak is the Gentleman from COOP-NATCCO. I move that we recognize the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Villarica). Rep. Anthony Bravo from the Party-List COOP-NATCCO is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BRAVO (A.)

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Good afternoon, distinguished colleagues.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished ladies and gentlemen of this august Chamber.

I rise to apprise the House of Representatives on the current state of the passport application process of the Department of Foreign Affairs.

No doubt, many of you have heard about the uproar of passport applicants over the past couple of weeks when they discovered, much to their dismay, that all, and I mean, all passport application slots in all DFA offices have been filled up until March. Unsurprisingly, Mme. Speaker, and perhaps out of frustration, many of our kababayan have alleged that

syndicates who hoard passport appointment schedules to sell at exorbitant prices are behind the passport fiasco. In response, Foreign Affairs Sec. Alan Cayetano has denied these allegations but acknowledged that there are, indeed, existing challenges in the passport application and renewal processing, especially in securing an appointment online. He explained that to be able to accommodate applicants while still ensuring the security of the website, the DFA only open slots for passport application every three months. This is disappointing, Mme. Speaker, especially since the DFA touted only in September last year that passport applications would now be easier with their redesigned online appointment system.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, the process for applying for a Philippine passport has long been a nightmare. Our predicament with passport applications is in fact a long-running issue.

In 2012, the issue was about the defective passports printed by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas or BSP and Oberthur Technologies. Many lawmakers had expressed concern due to its threat to national security. Then in 2015, the DFA transferred the printing of passports from Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to state-firm APO Printing Unit or APO-PU.

To refresh our memories, Mme. Speaker, last year, the Committee on Foreign Affairs looked into anomalies involving the P8-billion e-passport project after it was found that the contract for the project was subcontracted to another firm. Our investigation revealed that the subcontract given to United Graphic Expression Corporation or UGEC was illegally subcontracted by APO-Printing Unit, a quasi-government entity which was supposed to be in charge of passport printing through a 10-year contract. However, UGEC did not have the capability to carry out the project as it had only P800 million in assets and P200 million in cash with liabilities.

In the past few years, Mme. Speaker, the DFA has been conducting mobile passporting in various localities to provide faster passport appointment, and we appreciate this move. In 2016, the DFA said it has a more efficient website, plans to open nine new consulates in regions, and is also buying four new vans with mobile passport printing machines which can produce up to 500 passports a day. In fact, we have investigated this issue in 2016 when Cong. Aniceto Bertiz from OFW Party-List, filed House Resolution No. 646, to conduct a probe, in aid of legislation, into the persistent delays in the issuance of passports, Mme. Speaker. The Resolution was adopted on Second Reading by the House on January 16, 2018, with the following recommendations of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for Congress:

1. to increase the annual budget of the DFA Consular Affairs Office by at least 20 percent to allow it to establish additional consular offices and satellite offices;



2. to amend the relevant provisions of the current passport law to:

- a. streamline consular operations;
- b. simplify the requirements in obtaining Philippine passports without compromising its integrity;
- c. establish regional issuance offices in key cities and provinces nationwide and appropriate funds for this purpose;
- d. involve local government units to assist the Department of Foreign Affairs for any passport-related requirements necessary; and
- e. allocate 10 percent of the passport income to the DFA Consular Affairs Office to improve passport services;

3. to enact a law creating a GOCC with the sole mandate of printing Philippine passports. In the interim, designate the APO as the only recognized government printer or RGP mandated to print Philippine passports.

For the DFA:

1. to expedite the utilization of new technology of polycarbonate data page upon effectivity of Republic Act No. 10926, extending the validity of Philippine passports from five to 10 years, ensuring the security and integrity of passports and in compliance with international standards;

2. to decongest the online passport system by increasing the number of appointment slots proportional to the printing capacity of the APO;

3. to implement an e-payment system to reduce the percentage of “no show” applicants, deter fixers and ensure that applicants comply with the submission of relevant requirements;

4. to augment staff complement in the Main Consular Office in Aseana, Regional Consular Offices, and National Capital Region Satellite Offices upon the approval of the proposed executive order;

5. to coordinate with the local government units and seek their assistance in expediting the delivery of passports; and

6. to consider the possibility of having passports or e-passports delivered directly from APO LIMA Plant to the applicants in order to expedite the process.

Mme. Speaker, now we have found out that the DFA still blocks off appointment schedules three months at a time. I thought this had been resolved when the DFA announced that they had redesigned their system after the Committee on Foreign Affairs investigated the delay in the printing of passports. We believe that the DFA can improve its systems, but the recent uproar of many of our kababayan is quite alarming.

Mme. Speaker, I have a few questions to raise with this setup: one, what security issues are triggered

if the DFA opens application schedules, say for the next six months, given that Sec. Alan Cayetano said that the DFA only opens slots for passport application and renewal every three months to ensure the security of their website? I say six months because passport holders can no longer travel abroad if their passports are due to expire in less than six months. Is the IT infrastructure of the DFA not capable of supporting the volume of applications good for six months? Two, is the three-month limitation in passport application caused by persistent delays in the printing of passports or is the fully-booked status due to illegal schedules made by fixers who have contacts inside the DFA?

Mme. Speaker, I cannot emphasize enough the dire straits the passport application process is in. Perhaps, the best way to show you, dear colleagues, just how desperate many of our kababayan are, is through the video footage taken by the *Philippine Daily Inquirer* showing the stampede of applicants trying to enter the gate of Manila City Hall for the DFA's Passport on Wheels promotion two weeks ago.

This is the video, Mme. Speaker.

*(Video presentation)*

Another post in Facebook by one Mark Lopez showed the long lines of applicants in front of DFA-Aseana. The photos, Mme. Speaker, speak for itself. *(Photo shown)*

Mme. Speaker, ladies and gentlemen of this Chamber, the right to travel is a right entrenched in our Constitution itself. Article III, Section 6 of the 1987 Constitution states in part that, “x x x Neither shall the right to travel be impaired except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law.”

Our kababayan deserve nothing less than the best service that our frontline agencies can offer, especially so as not to infringe on their constitutional rights.

The Department of Foreign Affairs should fix this problem at the soonest possible time.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker, thank you distinguished colleagues.

*At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Villarica relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Pia S. Cayetano.*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Thank you. May I make a quick manifestation given that the Secretary of Foreign Affairs is my brother. I can quickly assure the Gentleman that I will personally deliver his privilege speech and his recommendations to the Secretary of Foreign Affairs. But may I also make a quick comment on the video in Manila. I actually

happen to know what happened there because I was with the Secretary that evening, I think, or the following day. What actually happened was, the city where they have their mobile passport system is in charge of having the applicants pre-cleared so that it would be orderly, and they can have those within the limits of their capacity. So, if their limit is 500, they would only accommodate 500. The problem is, even those who did not make a reservation to avail of the mobile passport system came; that is why it became a problem.

I also know that if you go to the DFA website, there is a lengthy explanation on what they are doing, and the Secretary assures all of us that regardless of what they are doing, they know that they have to do better.

Rest assured that, His Honor's recommendations will reach the Secretary who is currently in Milan, I believe, for an international function. Thank you.

REP. BRAVO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker, for that assurance.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we refer the speeches of the Honorable Bravo and that of the Honorable Teves Jr. to the Committee on Rules.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the speeches are referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, next to speak is the Gentleman from ANAKPAWIS Party-List. I move that we recognize the Hon. Ariel "Ka Ayik" B. Casilao.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Honorable Casilao is recognized.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CASILAO

REP. CASILAO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Honorable Speaker, mga kasamang Mambabatas, pagbati ng hustisyang panlipunan at demokrasya.

Ang Kinatawang ito ay dumalo sa nakaraang paggunita ng ika-31 anibersaryo ng Mendiola massacre noong Enero 22, at umupo rin sa naganap na pulong ng National Council ng pambansang organisasyon ng mga magsasaka, ang Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas o KMP, kung saan tinukoy na Chairman Emeritus ang dating Kalihim ng Department of Agrarian Reform at dating Kinatawan ng ANAKPAWIS na si Ka Paeng, Rafael Mariano.

Noong Enero 22, ginunita ng maraming magsasaka sa bansa sa pangunguna ng Kilusang Magbubukid

ng Pilipinas o KMP ang ika-31 taong anibersaryo ng Mendiola massacre. Ang pangyayaring ito ay naganap sa ilalim ng rehimeng Cory Aquino, kung saan sampu-sampung libong mga magsasaka ang sumigaw noon ng tunay na reporma sa lupa, ngunit hinarap ng pandarahas at nagbunga sa pagkamatay ng 13 martir, kasama na rito si Danilo Arjuna, ang asawa ng nabiyudang si Ka Tessi Arjuna, na sumama rin sa kilos-protesta.

Makalipas ang isang taon noon, isinabatas ang Republic Act No. 6657 o Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program o CARP, na binuo para ibsan ang bumubulwak na galit ng masang magsasaka sa hindi pagtugon noon ni Pangulong Aquino sa kanyang pangako para sa repormang agraryo.

Mula pa Hunyo 2014, expired na ang CARP o ang CARPER pagkalipas ng 26 na taon. Bigo ito dahil wala pa ring lupa ang karamihan sa mga magsasaka. Sila pa rin ay pinapatay o biktima ng political killings mula noon hanggang sa kasalukuyang rehimen.

Kung tagumpay ang repormang agraryo sa bansa, dapat ay tinatransporma na nito ang atrasadong kanayunan at iniaangat nito ang kabuhayan ng napakaraming mamamayan, ngunit hindi ito naganap. Mismong sa datos ng gobyerno, aabot sa 55 porsiyento ng populasyon ng rural population, pinakamalaki nito ay sa Eastern Visayas na siyang kada 10 mamamayan ay nakabase sa kanayunan. Sa Cagayan Valley, Ilocos, Bicol at ARMM ay malapit sa 9 kada 10 rin. Sa 12 ng 17 rehiyon sa ating bansa, mayorya ng mamamayan ay nakabase sa kanayunan.

Ang Eastern Visayas, Mme. Speaker, kung saan pangunahing nakaasa sa agrikultura ang ating mga kababayan, ay palagiang binabayo ng napakaraming bagyo tulad ng Yolanda, Ruby, Seniang at Nona. Hindi pa nga nakaka-recover, ito ngayon ay humaharap naman sa mga malalaking suliranin.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang mga sakahan ng abaca sa Northern Samar ay nanganganib dahil mayoryang bahagi nito ay sinira ng mga pesteng bunchy top virus. Ang mas malala, hindi ito tinugunan ng lokal na pamahalaan at mismo, hindi ito naibabalita, kung kaya nawalan ng kabuhayan ang mga magsasaka at natutulak ngayon na lumipat sa ibang pananim.

Bilang pagtugon naman ng kilusang magbubukid ng rehiyon at pambansang tanggapan, ang mga magsasaka mula sa Eastern Visayas ay magkakaroon ng labkayan sa darating na ika-5 ng Pebrero tungong Maynila para idulog ang kanilang mga programa at humingi ng tulong sa kanilang mga hinaharap. Ang mga magsasaka ay naglulunsad ng kanilang kampanya para sa pagpapataas ng kanilang produktong abaca, palay at niyog. Kaalinsabay nito ang kahilingan para sa ayuda ng ating gobyerno dahil sa epekto ng mga peste sa kanilang mga tanim, gayundin ang kanilang kampanya laban sa papatinding operasyong militar sa kanilang rehiyon.

Lumabas din sa pulong ng KMP na nangunguna pa rin na suliranin ng ating mga kamagsasaka ang kawalan ng lupa. Ito ang kalagayan mula Luzon, Visayas at Mindanao. Pinapalala pa ang kanilang kalagayan ng pagkaalipin sa pagbabayad ng upa sa lupa, usura, pambabarat sa mga presyo ng produkto, mataas na bayad sa mga kagamitan at iba pang pagsasamantala. Alam ko, na bilang mga Kinatawan ng mga distrito, alam ninyo na umiiral ito sa inyong mga nasasakupan.

Gayunpaman, Mme. Speaker, ang mahalagang positibong bagay sa usaping ito, ang kilusang magbubukid, sa kada lokalidad, kada probinsya, kada rehiyon, hanggang sa pambansang antas, ay handa para ipagtanggol ang kanilang karapatan sa lupa.

Pinakahuling halimbawa rito ay ang inilunsad na bungkalan ng mga magsasaka sa ilalim ng ARB One Movement sa Tagum City, kung saan nakaposisyon sila sa mahigit 36-ektaryang lupa. Matatandaan natin na noong nakaraang taon ay nakapagposisyon ang mga magsasaka sa ilalim ng MARBAI sa 145 na ektaryang lupa bunga ng kanilang walang patid na pakikibaka at paglaban. Dahil sa tagumpay ng MARBAI nahimok ang marami pang mga ARBs na ipaglaban ang kanilang karapatan sa lupa, na sila mismong magsasaka ang makikinabang.

Noong nakaraang taon din, saksi ang Kinatawang ito sa bungkalan sa Cavite kung saan nakaposisyon ang mga magsasaka sa 133 ektarya at 104 ektaryang sakahan sa Hacienda Luisita, mahigit 100 ektarya, at sa napakaraming sakahan sa Negros noong dumalo ako sa paggunita sa ika-30 anibersaryo ng Escalante massacre. Marami pang mga ganitong pakikibaka sa buong bansa. Hindi nababalita, pero sa mga lokalidad at mga rehiyon, patuloy na idinadaos at lumalaban ang ating mga kababayan. Dahil sa kanilang hindi matibag na pagkakaisa at paninindigan, ang tanging paraan na lamang para sila ay supilin o i-repress ay sa pamamagitan ng pasistang atake.

Mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, sa kasalukuyan, umaabot na sa 112 na magsasaka ang naging biktima ng extrajudicial killing sa kasalukuyang administrasyon. Ang pinakahuli, si kasamang Ricky Olado na pinatay kahapon sa Arakan, North Cotabato, at James Flores noong Enero 20, sa Tagum City, Davao del Norte. Ang mga biktimang ito ay pawang pinagbibintangan lamang bilang mga miyembro ng New People's Army o NPA, o kaya naman, pinagbibintangan na sila ay supporter, kaya ang pangunahing mga salarin sa mga krimeng ito ay walang iba kundi ang mga armadong pwersa ng ating estado, pangunahin ang Armed Forces of the Philippines, na mismong nagpapatupad ng all-out war sa kanayunan, kasama ang aerial bombardments, food blockades at iba pang human rights abuses.

Sa mga karahasang ito, ang panawagan ng kilusang magbubukid ay patuloy na lumalakas—"Stop Killing Farmers", "No to All-Out War", at "Resume the GRP-

NDFP Peace Talks". Ngunit dahil hindi yata naririnig ng kasalukuyang rehimen ang sigaw ng mga magsasaka, number one ang bansang ito sa buong mundo na patuloy ang paparaming bilang ng mga kritiko o political dissenters na napapaslang o ginigipit.

Ibinalita sa *Reuters* noong Disyembre na 116 na ang biktima ng EJK na konektado sa land conflicts sa buong mundo mula Enero hanggang Nobyembre. Numero uno rin ang Pilipinas na may 61 victims, na sinundan ng Brazil na may 22 victims. Ito ay halos anim na magsasaka kada buwan.

Sa nagaganap na tunggalian sa ating bansa, partikular ang gobyerno at ang National Democratic Front of the Philippines, ang ANAKPAWIS ay kasama sa kilusan sa mga magbubukid na patuloy na nananawagan ng peace talks para resolbahin ang ugat ng armadong tunggalian. Ito ay pangunahing usapin ng repormang agraryo na dapat tugunan.

Ang Kinatawang ito ay aktibong sumuporta sa peace talks, na sa final ay alam nating lahat na tinapos ng GRP at si Pangulong Duterte ngayon ay patuloy sa mga pahayag na nagtutulak ng all-out war sa kanayunan.

Mga kapwa ko Mambabatas, alam kong alam ninyo, at batay sa ating karanasan sa diktaduryang Marcos, ang mga pasistang pahayag at hakbangin ng isang rehimen ay walang ibang aanihin kung hindi pagkundera at paglaban ng mamamayan. Sana ay makita ng mga nasa poder ngayon na ang mga magsasaka at katutubo sa Mindanao na dating sumuporta sa Pangulo, ay ngayon ay kumukundera sa kanya at sumisigaw ng paniningil ng hustisya. Ang mga manggagawang umasa sa kanyang pangakong tapusin ang endo o kontraktwalisasyon ay patuloy pa ring nananawagan.

Kung ang mga usaping ito ay patuloy na hindi papansinin ng ating Pangulo, siya mismo ang lilikha ng kanyang kritiko o kaaway. At sa kasaysayan ng bansa, natuto na tayo na walang lugar sa pamamahala ang isang diktador. Kaya mula sa ANAKPAWIS, hindi namin bibitawan ang panawagan na resolbahin ang mga pundamental na problema sa ating bansa pangunahin na ang kawalan ng lupa sa mayorya ng ating mga magsasaka. Mahigit isang taon na ang rehimen, wala pa ring kalinawan ang tunay na programa para tataguyod sa usapin ng tunay na repormang agraryo.

Ang Kinatawang ito ay hindi magsasawa na ipanawagan sa Kongresong ito ang pagsasabatas ng House Bill No. 555 o Genuine Agrarian Reform Bill o GARB na ngayon na tinatawag ng kilusang magbubukid bilang Free Land Distribution Bill. Hindi rin ako magsasawa na ipanawagan ang pagtugon o pag-imbetiga sa dumadaming House resolution na isinusumite ng Kinatawang ito ukol sa mga iba't ibang porma ng human rights violations pangunahin na sa sektor ng mga magbubukid. At bilang panghuli, Mme. Speaker, isinisigaw ng Kinatawang ito na ang sovereign

will ng mga mamamayang Pilipino partikular ng mga magsasakang Pilipino ay tunay na reporma sa lupa. Libreng pamamahagi ng lupa ang patuloy na kanilang rallying cry.

Pambansang kalayaan, ipaglaban!

Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Thank you, Honorable Casilao.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the speech of the Honorable Casilao is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

REP. DEFENSOR. Next to speak, Mme. Speaker, is the Lady from ACT TEACHERS. I move that we recognize the Hon. France L. Castro.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The Hon. France Castro is recognized.

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

REP. CASTRO (F.L.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, this Representation condemns the harassment of Alliance of Concerned Teachers NCR Union President Jocelyn “Ma’am Joy” Martinez by three policemen in civilian clothes in her school, Imelda Elementary School, Malabon with an invalid warrant of arrest today.

The three unidentified men who introduced themselves as policemen of Malabon, wearing only shorts and slippers, followed Ma’am Joy from 9:30 a.m. to 11:10 a.m. around the school, insisting on arresting her even while she was holding a class. The defective warrant indicates the name of a certain Jocelyn Ramirez even after she showed her identification card bearing her name.

The men remain insistent on arresting her. Most of the texts of the warrant can hardly be read due to poor quality of printing. The warrant was issued without a proper preliminary investigation with the full participation of Ma’am Joy as the accused. She has not even received a copy of the complaint.

This is a clear case of political harassment against union teacher-leaders. Our Constitution and the Public Sector Labor Management Council guarantee the right of the public sector to organize and form union. This attempted arrest is a harassment of the union with an intent to subdue and pacify them.

Attacks against Ma’am Joy or any other union leaders are attacks against the membership of the union they represent.

Ma’am Joy is a staunch advocate of the rights and welfare of teachers and other government employees including salary increase, benefits, and better working conditions. Aside from her post as ACT NCR President, she is a second-term president of their school’s faculty club and the current president of the Malabon Public Elementary School Teachers Association.

The ACT NCR Union is the first union of public school teachers and the biggest union in the country today. It successfully concluded the first Collective Negotiation Agreement or CNA for public school teachers, covering 62,000 members in NCR. This attempted arrest is intended to impede her from fulfilling union works and to send a chilling signal to all union leaders and its members.

The Department of Education failed to implement most of the Collective Negotiation Agreements between the ACT NCR Union like economic benefits and provisions for better working conditions.

At present, Mme. Speaker, ACT NCR Union is pushing for the implementation of its provisions, appealing to DepEd and DBM leadership for the funding of benefits under the CNA and the Magna Carta for Public School Teachers such as the CNA incentives, overtime pay, medical checkup, among others. Now, union teacher-leaders who are just exercising their right and the rights of the 62,000 public school teachers in NCR face harassment.

Ma’am Joy is a known active critic of anti-teacher local and national policies, and she is subject to political harassment. This harassment will not stop the union from fighting for the teachers’ rights, welfare and benefits. We call on all teachers and unionists to remain vigilant, to stand their ground and continue to advance our legitimate demands.

Hands off, teacher-union leaders.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The speech is referred to the Committee on Rules.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, next to speak is the Lady from KABATAAN Party-List. I move that we recognize Rep. Sarah Jane I. Elago.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Hon. Sarah Elago is recognized. Please proceed.

#### PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

This Representation rises on the youth's response to all fellow lawmakers and public servants whose legislation, policies and programs are dedicated to building a better future for our generation and the next.

Para sa kabataan at kinabukasan, ito ang nilalaman ng ating mga hangarin sa pagtutulak ng mga patakaran sa loob ng Kongreso. Dalawang bagay na hindi maihihiwalay dahil sa ang mga kabataan, bilang mga tagapagmana ng bukas, ay siya ring kinabukasan ng ating bayan.

With the administration's push for Charter change, we are about to take enormous steps that will critically affect our nation's future, our nation's youth. I will neither delve on the proposed salient features nor on the debate, on whether or not to push through with Charter change as these are already subjects of congressional deliberations. Let us put the spotlight instead on how the youth can contribute to a wider discourse, make their voices heard and their actions count amidst burning issues of poverty, landlessness, corruption, culture of impunity, tax reform, threats to national sovereignty, among others.

We draw inspiration from Gabriela and Diego Silang, Bonifacio, Rizal, Emilio Jacinto, Gregoria De Jesus, to countless students of the First Quarter Storm, heroes and revolutionaries who taught us the essence of liberty and freedom. From their experiences, Mme. Speaker, we remember that the progressive forces for change and their struggles remain the strongest foundations for democracy and development in the country.

There can be no more fitting way to honor them than to pledge the youth's commitment towards achieving genuine social change. And today, Mme. Speaker, we recommit ourselves to that arduous task, fully knowing the long and winding road ahead of us.

Kaninang umaga lang ho ay naimbitahan ako sa isang forum sa UST, at nitong nakaraang linggo, sa ika-48 commemoration ng *First Quarter Storm*. Nakita natin kung paano halos araw-araw, nagkaroon ng mga espasyo kung saan pinag-uusapan kung paano pa mapapalago, mapapaghusay ang mga positibong katangian ng mga kabataan para sa kapakanan ng kanyang bayan. Ang tema ho kanina, at nagpakita

talaga ng punung-punong commitment ang ating mga kabataan sa pagpapalakas ng kanilang boses, ay iyong kung paano ba ang lahat ng kanilang talino, talento at husay ay magagamit para maglingkod sa sambayanan.

The youth possess vitality, courage, and idealism. These traits are our instruments in fulfilling our historic role: to fight for the marginalized and the oppressed.

The Filipino youth have remained brave and resilient even in the face of the many issues that plague them. In the workplace, they face contractualization, underemployment, and hazardous working conditions. About 80 percent of the Filipino youth are deprived of their right to education because of skyrocketing tuition and a number experience repression on campus for asserting their democratic rights. Despite these problems, the Filipino youth continue to participate in social issues and remain at the forefront in the struggle for their rights.

As a matter of fact, thousands of them joined the mass demonstration in Luneta Park on September 21 last year to stand against tyranny and emerging dictatorship. Together with other sectors, they shouted "Never forget, never again to martial law!" We bore witness to such show of force of a number of young people being woke. Hawak nila ang mga placards na "Never Forget Bagets" at "Kapag ika'y namulat, kasalanan na ang pumikit."

Mme. Speaker, to be "woke" is to become aware not only of the who's, what's, when's, and where's but also to question the why's and how's of issues, challenges and struggles—issues, challenges and struggles that demand careful scrutiny, thorough study, urgent response, persistent action, and continued vigilance. Awakening to being woke is realizing the need to stay woke just as it necessitates going out of our comfort zones, taking calculated risks and making sacrifices.

Why should we stay woke? We need to stay woke so we can contribute in the struggle by which we could garner victories with the youth and student movement as we length arms with other marginalized sectors. We must dare struggle because our future is at stake, and to continue partaking in that struggle is our single source of hope for a just and better future.

Maximum eight-hour work day, social security, maternal leave, overtime pay, pension, right to vote, freedom of speech—these are just some of the major victories won through collective struggle, and we have more battles to win—battle against poverty, hunger, landlessness, injustice and impunity.

Thus, we call on the Filipino youth to intensify their campaign to inform, arouse, organize and mobilize their ranks, along with marginalized and oppressed sectors, in schools, communities, factories and workplaces.

Tulad ng mga kapihan at talakayan sa tambayan ng mga estudyante o kaya naman ang ilan sa mga chapter po ng BPO Industry Employees Network o BIEN na pagkatapos ng kanilang night shift ay naglulunsad pa ng produktibong isang oras na general assembly, sunggaban po natin ang lahat ng pagkakataon para magmulat, mag-organisa at magpakilos.

Get organized. Join organizations and alliances advancing our democratic rights and welfare. Sa ganitong paraan, ang ating mga hangarin, ang ating mga maliliit na mga kayang maiambag ay lalo pang magiging malaki kung tayo ay mas marami at nagsasama-sama. Nariyan ang mga alyansa katulad ng Rise for Education. Rise for Education is a campaign movement for free education and no-collection policy in our public-school system. Nariyan po ang Youth Act Now Against Tyranny, a nationwide alliance of student and youth formations that aim to unite all freedom-loving Filipinos against tyranny and build a broad alliance to counter the intensifying attacks against basic civil liberties. Nariyan din po ang Kilos Na, Manggagawa, an alliance for workers' rights and welfare.

Further, Mme. Speaker, youth and people's organizations and alliances may submit their unity statements, position papers, articles, and literary pieces about certain issues, challenges and struggles. We must mount bigger solidarity protests and mass demonstrations, and support the youth's national days of action this coming February 1 and 23 for free education, human rights, justice, national sovereignty, territorial integrity, and peace. Unang-una diyan, Mme. Speaker, ang tungkol sa libreng edukasyon, dahil ang sigaw po ng mga iskolar ng bayan natin ngayon, "Libreng tuition nga, ngunit bakit lalo pang tumaas ang mga other school fees?"

Tayo po ay nakapagtala na ng mga laboratory fees na dumoble nang mapatupad ang Free Tuition Policy. Nariyan din ang mga talagang sinasadya po na sila ay maibagsak para lang hindi sila maisali dito sa libreng tuition.

Tinatawagan po natin ang House Committee on Higher and Technical Education na talagang bantayan at imbestigahan ang mga ulat na ito hinggil sa implementasyon at paggamit ng P8 bilyon para sa libreng tuition o free tuition policy nitong kasalukuyang academic year.

Hinggil naman po sa development ng paggawa, ng pagfa-finalize ng implementing rules and regulations ng Republic Act No. 10931, nariyan ang hindi pa rin ipinagbabawal talaga ang koleksyon ng mga surprise fees, mga dagdag bayarin sa ating mga eskwelahan.

Ang sigaw ng mga estudyante: "Free education, may bayad!"

Finally, to all our fellow lawmakers and to all public servants, it is our fervent hope and clarion call that our approach be a combination of public interest, scientific analysis and sound policy judgment, imbued with a high sense of nationalism—"nationalism" as succinctly defined by the 1987 Constitution Commissioner Rene Sarmiento, and I quote:

Filipino nationalism is the determination to uphold the sovereignty of the Filipino people, the right of the Filipinos to freely decide the destiny of the nation—that is, the kind of government we should have and who should run it; what is the common good and how to attain it; how our society should be structured; how the wealth of our land and seas should be used, developed and shared; and how our culture should be preserved and enhanced. Filipino nationalism is more than patriotism. It is more than the love of land and people, loyalty to flag and country and readiness to sacrifice personal interest for the common good. It is the firm resolve never to allow our people to be dominated, controlled by foreign powers or domestic tyrants and to oppose totalitarianism, imperialism, and hegemony with all the means at our command.

Maraming salamat, Mme. Speaker, at nawa ay magpatuloy ang pagbukas ng mga espasyo para sa pagiging "woke" ng ating mga kabataan at sa pagpatuloy nito hanggang sila naman ang mga sunod na umupo dito sa loob ng Kongreso, at mga sunod na mamuno sa tunay na pag-unlad ng ating bayan para sa mga nakararaming naaapi at napagsasamantalahan.

Maraming salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). Thank you, Hon. Sarah Elago.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The speech is hereby referred to the Committee on Rules.

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



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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we immediately send to the Senate copies of the bills that we just approved on Third Reading.

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, January 30, 2018, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Cayetano). The session is adjourned until tomorrow, January 30, 2018, at 4:00 p.m.

*It was 6:24 p.m.*