



# Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND REGULAR SESSION  
*House of Representatives*

Vol. 4

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

No. 60

## 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). Everyone is requested to rise for the singing of the National Anthem.

*Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.*

## PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Please remain standing for a minute of silent prayer and meditation.

*Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.*

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

## ROLL CALL

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). 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. 60, dated February 7, 2018.\**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mme. Speaker, the roll call shows that 220 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). With 220 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

## APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move for the approval of Journal No. 59, dated February 6, 2018.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Journal No. 59, dated February 6, 2018, is hereby approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). 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 Report, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

## BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 7112, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY FOUR OF EVERY YEAR AS ‘ARAW NG PAGDAKILA SA MGA PILIPINONG NAGBUWIS NG BUHAY NOONG DIGMAANG PILIPINO-

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

AMERIKANO’, PROVIDING FOR SUPPORT PROGRAMS, AND REQUIRING THE APPROPRIATION OF FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representatives De Jesus and Brosas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

REPRESENTATIVES CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING MS. KATARINA RODRIGUEZ FOR WINNING 1<sup>ST</sup> RUNNER-UP IN MISS INTERCONTINENTAL 2017”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Bill No. 7113, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING OWNERS OF MOTOR VEHICLE REPAIR AND SERVICE CENTERS TO REGISTER THEIR BUSINESS WITH THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE AND TO SUBMIT REPORT ON THE DAMAGES AND REPAIRS MADE ON MOTOR VEHICLES BROUGHT TO THEIR ESTABLISHMENT”

By Representative Sandoval  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Resolution No. 1643, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF MR. JOSE ‘PITTOY’ MORENO, JR., ‘PILLAR OF PHILIPPINE FASHION’ ”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Bill No. 7114, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES – SANTA ROSA BRANCH IN THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA, PROVINCE OF LAGUNA, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Arcillas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 1644, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE NEGATIVE IMPACTS OF THE MINING OPERATIONS OF THE ZAMBALES DIVERSIFIED METALS CORP. (ZDMC), BENGUET CORPORATION, LNL ARCHIPELAGO MINERALS, INC. (LAMI), AND ERAMEN MINERALS, INC. (ERMI), IN STA. CRUZ, ZAMBALES ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND ON THE LIVELIHOOD OF THE PEOPLE IN AFFECTED COMMUNITIES”

By Representative Villarín  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1640, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE FAMILIES OF PO3 CARLOS BOCAIG AND PO2 FRENZEL KITOYAN ON THEIR UNTIMELY DEATHS IN THE BOMBING INCIDENT IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LA PAZ, ABRA”

By Representatives Bernos and De Vera  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1646, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING JERWIN ANCAJAS FOR SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDING HIS INTERNATIONAL BOXING FEDERATION (IBF) SUPERFLYWEIGHT CROWN AGAINST MEXICAN CHALLENGER ISRAEL GONZALEZ ON FEBRUARY 4, 2018 AT THE AMERICAN BANK CENTER, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS”

By Representative Castelo  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Resolution No. 1641, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF PHILIPPINE THEATER, FILM AND TV ACTOR MR. SPANKY MANIKAN”

By Representative Olivarez  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1647, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON THE PROCUREMENT OF SMARTMATIC

House Resolution No. 1642, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF

VOTE COUNTING MACHINES BY THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS FOR THE MAY 2019 ELECTIONS”

By Representative Suarez, Abayon, De Vera, Atienza, Garbin, Bertiz, Lee, Bravo (A.), Campos, Calalang, Chavez, Salon and Villaraza-Suarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1648, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE TRUE STATE OF OUR COUNTRY’S RICE SUPPLY WITH THE END IN VIEW OF PROPOSING REMEDIAL MEASURES TO ARREST POSSIBLE SHORTAGE AS WELL AS TO INSTITUTE POLICIES TO IMPROVE DOMESTIC RICE PRODUCTION AND ENSURE THE COUNTRY’S FOOD SECURITY”

By Representative Alejano

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 599), re H.B. No. 7134, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING POLICIES AND PRESCRIBING PROCEDURES ON SURVEILLANCE AND RESPONSE TO NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, EPIDEMICS, AND HEALTH EVENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE ACT NO. 3573, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LAW ON REPORTING OF COMMUNICABLE DISEASES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3163

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, before we proceed with the Business for the Day, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Estrellita B. Suansing, namely: Ms. Loraine Baligat, Ms. Maricel Banan, Lorie An Bolilan, Violeta Camacho, Aibejil Casino, Maricel Duldulao, Sarah

Duque, Jennifer Ferry, Lourdes Fraile, Napoleon Gorospe, Marjorie Lazatin, John Frederick Leabres, Wilbert Macasaya, Elizabeth Navarro, Rossite Novesteras-Ramilo, Ginalyn Oneza, Herbert Onia, Joven Pascual, Elisa Peralta, Nancy Ramos, Jay-R Soriano, Virginia Tabio, Reynalyn Tenoria, Rhoda Orio, Lucila Agnes, and Pinky Dela Merced. They are students of the School Legislation of the Graduate School of PHINMA Araullo University, who are interested to witness how a session is conducted in the House of Representatives.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). To the guests of Representative Suansing, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7033  
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we take up the Business for the Day, and I move that we consider House Bill No. 7033, contained in Committee Report No. 582, as reported out by the Committees on Social Services, Appropriations, and Ways and Means.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). 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. 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.

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

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Sponsor of the said Bill, the Chairman of the Committee on Social Services, the Hon. Sandra Y. Eriguel, MD, of the Second District of La Union.

REP. ERIGUEL. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Representative Eriguel is recognized.

REP. ERIGUEL. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

I would like to manifest that the Explanatory Note of the Bill be considered as my sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). The Explanatory Note is now the sponsorship speech of the aforementioned Bill.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo, PhD, of Party-List COOP-NATCCO, who is one of the Sponsors of the said Bill.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Representative Bravo is recognized.

#### SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. BRAVO (A.)

REP. BRAVO (A.). Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Good afternoon, distinguished colleagues.

House Bill No. 7033, 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.

Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, it is my honor and privilege to sponsor House Bill No. 7033, under Committee Report No. 582, entitled as aforementioned.

Social welfare and development agencies or SWDAs play an important role in sustainable national development. They deal with the marginalized and vulnerable groups like persons with disabilities, out of school youth, women, abandoned children, indigenous people, and victims of natural and human-induced calamities.

In times of crisis, social welfare and development agencies, both public and private, provide basic social services and specialized interventions to the beneficiaries to uplift their condition.

We have thousands of SWDAs, government agencies, non-government organizations, faith-

based organizations, and the private organizations which engage in a wide range of social welfare and development activities. For non-government organizations alone, it is estimated that we have 60,000 in the country.

On one hand, it is a good thing that there is a steady flow of resources and services for the intended beneficiaries. On the other hand, there are also scrupulous groups which hide under the disguise of non-profit organizations, doing social and development work but which are only after funding and tax privileges. It is for this reason that we now recognize the importance of professionalizing the social welfare development agencies to strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of social service programs. Hence, this Bill seeks to establish a comprehensive system for registration and licensing of social welfare and development agencies, and accreditation of social welfare and development programs and services. We do not want our kababayan who are already victims of disasters and circumstances to again fall victims to certain groups. Further, the various natural disasters we Filipinos faced in the past have brought us so many learnings. The Yolanda super typhoon, for example, left the country in pieces, with thousands of our kababayan dead and devastated. Billions of pesos in aid came in, but the provision of services to the affected families came rather slow at a time when coordinated and swift relief and rehabilitation programs were badly needed.

We blame the Department of Social Welfare and Development for the lapses and slow flow of social services to the victims and their displaced families. I guess, the lack of an efficient system, together with some limitations in policies, had contributed to such.

Mme. Speaker, it has come to us that there should be a comprehensive system to ensure the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability in the delivery of quality social welfare and development programs and services. This proposed legislation will reinforce the regulatory functions of the DSWD over agencies and organizations engaged in social welfare and development activities, whether public or private. It will also provide appropriate consultative mechanisms and necessary assistance to ensure their compliance with a set of national standards.

While we have existing laws including Republic Act No. 4373, An Act to Regulate the Practice of Social Work and the Operation of Social Work Agencies in the Philippines, and Republic Act No. 5416, An Act Providing for Comprehensive Social Services for Individuals and Groups in Need of Assistance, Creating for this Purpose a Department of Social Welfare, these laws lack provisions on the benefits of compliant social welfare organizations. They also lack provisions for stronger sanctions for violators.

Let me present to you some of the significant provisions of this Bill, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues. House Bill No. 7033 clearly defines what a social welfare and development agency is and also provides its classifications. It also stipulates the requirements for the registration and licensing of a social welfare and development agency and accreditation of social welfare and development programs and services.

The DSWD will be given regulatory powers and functions, will be authorized to register, license, monitor and evaluate the social welfare and development agencies. This Bill also provides for the grounds of suspension and revocation of license or closure of erring social welfare and development agencies. It also contains penal provisions to those agencies which are operating without license. And lastly, Mme. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, this Bill also grants benefits and privileges to registered social welfare and development agencies: a.) exemption from duties on the importation of foreign donations made to registered, licensed and accredited social welfare and development agencies upon certification by the Department of Finance; and b.) exemption from donor's tax on all grants, bequests, endowments, donations and contributions made to registered, licensed and accredited social welfare and development agencies to be used actually, directly and exclusively by the said social welfare and development agencies.

Mme. Speaker, honorable colleagues, let me emphasize that the main intention of this Bill is to provide the best social services to our kababayan, to protect them and to empower them.

Mme. Speaker, honorable colleagues, Members of this august Chamber, I ask for your support to this proposed legislation.

Thank you very much, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Thank you, Representative Bravo.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, before we proceed, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Anthony M. Bravo and the Hon. Sabiniano S. Canama, both from the COOP-NATCCO Party-List. They are the members of the Bagong Lipunan Community Association or BLCA of Polomolok, South Cotabato, namely: Narnie Cejas, Ninfa Macabenta, Evelyn Ijalo and Felix Cabuagas Jr.; the members of Lorenzo Tan Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Misamis Occidental, namely: Lourdes Soltario, Hydee Trumata, Arsenio Romerso and Rodel Encallado, plus the 33 members of the Nueva Vizcaya OFW Credit Cooperative.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema.). To the guests of Representative Bravo and Representative Canama, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. 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. Sema.). Is there any objection? *(Silence)* The Chair hears none; the period of sponsorship and debate is hereby closed.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee amendments, I move that we proceed to consider individual amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve on Second Reading House Bill No. 582, sorry, House Bill No. 7033.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema.). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 7033, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye.*

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7033  
ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema.). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 7033 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE  
BICAM. CONF. CTTEE.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mme. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6573 and Senate Bill No. 1662, prohibiting hazing and regulating other forms of initiation rites:

Rep. Reynaldo V. Umali  
Rep. Vicente “Ching” S.E. Veloso  
Rep. Strike B. Revilla  
Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy; and  
Rep. Alfredo A. Garbin Jr.  
I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema.). Is there any objection? (*Silence*)

The Chair hears none; the so-named Representatives are hereby designated as conferees.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS  
ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mme. Speaker, in accordance with our Rules Governing Inquiries in Aid of Legislation, I move that we refer the following House Resolutions to the appropriate Committees:

1. House Resolution No. 1268, to the Committee on Transportation;
2. House Resolution No. 1586, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;
3. House Resolution No. 1587, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;
4. House Resolution No. 1588, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;
5. House Resolution No. 1589, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;
6. House Resolution No. 1590, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;
7. House Resolution No. 1593, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs;

8. House Resolution No. 1594, to the Committee on National Defense and Security;

9. House Resolution No. 1597, to the Committee on Labor and Employment;

10. House Resolution No. 1599, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;

11. House Resolution No. 1600, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;

12. House Resolution No. 1601, to the Committee on Local Government;

13. House Resolution No. 1607, to the Committee on Basic Education and Culture;

14. House Resolution No. 1608, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Foreign Affairs;

15. House Resolution No. 1609, to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

16. House Resolution No. 1610, to the Committee on Civil Service and Professional Regulation; and

17. House Resolution No. 1611, to the Committee on Transportation.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mme. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

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

*It was 4:35 p.m.*

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:39 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

RECONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL  
OF H.B. NO. 7033  
ON SECOND READING

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, to give way to the interpellation of our colleague, the Honorable Deputy Speaker Pia Cayetano who was busy at the hearing earlier, I move that we reconsider the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 7033, contained in Committee Report No. 582.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, we will be taking up again House Bill No. 7033, contained in Committee Report No. 582.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). 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.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill 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.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, I move that we reopen the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 7033, under Committee Report No. 582.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion to reopen the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 7033 is approved.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, for their defense of the measure, I move that we recognize the honorable Chairperson of the Committee on Social Services, the Hon. Sandra Y. Eriguel.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Sponsor, Rep. Sandra Eriguel, is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mme. Speaker, for her interpellation of the honorable Sponsor, I move that we recognize our honorable Deputy Speaker, the Hon. Pia S. Cayetano.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Deputy Speaker Pia Cayetano is recognized.

REP. CAYETANO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

First of all, I would like to apologize for the inconvenience of having to reopen, but just for the record, my name was listed as an interpellator and I had spoken to the Chair and to the distinguished Sponsor yesterday that I have some concerns, and I am also open to discussing them before the session. Unfortunately, the hearing with the Committee on Population is still ongoing, which is why, as I was messaging the team of the Committee on Rules—that I was in the building, but was in another committee—apparently, they were already taking it up. So, I apologize, but I also need everyone to know that I was ready; I was just in another hearing.

So, on that note, as I said, I was willing to discuss this with the Sponsors earlier, so that we could clarify some issues. Be that as it may, I do want to put on record my major concern. But before I do that, I just have one very general question: What is the primary objective of the Bill? Is it to encourage more people to get involved in social welfare programs, or is it to police and regulate the existing ones and, in that manner, to weed out non-complying or bogus organizations? Which of the two? Or is it both, just so that I know which direction this Bill is heading?

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, the Bill aims to strengthen the regulatory functions of the Standards Bureau of the Department of Social Welfare and Development over social welfare and development agencies engaged in social welfare development activities. So it could be both, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CAYETANO. Okay, so the answer is both, but in a way, you highlighted regulating Social Welfare and Development Agencies. I happen to have personal experience and knowledge on dealing with such social welfare and development agencies, particularly, on the caring of children—these are those with licenses to foster care and to place children for adoption. The problem that we actually have is not with the agencies, but it is with the DSWD being undermanned, and undermanned as they are, they require that the accredited social workers of these agencies go through every line—I think, almost every officer in the DSWD. So the record speaks for itself. We have about, some say, around 800 thousand homeless, abandoned, neglected children, and we place around 300 a year. Three hundred, I think, iyong international—I actually do not have the figures with me for the local, pero I am just saying, think of it, almost a million children abandoned, neglected, homeless, and we are able to place, I do not know kung aabot pa ng 1,000. So, clearly, there is something wrong with our system.

So, if the objective is to further regulate, even though walang perfect and, of course, there is much room for improvement, from my observations, the problem is not there. That is why I know this Bill encompasses more than that, but what I am concerned about is that the general objective is met, and yet we do not have the manpower and we do not have the system in place to make it happen.

If I may continue, I believe, no less than the DSWD itself will tell us—the staff and perhaps our dear colleagues here can base it on their own experiences. Where have the resources, and when I speak of resources not just money but including manpower, and attention of the DSWD been? Is it not in enacting and making the 4Ps efficient? I think it has come a long way, it has improved. Seatmate ko for the last three hours si Congressman Lagman, of course, from the district of Albay which was devastated by the Mayon Volcano eruption, and he himself said na bilib siya sa commitment ng DSWD in addressing these emergencies. But that is what our DSWD does. Iyon nga ang attention nila. When it comes to these children in the streets and the programs we need to put in place so that they are put in foster homes, that they are put in adoptive homes, kulang na kulang tayo sa tao doon. So, when I read this measure, and a lot of times it is unwritten naman at naa-address pero not having been able to speak to the authors, iyon iyong concern ko, how do we address this, because this is a big issue. I am afraid that the requirements here to now recognize and register every single foundation will be more difficult.

I will put on record that I have two foundations. Both are SEC-registered, one is DSWD-registered and the other one is not. Both fill a need in terms of getting funding and then delivering it to those in need. What is the difference? Right now, the only difference is for the donors who want to know that DSWD-accredited iyong isang foundation ko, pero iyong isa hindi. So, what is the difference? When I asked the Chairperson yesterday if it will be a requirement, I believe the answer was “yes” and that is also where I have a concern, because if you will now require all these foundations to register, ang daming requirements noon. I am not saying it is a bad thing. It is great that we have this database, pero nasaan iyong manpower to ensure na mapa-process iyan, and in the meantime, can they function? Will they be allowed to deliver the services that they want to deliver? Iyon, so in a nutshell, iyon po ang mga questions ko.

REP. ERIGUEL. Okay. Mme. Speaker, as the Deputy Speaker has aired her concern, this is also shared by us, the same concern. But as stated earlier, one of the provisions of the Bill is the strengthening of the structure of the DSWD Standards Bureau and its field office counterpart which shall be responsible for

fulfilling the regulatory functions of the Department. Thus, an appropriate number of staff complement shall be created in accordance with existing Civil Service Commission and DSWD rules and regulations. Thus, once the Bill is enacted, manpower complement will be requested from the Department of Budget and Management.

REP. CAYETANO. That is great. So, do I understand it that until that staffing is provided, the law will not be implemented? Kasi from my experience, that law is considered implemented tapos magkakandarapa iyong mga staff na—siguro limang oras na nga lang iyong tulog nila, gagawin pa nating tatlong oras kasi they now have additional responsibilities.

Again, I will put on record, four years ago, in the term of the last President pa, I requested already for the plantilla to be increased and improved, added, but that did not happen. I know that, always, an administration has that resistance to build more, to putting in more people. Ang akin lang, I think I would want a provision there that would say that this cannot be implemented without the appropriate staffing.

REP. ERIGUEL. Yes, Mme. Speaker, we can include it as an amendment to the Bill at the proper time.

REP. CAYETANO. Thank you.

Then, for the record din, is it correct, did I understand correctly that this will now be a requirement? In other words, this Bill provides benefits to organizations that want to be recognized, like they will have a donee status with the DOF. I understand that because malaking bagay iyon na hindi mata-tax iyong mga donations mo, pero what if the nature of the service that you provide does not require or you do not need those benefits but you still have to register? Again, I ask these questions because it is another layer of requirement that a well-meaning socio-civic-minded group would have to go through other than the SEC.

REP. ERIGUEL. Yes, Mme. Speaker, this will be included, the benefits as well.

REP. CAYETANO. Actually, my question is, is it required? In other words, if I do not need those benefits, if all my foundation does is I ask money from all my generous colleagues here and I will give it all to my favorite student-athletes, for me, I do not need to register. I just want to be able to be a conduit of passing on the resources of one group to another. Will I be required to register?

REP. ERIGUEL. Yes, Mme. Speaker. All SWDAs are required to register.



REP. CAYETANO. Okay. So, iyon nga, so then I go back to my issue. I do not mind—in the spirit of you knowing what everybody else is doing, I could live with that but not with the present manpower and the present structure.

May I know if there is already a counterpart bill existing in the Senate? Would the authors and the Chairperson happen to know if there is a similar ...

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, we are not aware if there is an existing bill in the Senate.

REP. CAYETANO. Okay, because when I was speaking with both the Chair and the principal author, of course, I said I am more than happy to improve on this measure, and I have no qualms working also with the members of the Senate to improve it. My only concern is, if we do it at that stage, I just want the assurance that if there is a bill—sometimes kasi nag-a-agree na lang in principle and then mag-a-adopt ng let us say, House bill, and it is not yet the version that I feel would maximize the benefits.

So, iyon lang naman. My choice would be to ask for time to submit my amendments or I could agree to proposing my amendments later on for the bicam representatives to take it up but I just need that assurance that, indeed, the recommendations that I make would be incorporated. Otherwise, I would not be able to restrain from expressing my disappointment in the ability of this Bill to be what it could be.

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, we can include all those suggestions in the Implementing Rules and Regulations as well.

REP. CAYETANO. With that, I have a bit of a problem because the Supreme Court has reiterated that the legislators have no say in the crafting of the Implementing Rules and Regulations. So, even though that is also my go-to, even when I prepare a bill, I would say, “Pwede na iyan sa Rules,” pero something as significant as this, wala kasi tayong say, so hindi natin pwedeng ipasa-Rules iyon.

So, the only options we are left with are, we amend this at a later time or that you give me the assurance that—well, I would be happy to volunteer to speak to the Chairman of the Senate committee, but I do not know if there is a bill. I do not know, baka may ipinasá sila. Doon lang, ayoko lang maipit doon po kung may ipinasá na sila tapos mag-a-adopt ang Chairman ng isang version na hindi ko pa nakikita.

REP. ERIGUEL. Mme. Speaker, we are very willing to sit down with the Deputy Speaker on this and make all the amendments necessary.

REP. CAYETANO. Okay. Okay.

REP. ERIGUEL. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

REP. CAYETANO. So, on that note, Mme. Speaker, then I am very happy to make myself available to support this measure and to just propose a few phrases and amendments to some provisions to ensure that it would be a living law and not a dead law na hindi ma-implement ng DSWD dahil wala na silang manpower to implement it.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Thank you to the generous Chairperson and principal author.

REP. ERIGUEL. Thank you, too, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, there being no more interpellators, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, motion to suspend the session.

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

*It was 4:56 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:57 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION  
OF H.B. NO. 7033

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 7033.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

*The Secretary General read the following House bills, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 7116, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 96 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES’ ”

By Representative Villarín  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 7117, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING INOYONAN HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY INOYONAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BULA, PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR TO FELIPE P. PANTON HIGH SCHOOL”

By Representative Fortuno  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 7118, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PHILIPPINE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, DEFINING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Sambar, Nograles (J.J.) and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF CHILDREN

House Bill No. 7119, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE USE OF CELLULAR PHONES AND SIMILAR DIGITAL DEVICES IN SCHOOLS, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘CELLPHONE REGULATION ACT OF 2018’ ”

By Representatives Lanete  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 7121, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE PROVISION OF SMOKE HOODS FOR EMERGENCY USE IN ALL HIGH-RISE BUILDING STRUCTURES”

By Representative Abellanosa  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 7122, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING TELEMEDICINE IN THE COUNTRY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Belaro  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7123, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH IN THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE 10<sup>TH</sup> JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON, PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’ AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Zubiri  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7124, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE PHILIPPINE OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT ADMINISTRATION (POEA) TO PUBLISH, DISSEMINATE, AND UPDATE A HANDBOOK ON THE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF MIGRANT WORKERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8042,

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS FILIPINO ACT OF 1995’, AS AMENDED”

By Representative Pacquiao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 7125, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE LAST MONDAY OF JANUARY OF EVERY YEAR A REGULAR HOLIDAY, TO BE KNOWN AS ‘NATIONAL BIBLE DAY’”

By Representative Pacquiao  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 7126, entitled:

“AN ACT ABOLISHING THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS, CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE THE CUSTOMS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Castro (F.H.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 7127, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 9502, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘UNIVERSALLY ACCESSIBLE CHEAPER AND QUALITY MEDICINES ACT OF 2008’ TO FOSTER THE IMPOSITION OF ALL EXISTING POLICIES AND GUIDELINES, PROVIDING STIFFER PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 7128, entitled:

“AN ACT POSTPONING THE MAY 2018 BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9164, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9340, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10632, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10656, REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10923, AND REPUBLIC ACT 10952, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Panganiban  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Bill No. 7129, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-

FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO MOUNTAIN PROVINCE BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8164, ENTITLED, ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE MOUNTAIN PROVINCE BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN BENGUET, IFUGAO, KALINGA, APAYAO, AND MOUNTAIN PROVINCE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS MOUNTAIN PROVINCES)’”

By Representative Go (M.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES

House Bill No. 7130, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE BOHOL-LEYTE LINK BRIDGE CONNECTING THE ISLANDS OF BOHOL AND LEYTE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aumentado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 7131, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A CONCRETE BRIDGE CONNECTING THE PROVINCES OF BOHOL AND CEBU, FROM BARANGAY TAYTAY, MUNICIPALITY OF GETAFE, PROVINCE OF BOHOL TO BARANGAY ALGERIA, MUNICIPALITY OF CORDOVA, PROVINCE OF CEBU, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BOHOL-CEBU MULTI-ACCESS FRIENDSHIP BRIDGE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aumentado  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 7132, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING PROMOTION OF RESEARCH, BASIC RESEARCH AND EVIDENCED OR SCIENCE-BASED POLICY RESEARCH OF ACT NO. 4120 OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL OF THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Arcillas, Nava and Nieto  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 7133, entitled:

“AN ACT TO STRENGTHEN THE COUNTRY’S GROSS INTERNATIONAL RESERVES (GIR), AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 32 AND 151 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Alvarez (P.), Fariñas and Cua TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

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

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until 4:00 p.m. of Monday, February 12, 2018.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Sema). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the session is adjourned until Monday, February 12, 2018, at four o’clock in the afternoon.

*It was 5:01 p.m.*