



Congressional Record

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

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Tuesday, February 13, 2018

No. 62

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Ferdinand L. Hernandez called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). 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. Hernandez). Everybody will please remain standing for a one-minute silent prayer.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

ROLL CALL

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). 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. 62, dated February 13, 2018.**

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

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the Journal of the previous session. Sorry, I withdraw the motion.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 210 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 210 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the Journal of the previous session, Journal No. 61, dated February 12, 2018. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Reference of Business.

REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

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

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1655, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STRONGLY DENOUNCING THE PRACTICES AND PROPOSALS FOR COMPRESSED WORKWEEK THAT REVERSE WORKERS’ HARD-WON CENTURY STRUGGLE FOR 8-HOUR WORKDAY, AND TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, SAID PRACTICES AND OTHER SCHEMES THAT UNDERMINE THE WORKERS’ RIGHT TO HEALTH AND TO HUMANE WORKING CONDITIONS”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1656, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS COMMITTED AGAINST THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES IN LIANGA, SURIGAO DEL SUR”

By Representative Zarate
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1657, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (UPDILIMAN) COLLEGE OF LAW FOR WINNING ITS SECOND STETSON ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION SOUTHEAST ASIA ROUNDS TITLE, MAKING IT BACK TO BACK CHAMPIONS”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 1658, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE REPORTED SHORTAGES OF RICE QUANTITY AVAILABLE IN THE MARKET AND THE BUFFER STOCK OF THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY”

By Representative Panganiban
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1659, entitled:

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

By Representative Salon
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1660, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NON-IMPLEMENTATION BY THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE PANGASINAN STATE UNIVERSITY AND/OR BY THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION OF THE DECISION OF THE OMBUDSMAN IN OMB-L-A-16-0318”

By Representatives Espino, Acop and Bataoil
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1661, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO INTERCEDE, IN BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF ABRA, AND PREVENT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ORDER OF THE PHILIPPINE ELECTRICITY MARKET CORPORATION SUSPENDING ABRA ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE WHOLESALE ELECTRICITY SPOT MARKET”

By Representatives Uybarreta and Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

House Resolution No. 1662, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING TO THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF THE CEBU TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (CTU) TO ESTABLISH A CAMPUS AT BARANGAY GUBA, 1ST DISTRICT, CITY OF CEBU”

By Representatives Del Mar and Hofer
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 1663, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING PROFOUND CONDOLENCES ON THE

DEMISE OF PHILIPPINE THEATER, FILM,
AND TV ACTOR SPANKY MANIKAN”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1664, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY, AS
LEAD COMMITTEE, JOINT WITH THE
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, TO CONDUCT
AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
ON THE MANNER BY WHICH THE
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY GRANTS
LICENSES, PERMITS, AND GUIDELINES,
FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF SOLAR AND
HYDROELECTRIC ENERGY PROJECTS”

By Representatives Bertiz and Bravo (A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1665, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY
TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON THE USE OF
BLOCKCHAIN TECHNOLOGY SUCH AS
BITCOINS IN ONLINE COMMERCE”

By Representative Yap (V.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1666, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT
AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO
CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID
OF LEGISLATION, ON BUILD-OPERATE-
TRANSFER AGREEMENT ENTERED
INTO BY AND BETWEEN THE BUREAU
OF IMMIGRATION AND DATA TRAIL
CORPORATION”

By Representative Barbers
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1667, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO
REVIEW THE PROVISIONS OF CUSTOMS
MODERNIZATION AND TARIFF ACT ON
DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY IN CUSTOMS
CUSTODY”

By Representative Cua
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1668, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION FOR THE CONDUCT

OF AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION AND IN THE EXERCISE
OF CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT
FUNCTIONS, ON THE LACK OF SUPPLY
OF NFA RICE AT THE PUBLIC MARKETS
SUPPOSEDLY BECAUSE OF LIMITED NFA
BUFFER STOCKS”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1669, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON HIGHER TECHNICAL
EDUCATION TO EVALUATE AND
INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION,
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF P8B FREE
TUITION POLICY FOR THE FIRST
SEMESTER AY 2017-2018”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1670, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE
COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE TO PROMPTLY CONVENE
A JOINT CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE ON THE REPUBLIC
ACT 10533 OR ENHANCED BASIC
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM (K TO 12
PROGRAM)”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Resolution No. 1671, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE
COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND
FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES AND
FINANCE BUREAU TO CONDUCT
AN INVESTIGATION, IN AID OF
LEGISLATION, ON THE ACQUISITION OF
A SKYROCKETING PHP6.432-TRILLION
FOREIGN DEBT”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1672, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES EXPRESSING
ITS PROFOUND CONDOLENCES TO
THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS AND
DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON
HUMAN RIGHTS AND ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN TO STRONGLY CONDEMN
AND CONDUCT AN INVESTIGATION,
IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE

DEATH OF THREE (3) CHILDREN IN
LIANGA, SURIGAO DEL SUR DUE TO AN
EXPLOSION OF AN M203 AMMUNITION
OWNED BY THE 75TH IBPA”

By Representatives Elago, Brosas, Casilao and
Tinio
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated October 10, 2017 of Delfin N. Lorenzana,
Secretary, Department of National Defense, submitting
to the House of Representatives the agency’s CY 2016
Year-End Report on the Revised Armed Forces of the
Philippines Modernization Program.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATIONAL DEFENSE
AND SECURITY

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Natural Resources, the
Committee on Appropriations and the Committee
on Ways and Means (Committee Report No. 601),
re H.B. No. 7162, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE AGUSAN MARSH
SITUATED IN THE MUNICIPALITIES
OF TALACOGON, SAN FRANCISCO,
ROSARIO, BUNAWAN, LORETO AND LA
PAZ, AGUSAN DEL SUR AS A PROTECTED
AREA UNDER THE CATEGORY OF
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY AND PROVIDING
FOR ITS MANAGEMENT”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bill No. 2986

Sponsors: Representatives Ty, Nograles (K.A.),
Cua and Mellana

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Higher and Technical Education
and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee
Report No. 602), re H.B. No. 7166, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE KABASALAN
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY IN THE
MUNICIPALITY OF KABASALAN,
PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY,
INTO THE ZAMBOANGA SIBUGAY
POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE (ZSPI) AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House
Bill No. 5601

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, at this juncture, I
move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests
of the Hon. Lawrence Lemuel H. Fortun from the First
District of Agusan del Norte, from Butuan City, namely:
Butuan City Councilor Ferdinand Nalcot and Councilor
Rema Erigbuagas-Burdeos; and the barangay captains
from the First District of Agusan del Norte. I so move,
Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). May
the guests of Rep. Lawrence Fortun please stand up to be
recognized. Welcome to the House of Representatives.
(*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, may we also
acknowledge the presence of the guests of the
Hon. Divina Grace C. Yu from the First District of
Zamboanga del Sur; the Science teachers from the
First District of Zamboanga del Sur representing the
Overall Champion of the 15th National Science Quest
held in Baguio City, namely: Mr. Leigh Quijano, Mr.
Dee Tan and Mr. Christopher Polisco. I so move, Mr.
Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). May
the guests of Rep. Divina Yu stand up to be recognized.
Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. BELARO. Also, Mr. Speaker, I move that
we acknowledge the presence of guests of the Hon.
Cheryl P. Deloso-Montalla from the Second District of
Zambales, the following balikbayans, namely: Benilda
Rose Fontelera, Leroi Fontelera, Irnia dela Cruz, Bobby
dela Cruz, Aendel Mendoza, Corazon Quejada, Leticia
Quejada, Isabelita Macabare and Nelson Quejada. I so
move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). May
the guests of Rep. Cheryl Deloso-Montalla stand up to
be recognized. Welcome to the House of Representatives.
(*Applause*)

REP. BELARO. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I move that
we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon.
Lorna C. Silverio from the Third District of Bulacan
from the Bulacan Agricultural State College of San
Ildefonso, Bulacan, namely: Mrs. Josefina Mananguit,
Mrs. Cecilia Santiago and Mrs. Rhodora Iracta. I so
move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). May
the guests of the Rep. Lorna Silverio stand up to be
recognized. Welcome to the House of Representatives.
(*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6775
ON THIRD READING

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6775 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. Hernandez). 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 February 8, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

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

The 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. 62, dated February 13, 2018.*

REP. BROSAS. Mr. Speaker, my vote is “No” and I would like to explain my vote later.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). That is duly noted.

REP. CASILAO. Mr. Speaker, ang boto ko po ay “No” at ako po ay magpapaliwanag mamaya.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). That is duly noted.

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

REP. DE JESUS. Mr. Speaker, I vote “No” and I would like to explain my vote later.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). That is duly noted.

REP. TINIO. Mr. Speaker, I vote “No.”

RESULT OF THE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The result shows 193 affirmative votes, six negative votes and no abstention.

House Bill No. 6775 is approved on Third Reading.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Members who wish to explain their votes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Representative Brosas is hereby recognized. You have three minutes.

REP. BROSAS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. BROSAS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa ko Kinatawan, ang Representasyong ito ay tutul sa pagsasabatas ng House Bill No. 6775, ang panukalang batas na naglalayong buuin ang Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development. Sa mahabang kasaysayan ng pakikibaka ng mamamayang Pilipino para sa abot-kaya, pang-masa at may kalidad na programang pabahay sa mga maralita, ang susing usapin na hindi nareresolba ng gobyerno ay ang patakaran sa palupa at pabahay na nakabalangkas sa pribatisasyon at sa layuning kumita. Kung mayroon mang kailangang baguhin sa mga batas sa usapin ng pabahay, ito ay ang pagbabago nito mula sa pagiging profit-oriented to being service-oriented na may layuning makatuwang sa mamamayang nagdarahup, sa halip na sila ay lalo pang ibaon sa pagkakautang sa patung-patong na mga bayarin dahil napakalaki po ng binabayaran nila—milyun-milyon pero sila ay mga maralita—sa mga pabahay na ginawa ng gobyerno.

Maraming mga probisyon sa panukalang batas na nakababahalang magamit upang lalo pang pagkakitaan ang serbisyong pabahay sa mga maralita. Sa “Definition of Terms,” nakatali ang pagpapakahulugan sa informal settler families o ISFs sa lugar na kinatitirikan ng kanilang mga tahanan, sa halip na pagkilala sa kanilang panglipunan at pang-ekonomiyang katayuan na siyang nagtutulak sa kanilang manirahan sa mga estero, riles at maging sa waterways. Sa ganitong depinisyon nagmumula ang mga arbitraryong mga desisyon, halimbawa, mula sa mga local government units o LGUs na mga banta at aktwal na pagpapalayas. Isang tiyak na halimbawa nito ang naranasan ng maralita sa Pasig Floodway, sa Tondo, sa Quezon City at sa iba pa. Nakapangangamba rin ang pagtingin ng panukalang batas na ito sa social housing. Sa inihahapag na depinisyon ng social housing, nakatuon ito sa walang pigil sa pagtatakda ng interest sa pautang sa pabahay, malayung-malayo sa ultimong layunin ng social housing, na dapat sana ay nakatuon sa mga programa

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

para sa ating mga maralita na kababayan, kulang o di kaya naman ay wala halos na kinikita. Samakatuwid, walang niresolbang usapin sa pabahay ang panukalang batas. Layunin pa nitong ibukas sa pribado ang mga batayang serbisyong panglipunan tulad ng pabahay pati nga sa mga dayuhan. Bukod pa rito, pinangangambahan ng Representasyong ito ang magiging malawakang tanggalan sa hanay ng mga kawani ng gobyerno dahil sa magaganap na pagsasanib at pagrereorganisa ng dating pitong ahensiyang nakatutok sa pabahay. Sa panukalang batas, walang probisyong magtitiyak para sa mga kawaning maapektuhan ng ganitong reorganisasyon. Sa karanasan ng ating mga maliliit na kawani sa gobyerno, ang abolition, restructuring, merging, streamlining at integration ay nangangahulugan ng malawakang layoff sa likod ng mga pabalat-bungang reporma ng redundancy, overlapping in programs or functions at pagpapalakas ng private sector participation. Sa National Housing Authority pa lamang tinatayang mahigit 2,000 regular na mga manggagawa ang maaaring mawalan ng ikinabubuhay. Sa ngayon pa nga lamang na proseso ng rationalization, higit 200 kawani na ang natanggalan ng plantilla positions o di kaya naman ay na-demote. Halos 6,000 kawani din mula sa iba pang key shelter agencies tulad ng HLURB at HUDCC ang maaaring matanggal sa trabaho.

Naninindigan ang Gabriela Women's Party na hanggang nananatiling nakatuon sa layuning kumita ang balangkas ng programang pabahay sa Pilipinas, hindi mareresolba ng pagtatayo ng hiwalay na departamento ang usapin ng kawalan ng masisilungan ang milyong Pilipino na patuloy na pinagkakaitan ng batayang serbisyo sa ilalim ng ganitong patakaran.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). You will please wind up.

REP. BROSAS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, I am wrapping up.

Sa bawat panukalang batas patungo sa ilang mga reporma, marapat na matiyak natin ang kasiguruhan sa kabuhayan ng ating mga kawani. Muli iginigiit ng Representasyong ito ang pagtutol sa panukalang batas at ang pagtindig para sa pang-masang pabahay at seguridad sa trabaho ng mga maralita at kawani ng gobyerno.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Hon. Ariel "Ka Ayik" B. Casilao is recognized. You have three minutes.

REP. CASILAO EXPLAINS HIS VOTE

REP. CASILAO. Salamat, Mr. Speaker. Ako po ay bumoboto ng "No" o ng negative dahil aminado naman po ang ating mga Sponsor ng panukalang batas na ito, House Bill No. 6775, na hindi po matutugunan nito

ang balangkas ng polisiyang sa usapin ng serbisyong pabahay. Nakabalangkas pa rin ang panukalang batas na ito doon sa Urban Development and Housing Act. Ang anumang istruktural na pagbabago o pagsasaayos mula sa pitong shelter agencies hanggang maging isang departamento, hindi pa rin nito tinatanggal ang oryentasyong pumapabor at nasa pangunahin, nasa unahan ng pagpapatupad ng programang pabahay sa ating mga maralita ay ang usapin ng mga pribadong negosyo. Pangalawa, Mr. Speaker, hindi po matutugunan nito ang papalaki at papalawak na bilang ng mga informal settlers at iyong housing backlog. Aminado din ang ating mga Sponsor na ang 5.1 million na housing backlog ay hindi matutugunan sa panukalang batas na ito. Pangatlo, Mr. Speaker, magdudulot at magdudulot ng tanggalan ang reorganisasyon. Ang pagbubuo ng isang departamento mula sa pitong housing or shelter agencies ay magdudulot ng tanggalan ng mga empleyado.

Sa kasalukuyan, ang ating gobyerno ay isa sa pinakamalaking taga-hire ng mga kontraktwal na mga manggagawa sa iba't ibang antas o ahensiya ng ating gobyerno. Habang nandiyan din po at ipinapatupad ang rightsizing sa mga government agency at tiyak, kahit na mayroon pong dalawang taong transisyon ang panukalang batas na ito, hindi pa rin ikinakaila nito na magkakaroon ng tanggalan mula sa mga job order, contract of service na mga posisyon, na hanggang sa ngayon ay walang balak ang ating mga ahensiya ng gobyerno para magkaroon ng regular o ma-fill iyong mga vacant slots. Sa panukalang batas ding ito, Mr. Speaker, mas maiging tugunan itong usapin ng oryentasyon ng public housing bill. Hindi po magkakaroon ng malinaw na implementasyon ang Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development kung ang balangkas nito ay nasa pribado o negosyo.

Kaya tumututol, at ang boto po ng Kinatawang ito ay "No," Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). The Hon. Emmi A. De Jesus is hereby recognized. You have three minutes.

REP. DE JESUS EXPLAINS HER VOTE

REP. DE JESUS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Kamakailan lang, na-disperse ng city government ng Manila ang kampuhan ng mga maralita sa Mendiola—eyesore at mabaho. Ito ang mga tinanggalan ng tirahan, tulad ng nabanggit kanina, mula sa Manggahan Floodway, at napilitan silang magkampo sa Mendiola at umasang haharapin sila ni Pangulong Duterte dahil hanggang ngayon ay wala pa ring paglilipatan sa kanila. Malayo ang ibinibigay na relocation site, bukod pa sa hindi nila kaya ang bayarin. Paulit-ulit ang ganitong

kuwento at mauulit kung hindi uugatin ang suliranin sa pabahay. Kailangan nating ma-recognize na sa karamihan ng mga tinatawag nating informal settlers sa mga urban areas, galing sila sa mga pamilya ng mga magsasaka sa kanayunan, at lumuwag sila sa siyudad para maghanap ng mas magandang buhay dahil, ano na nga ba ang kalagayan ng kanayunan? Kahirapan, pangangamkam ng lupa, militarisasyon, pandarambong at kawalan ng oportunidad sa trabaho sa agrikultura. Dumating sa lungsod, nakahanap ng trabaho, at nagtirik ng bahay sa kung saan mang espasyo, kanugnog ang barung-barong at iba pang maraming kaparehong istorya.

Karamihan sa mga ito ay dekada nang naninirahan sa kinatatayuan ng bahay nila. Sampu, dalawampu, limampung taon sa nadatnan nilang tiwangwang na lupa, at hinawan, pinagyaman, pinaunlad ng umusbong na komunidad sa pagdaan ng panahon. Dadating ang isang pribadong entidad o di kaya ay mismong gobyerno, papaalisin sila dahil wala silang pinanghahawakang papel na sa kanila ang lupa. Kasunod ay demolisyon at dislokasyon. Ano ba ang kahulugan nito? Pagsadlak sa ibayong kahirapan. Paulit-ulit na ang kuwento.

Sa ganitong kalagayan, solusyon ba ang House Bill No. 6775?

Sa totoo lang, ang pagsasabatas ng Bill na ito ay mangangahulugan lamang ng muli na namang pagtalikod ng gobyerno sa responsibilidad nito na magbibigay ng pang-masa at abot-kayang pabahay sa mga tao. Korporasyon pa rin ang tunguhin ng ahensiyang mamamahala sa pabahay. Ibig sabihin, ang mga tinatawag na beneficiaries ang muli na namang babalik sa mga bayarin. Negosyo muli ang diin at hindi serbisyo, gaya pa rin ng dati. Ang pagre-reorganize ng mga ahensiya ay halos inulit lang ang nilalayan nitong palitan. Bumuo ng mga bagong andana ng burukrasyang hindi naman kinakailangan. Kabilang ng libo-libong rank-and-file employees na mawawalan ng trabaho ay mga empleyadong ilang taon nang nagsisilbi sa ahensiya at ngayon, wala nang katiyakan sila sa trabaho.

Hindi ang panukalang batas na ito ang sagot sa problema sa pabahay. Gusto ko ring banggitin, case in point, baka puwede pang aralin ang ginawa ng lokal na pamahalaan ng Valenzuela sa kanilang Disiplina Village. Ang pagkakaroon ng abot-kaya, pang-masa at may kalidad na pabahay ay hindi maihahatid sa nangangailangan sa pamamagitan ng pagbibigay ng kapangyarihan sa mga korporasyon. Ang usapin sa pabahay ay kaakibat ng malaking usapin tungkol sa kahirapan. Kung walang trabaho ang papatirahin sa mga bahay na ito, wala rin silang kapasidad na magbayad at muli na naman silang mawawalan ng masisilungan. Kailangan munang kilalanin ang ganitong katotohanan bago masabing tunay na maglilingkod sa inaasahang stakeholders ang anumang panukalang batas patungkol sa housing.

Muli, "No" ang boto ng Representasyong ito.
Maraming salamat po.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6775 ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 193 affirmative votes, six negative votes and no abstention, House Bill No. 6775 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Secretariat be directed to immediately transmit to the Senate the recently approved House Bill No. 6775.

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

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, at this juncture, I move that we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso of Cagayan, namely, the members of the Sangguniang Bayan of Sta. Praxedes, Cagayan: the Hon. Estrelina Aguinaldo, the Hon. Carlo Cachapero, the Hon. Gil Buenavista, the Hon. Godofredo Pascua, the Hon. Mark Robenson Dela Cruz, the Hon. Hilario Cudal Jr., the Hon. Christopher Aguirre, and the Hon. Edgar Labuni. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). May the guests of the Honorable Vargas-Alfonso please stand up to be recognized. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7007 ON THIRD READING

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7007 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). 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 February 5, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7007, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE DAVAO ORIENTAL STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE CITY OF MATI AND

ALL ITS SATELLITE CAMPUSES LOCATED IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE DAVAO ORIENTAL STATE UNIVERSITY, 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. 62, dated February 13, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7007
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 203 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7007 is approved on Third Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 6914
ON THIRD READING

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 6914 and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure and call the roll for nominal voting.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). 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 February 6, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6914, entitled: AN ACT EXTENDING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO PEÑAFRANCIA BROADCASTING CORPORATION UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8166, EXPANDING ITS COVERAGE TO THE ENTIRE PHILIPPINES, AND APPROVING THE TRANSFER OF ITS CORPORATE SHARES.

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. 62, dated February 13, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6914
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 205 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 6914 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 4115
ON THIRD READING

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 4115 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. Hernandez). 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 February 6, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4115, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FORESTLAND BOUNDARY OF THE PROVINCE OF SIKUIJOR.

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. 62, dated February 13, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 4115
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 205 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 4115 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7054
ON THIRD READING

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7054 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. Hernandez). 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 February 8, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7054, entitled: AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES EMERGENCY AND RESILIENCY FUND, PROVIDING APPROPRIATIONS 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. 62, dated February 13, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7054
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 205 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7054 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, at this point, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Florida “Rida” P. Robes from the city of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan. They are here for Lakbay Aral in Congress.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). May the guests of Congresswoman Robes stand up to be recognized. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 2553
ON THIRD READING

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 2553 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. Hernandez). 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 February 8, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 2553, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE TEODORO N. PEPITO MEMORIAL HOSPITAL IN THE CITY OF VALENCIA, FOURTH DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF BUKIDNON 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. 62, dated February 13, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 2553
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 206 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 2553 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7037
ON THIRD READING

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7037 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. Hernandez). 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 February 8, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7037, entitled: AN ACT CONVERTING THE DINAIG MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF DATU ODIN SINSUAT, PROVINCE OF MAGUINDANAO, INTO A FIFTY (50)-BED CAPACITY DISTRICT HOSPITAL TO BE NOW KNOWN AS THE DATU ODIN SINSUAT DISTRICT

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

HOSPITAL, UPGRADING ITS FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL, 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. 62, dated February 13, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7037
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 207 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7037 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Secretariat be directed to immediately transmit to the Senate the recently approved Bills on Third Reading. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7115
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7115, contained in Committee Report No. 596, as reported out by the Committee on Agrarian Reform.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). 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. 7115, entitled: AN ACT PENALIZING THE

CONVERSION OR CAUSING THE CONVERSION OF IRRIGATED AND IRRIGABLE LANDS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO 6657, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE COMPREHENSIVE AGRARIAN REFORM LAW OF 1988.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Agrarian Reform, the honorable Representative Relampagos, be recognized for the sponsorship of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Representative Relampagos is hereby recognized.

REP. RELAMPAGOS. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. On behalf of the Committee on Agrarian Reform, we would like to manifest before this august Body our desire for the adoption of the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 7115, principally authored by the Honorable Speaker and the Hon. Erlpe John “Ping” M. Amante as our sponsorship speech on House Bill No. 7115.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, considering that there are no interpellators, I move that we—I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Rep. Edcel C. Lagman for his interpellation. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Rep. Edcel Lagman is hereby recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to manifest that I am in favor of this Bill. At a time that we have this rice shortage, the enactment of this Bill is indispensable because it would enhance rice production when we are able to save irrigated and irrigable lands from conversion to other purposes.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

** See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

I just would like to seek clarification, distinguished Chairman: One, Section 4, on Effectivity, reads: “This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.” This means, distinguished Chairman, that the effectivity of this Bill, once enacted, will be prospective. Is that correct?

REP. RELAMPAGOS. Yes, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Lagman, that is correct.

REP. LAGMAN. Another question and this is my second question. In other words, all pending applications for conversion prior to the approval of this Act will not be covered. Is that correct?

REP. RELAMPAGOS. Mr. Speaker, Honorable Lagman, actually, if we go by Republic Act No. 6657, there is already a provision in the law under Section 65 that prohibits conversion of irrigated and irrigable lands. Unfortunately, in spite of this, there is still rampant and unchecked conversions, and the conversion of irrigated and irrigable lands, the existence thereof, is actually acknowledged by no less than the Department of Agrarian Reform itself, and it would seem that there are certain elements within the government bureaucracy that may directly have a hand in this present reality. So, precisely, because of this and in order to address this, there is a need for us to add, under the existing law, the act of converting or causing the conversion of irrigated and irrigable lands among the prohibited acts prescribed under Republic Act No. 6657, precisely under Section 73 thereof. By doing so, it would also specify the amendment thereof in terms of who would be those responsible, for which acts would constitute the conversion, or causing the conversion of irrigable or irrigated lands.

In the same legislation that is being proposed for consideration, we are also, at the same time, making a clear definition, as part of the amendments to be introduced, of irrigated lands—what are irrigable lands—to include an increase in the penalty to be imposed on those persons who would be found liable in violation of this proposed amendment of the law. Sad to say, because under the existing law, the penalty is not that great and so, there is a need to impose a higher penalty just to give a strong message that this act will never be tolerated.

REP. LAGMAN. So, in other words, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, this is a reiteration, a restatement of Section 73 of Republic Act No. 6657, but it enumerates specifically the prohibited acts and would increase the penalty imposable for violation. Is that correct?

REP. RELAMPAGOS. That is correct. Under the existing law, under Section 73, this is not included in the

listing or enumeration under Prohibited Acts. So, we are proposing under this House Bill for the addition, under paragraph (J), that this will be included—the actual physical or legal conversion or causing the physical or legal conversion of irrigated and irrigable lands. It also provides there an enumeration of persons who would be liable for violation of this Act.

REP. LAGMAN. Is there any study, distinguished Sponsor, Mr. Speaker, on the effect of this Bill, once enacted into law, on the competitive claims on land like, for example, for housing, commercial or industrial use?

REP. RELAMPAGOS. Well, the thing there, Mr. Speaker, Honorable Lagman, as I was saying earlier, while there is already an express provision of the law that prohibits the conversion of irrigable and irrigated lands under Section 65 of Republic Act No. 6657, it is very unfortunate that still there is the existence of conversion of irrigable and irrigated lands. So, precisely because of this reality, we are instituting the amendment of this law in order to address it.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Well, the moratorium is for 15 years. Is that correct?

REP. RELAMPAGOS. You are talking of the Bill filed by one of the authors, the Honorable Amante. House Bill No. 7115 is already a substitute bill of the two bills that were passed—one, by the Honorable Speaker of the House that seeks to provide for a prohibition of the acceptance, processing and approval of applications for land use conversion of agricultural lands, irrigated lands and irrigable lands to non-agricultural purposes, and the one authored by the Hon. John “Ping” Amante that seeks to provide for a 15-year moratorium on the processing and approval of applications for conversion of all irrigated and irrigable lands covered by irrigation projects.

Now, just to expound further on this. The reason the Committee came up with the substitute bill to focus on including as one of the prohibited acts under Section 73 the act penalizing the conversion or causing the conversion of irrigated and irrigable lands is that the Committee finds it wise that there would no more be any need of passing the bills originally proposed by the two authors because there is already an existing law that addresses the prohibition of the conversion of irrigated and irrigable lands.

REP. LAGMAN. Under this Bill once enacted into law, there will be a permanent ban on the conversion of irrigable and irrigated lands. Is that correct?

REP. RELAMPAGOS. Yes. That would be the net effect, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. That is why I had a prior question on the impact of this prohibition on the other competitive claimants to land like housing, commercial and industrial use; but if there is no such prior study, then most probably there would be a need for a post-enactment study on how this permanent ban would affect the claims for housing, commercial and industrial usages of land. In any event, I would like to reiterate my previous statement that I am in favor of this measure.

Thank you.

REP. RELAMPAGOS. Thank you for that, Mr. Speaker. Thank you for that, Honorable Lagman, and rest assured that the Committee will work with the Department of Agrarian Reform for them to conduct the study as you so suggested, and perhaps, if the Honorable Lagman would be amenable, considering that you had already expressed your manifestation to support, probably you can be a coauthor of this measure. Okay. So, this Representation would like to manifest, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Speaker, that the Honorable Lagman will be a coauthor of this measure and we will also include all those still present in the Plenary Hall if they are so amenable.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). That is noted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no other interpellators and there being no Member who wishes to speak against the Bill, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 7115.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 7115 on Second Reading, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7115 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7115 is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 652 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 652, contained in Committee Report No. 597, as reported out by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). 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. 652, entitled: AN ACT CREATING AN ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

OZAMIZ CITY, CONVERTING THE MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT COMPRISING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF CLARIN AND TUDELA INTO THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT OF CLARIN, AND CREATING A NEW MUNICIPAL CIRCUIT TRIAL COURT COMPRISING THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SINACABAN AND TUDELA, ALL IN THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 129 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Justice, the honorable Rep. Reynaldo V. Umali, to begin the sponsorship of the measure. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Representative Umali is hereby recognized.

REP. UMALI. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I move that the Explanatory Note of House Bill No. 652 be adopted as our sponsorship remarks on the measure.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. MATUGAS. I am sorry, I withdraw my previous motion. I move that we adopt the Explanatory Note of the measure, as moved by the Chairperson, as his sponsorship speech thereon. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the interpellation. There being no Member who would like to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve the amendments as contained in Committee Report No. 597, if any. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. There being no other Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 652. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 652, as amended, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 652, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 652, as amended, is hereby approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7120
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7120, contained in Committee Report No. 598, as reported out by the Committee on Justice.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). 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. 7120, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MR. PHILLIP LEACH.

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

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Justice, the honorable Representative Umali. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative Umali is hereby recognized.

REP. UMALI. Mr. Speaker, I move to adopt the Explanatory Note of the measure as the sponsorship remarks of this Representation thereon.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

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

It was 5:39 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:40 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION
OF H.B. NO. 7120

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 7120. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill—I withdraw that motion, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we include additional coauthors to House Bills No. 7115 and 7134 as contained in the list to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

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

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE
BICAM. CONF. CTTEE. ON H.B. NO. 6915
AND S.B. NO. 1103

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of House Bill No. 6915 and Senate Bill No. 1103, establishing a branch of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines in the Municipality of Sablayan, Province of Occidental Mindoro, to be known as the Polytechnic University of the Philippines (PUP)-Sablayan Branch: Reps. Ann K. Hofer, Josephine Ramirez-Sato, Manuel Jose “Mannix” M. Dalipe and Julieta R. Cortuna. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Members nominated are so designated.
The Majority Leader is recognized.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS
ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. 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:

House Resolution No. 1613, to the Committee on Information and Communications Technology;

House Resolution No. 1616, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

House Resolution No. 1617, to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

House Resolution No. 1623, to the Committee on Foreign Affairs;

House Resolution No. 1624, to the Committee on Ecology;

House Resolution No. 1626, to the Committee on Health;

House Resolution No. 1629, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;

House Resolution No. 1633, to the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries;

House Resolution No. 1637, to the Committee on Games and Amusements;

House Resolution No. 1638, to the Committee on Health;

House Resolution No. 1639, to the Committee on Population and Family Relations;

House Resolution No. 1644, to the Committee on Natural Resources;

House Resolution No. 1647, to the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms;

House Resolution No. 1648, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;

House Resolution No. 1674, to the Committee on Dangerous Drugs; and

House Resolution No. 1664, to the Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability, and Energy.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

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

It was 5:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:46 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. MATUGAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn the session until tomorrow, Valentine's Day, February 14, at four o'clock in the afternoon. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The session resumes at four o'clock in the afternoon, February 14. Happy Valentine's Day. *(Laughter)*

It was 5:47 p.m.