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No. 63

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). Everybody will please rise to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Please remain standing for an Invocation to be led by Rep. Ann K. Hofer.

Everybody remained standing for the Invocation.

INVOCATION

REP. HOFER. Loving Lord, on this doubly significant occasion today of Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day coincidentally falling on the same day, we call to mind both the words in the books of Genesis and Corinthians. Chapter 3, verse 19 of Genesis declares, "For dust you are and to dust you shall return."

On the other hand, Chapter 13, verses 4 to 8 of First Corinthians defines "love," thus:

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude. It is not self-seeking. It is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails.

We ponder on these words now, Lord, and the

message of both Valentine's Day and Ash Wednesday intertwining. As we do so, we implore Your blessing, Lord.

Bless us with the wisdom to realize that we are on this earth for only a limited time; thus, we must put that time to its best use.

Bless us even more with humility, a virtue which has become rare in this age of narcissism and self-centeredness, so that we may recognize that we are made of the dust of clay and will return to dust one day.

Humbled by such, Lord, bless us further so that we may comprehend that we need not be anxious about our impermanence because love is the answer. For love never fails, love never ends.

With unending faith in You, therefore, help us, Lord, to be patient and kind, placing the common good above all, making sure that the laws we create are fair and beneficial, particularly to the disadvantaged.

In our everyday dealings, guide us so that we will not envy, we will not boast, and we will avoid the sin of pride.

Even with the seeming power given us, grant that we may not be rude, nor become self-seeking, easily angered, nor hold grudges about perceived wrongs done to us.

Stay with us so that we may never delight in evil but rejoice in the truth always.

As always, Lord, help us so that our love for our country and citizenry will prompt us to protect them as we constantly remember that love always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres; love never fails.

Unfailingly, Lord, every day, not just on Valentine's Day, let this be our loving offering to You, so that we may praise and glorify You, dearest Lord, forever and ever.

Amen.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Happy Valentine's Day to everyone.

ROLL CALL

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

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. 63, dated February 14, 2018.**

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 199 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 62 of February 13, 2018.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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 Bills and Resolutions on First Reading, Communication and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 7164, entitled:

“AN ACT FOR SETTING 130 KILOMETER PER HOUR AS THE MAXIMUM SPEED

LIMIT FOR VEHICLES RUNNING ON TOLLROADS/EXPRESSWAYS IN THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Pancho

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 7165, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE PANGLAO AIRPORT AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER AND OPERATE THE BOHOL INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Aumentado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1675, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO STRONGLY DENOUNCE THE BLATANT DISREGARD OF PEOPLE’S HEALTH AND SAFETY IN THE DENGUE VACCINE SCANDAL AND TO IMMEDIATELY ADDRESS THE PEOPLE’S CALL FOR JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY”

By Representative Zarate

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1676, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED SHORTAGE OF RICE BUFFER STOCK OF THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) AND URGING FOR THE INCREASE IN PROCUREMENT OF LOCAL PALAY, INSTEAD OF IMPORTING RICE FROM OTHER COUNTRIES”

By Representative Casilao, Zarate, De Jesus, Tinio, Brosas, and Elago

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1677, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON REORGANIZATION TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE FEASIBILITY OF MERGING THE DEPARTMENT OF

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

EDUCATION, COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, AND THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY INTO ONE OFFICE AND/OR THE AMENDMENT OF REPUBLIC ACTS NO. 7722 AND 7796”

By Representative Belaro
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1678, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, REPORTS ON THE FAILURE OF SOME SELLERS, MANUFACTURERS, AND PRODUCERS TO PROVIDE SALE WARRANTY TERMS OR OTHER RIGHTS REMEDIES AND OBLIGATIONS TO THE INTEREST OF THE CONSUMERS”

By Representative Cortuna
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 1680, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE CONDUCT OF AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, ON THE PURPORTED IMPROPER AND IRREGULAR AWARDING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SERVICE CONTRACTS INVOLVING HYDROELECTRIC POWER PROJECTS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY TO RENEWABLE ENERGY APPLICANTS”

By Representative Cosalan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATION

Letters dated 6 and 7 February 2018 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

1. Circular No. 991 dated 26 January 2018;
2. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-007 dated 18 January 2018;
3. Circular No. 992 dated 1 February 2018;
4. Circular Letter No. CL-2018-008 dated 31 January 2018;
5. Circular No. 993 dated 29 January 2018; and
6. Circular No. 994 dated 29 January 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 603), re H.B. No. 7175, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE IGBARAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – ALAMEDA EXTENSION IN BARANGAY ALAMEDA, MUNICIPALITY OF IGBARAS, PROVINCE OF ILOILO FROM THE IGBARAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS ALAMEDA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4907

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.) and Garin (R.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 604), re H.B. No. 7176, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE SAN EMMANUEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – ANNEX IN BARANGAY SAN PABLO, TACURONG CITY, PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT FROM THE SAN EMMANUEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SAN PABLO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6266

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.) and Mangudadatu (S.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 605), re H.B. No. 7177, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE POLO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – MALANDAY ANNEX IN BARANGAY MALANDAY, VALENZUELA CITY FROM THE POLO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS MALANDAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1329

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.) and Gatchalian

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 606), re H.B. No. 7178, entitled: "AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TAMBO, PARAÑAQUE CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS TAMBO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3417

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.) and Olivarez

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the honorable Dep. Speaker Gwendolyn F. Garcia of the Third District of Cebu, who wishes to speak on a matter of personal and collective privilege.

I so move Mr. Speaker.

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

The Hon. Gwendolyn Garcia is hereby recognized.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. GARCIA (G.)

REP. GARCIA (G.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, our guests, good afternoon, maayong hapon.

I rise today on a question of personal and collective privilege. It is personal, because it involves a decision on an administrative case before the Office of the Ombudsman in which I am a respondent. It is collective, because its enforcement would impinge upon the constitutional and statutory authority of this House of Representatives exclusively to discipline any of its Members.

I must say, Mr. Speaker, that there would have been no need to rise today on this question. For the past two days, with characteristic decisiveness and resolution, our honorable Speaker Pantaleon D. Alvarez had, in a public pronouncement, declared that "In terms clear and unmistakable, this House cannot, should not and would not enforce the decision of the Office of the Ombudsman."

In several news reports, the Speaker was quoted as having said:

My appropriate action is not to implement the order. Why? Because there is nothing in the Constitution that allows me to do that. In fact, it is not within the power of the Ombudsman to discipline, much more to remove, any Member of the House of Representatives.

That should have been clear enough. It was clear enough to me, and clear enough to the House leadership.

Last night, however, I read on my newsfeed that a distinguished colleague of ours, Rep. Edcel Lagman, publicly disagreed with the Speaker. Representative Lagman said, referring to the Speaker: "I don't know what Constitution he is referring to."

Representative Lagman insisted that the Speaker enforce the decision of the Ombudsman citing, according to this news report written by Keith Calayag of *Sun-Star*, and I quote:

The Ombudsman's Law is clear with respect to the implementation of the decisions of the Ombudsman even pending motion for reconsideration.

We will go back to the Ombudsman Law which Representative Lagman cites, but first, let us begin with the Constitution from which the Speaker cites, and which Constitution Representative Lagman professes not knowing. When the honorable Speaker said, "There is nothing in the Constitution that allows the Ombudsman to discipline any Member of Congress." He was, of course, referring to the 1987 Constitution.

I would merely invite and would have merely invited my distinguished colleagues to read Article XI, Section 13, subsections 1 to 8, defining the powers, functions and duties of the Ombudsman, but the apparent misconception of Representative Lagman, perhaps shared by others, compels me to read the entire constitutional provision in Section 13, which reads:

The Office of the Ombudsman shall have the following powers, functions, and duties:

1. Investigate on its own, or on complaint by any person, any act or omission of any public official, employee, office or agency, when such act or omission appears to be illegal, unjust, improper, or inefficient.
2. Direct, upon complaint or at its own instance, any public official or employee of the Government, or any subdivision, agency

or instrumentality thereof, as well as of any government-owned or controlled corporation with original charter, to perform and expedite any act or duty required by law, or to stop, prevent, and correct any abuse or impropriety in the performance of duties.

3. Direct the officer concerned to take appropriate action against a public official or employee at fault, and recommend his removal, suspension, demotion, fine, censure, or prosecution, and ensure compliance therewith.

4. Direct the officer concerned, in any appropriate case, and subject to such limitations as may be provided by law, to furnish it with copies of documents relating to contracts or transactions entered into by his office involving the disbursement or use of public funds or properties, and report any irregularity to the Commission on Audit for appropriate action.

5. Request any government agency for assistance and information necessary in the discharge of its responsibilities, and to examine, if necessary, pertinent records and documents.

6. Publicize matters covered by its investigation when circumstances so warrant and with due prudence.

7. Determine the causes of inefficiency, red tape, mismanagement, fraud, and corruption in the Government and make recommendations for their elimination and the observance of high standards of ethics and efficiency.

8. Promulgate its rules of procedure and exercise such other powers or perform such functions or duties as may be provided by law.

Nothing at all in this provision which defines in its entirety the powers, duties and functions of the Ombudsman is there any mention, *nay*, even a suggestion that the Ombudsman has the power to discipline any Member of Congress, much less, to remove such Member. But wait, what about subsection (8) which says, "The Ombudsman may exercise such other powers or perform such functions or duties as may be provided by law." Maybe this is the law of which Representative Lagman speaks. I beg your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, and my distinguished colleagues, and I ask that we return to that law later.

Instead, let us focus on the clear provision under Article VI of the same Constitution vesting upon this House of Representatives the exclusive power to determine whether to discipline a Member, and two-thirds of this House to determine if the erring Member should be suspended or removed from office.

Section 16, paragraph (3) states:

Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds of all its Members, suspend or expel a Member. A penalty of suspension, when imposed, shall not exceed sixty days.

What the honorable Speaker therefore meant, in case his meaning was not clear to some, was that the only instance where the removal of any Member of the House of Representatives is allowed under the Constitution is by the decision of two-thirds of its membership, and not by an order of the Ombudsman, but by two-thirds of all the Members of this independent House of Representatives. But wait, what is the Ombudsman Law which Representative Lagman speaks of? Is there a provision there allowing the dismissal or removal of a Member of the House of Representatives by order of the Office of the Ombudsman?

Republic Act No. 6770 is the law that Article XI, Section 13, subsection (8) of the Constitution speaks. "The Ombudsman may exercise such other powers and functions as may be provided by law." Republic Act No. 6770 is such law.

The question now, therefore, is: Does the Ombudsman Law allow the Office of the Ombudsman to dismiss or remove a Member of the House of Representatives? The answer is no. No, not just no, there is no provision under the Ombudsman Law; rather, the answer is no, the Ombudsman Law specifically and expressly prohibits it.

Section 21 of the Ombudsman Law, specifically excludes from the disciplinary authority of the Office of the Ombudsman all Members of Congress, and I quote:

Section 21. *Officials Subject to Disciplinary Authority; Exceptions.* – The Office of the Ombudsman shall have disciplinary authority over all elective and appointive officials of the Government and its subdivisions, instrumentalities and agencies, including members of the Cabinet, local government, government-owned or controlled corporations and their subsidiaries, except over officials who may be removed only by impeachment or over Members of Congress, and the Judiciary.

I shall repeat for emphasis, "except over officials who may be removed only by impeachment or over Members of Congress, and the Judiciary."

The Legislature therefore, interpreting the provisions of the Constitution on the powers of the Office of the Ombudsman, expressly excluded Members of Congress

along with impeachable officials and members of the Judiciary, from the Ombudsman's disciplinary authority.

That is how the Eighth Congress, of which I believe Representative Lagman was a Member, defined the disciplinary authority of the Office of the Ombudsman. I will not discuss today the merits of the case against me. That is for another day before another forum. I should wish, however, that on this question which seeks to diminish the power of this House of Representatives not only under the Constitution but in the Ombudsman Law itself that we, the Members of this House could agree that instead of surrendering constitutional and statutory authority, we jealously guard it. That instead of allowing an illegal encroachment upon what is constitutionally and statutorily the exclusive domain of this House, we all stand together.

I would wish to quote a portion of the same article which states:

AKBAYAN Representative Tom Villarin's view however differs from Lagman. He believes Garcia is still entitled to legal remedies. Villarin also noted that there are so many pending cases involving Members of Congress to date including Representative Lagman himself.

So, I ask, and I repeat, that instead of allowing an illegal encroachment upon what is constitutionally and statutorily the exclusive domain of this House, we all stand together, not necessarily to stand with me but to stand guard and stand true to this institution, the Constitution and the laws.

Daghang salamat. Ug malipayong Valentine's Day kanatong tanan. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. *(Applause)*

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, the honorable Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia from the Third District of Cebu has signified her wishes not to entertain interpellations. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the honorable Deputy Speaker Gwendolyn Garcia to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). What is the pleasure of Representative Lagman?

REP. LAGMAN. I respect the position of Deputy Speaker Garcia not to be interpellated, but I reserve my right to speak on rebuttal at a proper time, not necessarily today because today is Valentine's Day. Most probably, by next week, preferably on Monday, because my name was extensively mentioned by the honorable Deputy Speaker.

I am making that reservation, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I now move that the Lady from the Party-List SENIOR CITIZENS, the Hon. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay, be recognized on a matter of personal and collective privilege.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Rep. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay is hereby recognized.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE OF REP. AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY

REP. AQUINO-MAGSAYSAY. To the noble House Speaker, my dear colleagues, distinguished staff, and guests in this honorable plenary, my most heartfelt wishes of a Happy Valentine's Day to everyone. In this heart's day, it is in this Representation's hopes that we may not only have a heart that beats for our loved ones, but for the selfless, indomitable service for our countrymen, particularly for those who need them the most.

At this juncture, along with some 500 of our cherished senior citizens around the country, let us serenade you in appealing for your support for the swift passage of the consolidated Universal Social Pensions Bill, starting with House Bill No. 5038, authored by our honorable Representative from AKO BICOL Party-List, Cong. Rodel M. Batocabe, with additional provisions by honorable Reps. Enrico A. Pineda and Michael L. Romero, PhD, from 1-PACMAN Party-List; Rep. Luis Jose Angel N. Campos Jr. from the Second District of Makati; Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga from the Second District of Compostela Valley; and Rep. Carlos Isagani T. Zarate from BAYAN MUNA Party-List, and is currently being deliberated at the Committee on Population and Family Relations, as chaired by the honorable Cong. Sol Aragon from the Third District of Laguna.

Today, we are not only commemorating the special day for the declaration of love, but also the eighth year since the landmark Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 was signed into law. Let me take this chance to commend our colleagues, former Senator and now Cong. Pia S. Cayetano and former Cong. Eduardo Zialcita for drafting the current law that widely benefits

some 8.3 million elderly of our country. Also, let me extend my gratitude to our former President, and now Cong. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for enacting this law exactly eight years ago.

Truly, RA No. 9994 has changed the dynamics of elderly living in the country, from being marginalized in the sidelines, into one that has encouraged an active and progressive participation in the development of our dear Republic. However, the cause for the betterment of the lives of our nation's elderly refuses to end here. In a recent report from the Population Commission, the country's population has reached the aging point, with over 7.5 percent of our populace aged 60 years and over. This poses plenty of challenges for our State in terms of mitigating the impact of aging in our society.

One of the key provisions in the Expanded Senior Citizens Act of 2010 was the institutionalization of social pensions in the country, to ensure our indigent senior citizens a secured monthly subsistence of P500. Yet, the bottleneck of implementation of these well-designed provisions is in the trials of identifying the target beneficiaries. If we also counter in the current inflation rate in consumption today, as compared to eight years ago, a P500 monthly subsistence is inadequate in ensuring our poor elderly of a decent and dignified living condition.

The solution, as the consolidated Universal Social Pension Bill proposes, is making the scope of the existing provision's beneficiaries as universal, as well as increase its benefit level as a bid for a more inclusive and empowering social pension design system for our developing country. The same social pension design system, as currently being implemented in other developing Asian economies, such as that of Thailand and Nepal, has proven to be effective in bettering the ways of life of their elderly population by providing a bedrock of income security particularly in their retirement years, thereby decreasing their dependence on their families, while spurring economic growth in some of the most depressed areas in these nations.

In a study conducted by the Coalition of Services of the Elderly or COSE, the proposed consolidated Universal Social Pension Bill may lift some of our country's three million Filipinos out of dire poverty. It is this Representation's desire to see a society where our elderly are afforded a life of dignity and decency in their few remaining years, and the consolidated Universal Social Pension Bill serves as a beacon of hope and optimism for maximizing the contributions of our senior citizens for the betterment of our country.

That is why, my dear colleagues, I, together with some eight million senior citizens of the Republic of the Philippines, am knocking on your hearts, appealing for your support for the urgent passage of this Bill, as this

will not only better the lives of our nation's elderly, but also the generations that will follow after them.

Again, my most heartfelt wishes for a Happy Valentine's Day! And thank you for this heart-warming opportunity to appeal to your benevolent Representations.

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

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Hon. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay of Party-List SENIOR CITIZEN to the Committee on Rules for its appropriate action.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, before we take up bills on Third Reading, I would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Milagros Aquino-Magsaysay and Hon. Francisco G. Datol Jr. of SENIOR CITIZEN'S Party-List, as well as the guests of Hon. Sol Aragones of the Third District of Laguna, namely: the Alliance of Senior Citizens of Valenzuela, all 300 strong COPAP or Confederation of Older Persons Association of the Philippines; Aksyon; AWESCOPE; FSCAP; Akbayan Youth; COSE; Tanghalang Balangay; and Aksyon para sa Pension Coalition. May they be requested to be welcomed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). Please stand so that your presence will be acknowledged. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*) Happy Valentine's Day.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7044 ON THIRD READING

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7044 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. 7044, entitled: AN ACT DECLARING JUNE 18 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD, PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE “BACOLOD CITY CHARTER DAY”, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE DAY PRESIDENT MANUEL L. QUEZON SIGNED AND APPROVED INTO EFFECT COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 326, CREATING THE CITY OF BACOLOD.

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. 63, dated February 14, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7044
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 181 affirmative votes, zero negative vote and zero abstention, House Bill No. 7044 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7061
ON THIRD READING

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7061, and direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, and call the roll for nominal voting.

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. 7061, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE SOUTHERN PHILIPPINES MEDICAL CENTER IN DAVAO CITY FROM ONE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED (1,200) TO ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED (1,500) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES AND FACILITIES, 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. 63, dated February 14, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7061
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 184 affirmative votes, zero negative vote and zero abstention, House Bill No. 7061 is approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7062
ON THIRD READING

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7062 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. 7062, entitled: AN ACT UPGRADING THE MINDANAO CENTRAL SANITARIUM IN PASOBOLONG, ZAMBOANGA CITY INTO A TERTIARY LEVEL HOSPITAL, INCREASING ITS BED CAPACITY FOR GENERAL CARE SERVICES TO THREE HUNDRED (300), 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. 63, dated February 14, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7062
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 185 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7062 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7063
ON THIRD READING

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7063 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. 7063, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY FOR TERTIARY GENERAL HEALTH CARE OF THE DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND SANITARIUM IN TALA, CALOOCAN CITY FROM TWO HUNDRED (200) TO EIGHT HUNDRED (800) BEDS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9420, ENTITLED “AN ACT CONVERTING TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS OF THE 2,000-BED DR. JOSE N. RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND SANITARIUM FOR TERTIARY GENERAL HEALTH CARE, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

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. 63, dated February 14, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7063
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 186 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7063 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7064
ON THIRD READING

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7064 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. 7064, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF DON EMILIO DEL VALLE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL (DEDVMH) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF UBAY, PROVINCE OF BOHOL FROM FIFTY (50) TO THREE HUNDRED (300) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND 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. 63, dated February 14, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7064
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 186 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7064 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

NOMINAL VOTING ON H.B. NO. 7065
ON THIRD READING

REP. NOEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Third Reading on House Bill No. 7065 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

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

the Members on February 8, 2018, pursuant to Section 58, Rule X of the House Rules.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7065, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE AMANG RODRIGUEZ MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER IN THE CITY OF MARIKINA FROM THREE HUNDRED (300) TO FIVE HUNDRED (500) BEDS, UPGRADING THE SERVICE FACILITIES AND PROFESSIONAL HEALTH CARE THEREIN, 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. 63, dated February 14, 2018.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7065
ON THIRD READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Hernandez). With 186 affirmative votes, no negative vote and no abstention, House Bill No. 7065 is hereby approved on Third Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, I move that the Secretariat be directed to immediately transmit to the Senate the Bills recently approved 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.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. LOPEZ (B.). Mr. Speaker, there being no more matters for the day, I move that we adjourn the session until next week, February 19, 2018, 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 is adjourned until February 19, 2018, at four o'clock in the afternoon, Monday.

It was 5:18 p.m.

* See ANNEX (printed separately)