



Congressional Record

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

Vol. 4

Monday, February 26, 2018

No. 67

CALL TO ORDER

At 4:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Rolando G. Andaya Jr. called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Please rise for the singing of the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There being no volunteer to lead the prayer this afternoon, let us all take a moment of silence to reflect on what we have done and what we have failed to do.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

ROLL CALL

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). 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. 67, dated February 26, 2018.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 221 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). With 221 Members present, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 66, dated February 21, 2018. I so move, Mr. Speaker, Your Honor.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). 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, Messages from the Senate, Communications, and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 7204, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

OF GENERAL TRIAS, PROVINCE OF CAVITE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Ferrer (L.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

House Bill No. 7205, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE SPECIAL SHARI’A BAR EXAMINATION AS CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATION AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE R.A. 1080 ENTITLED ‘AN ACT DECLARING THE BAR AND BOARD EXAMINATIONS AS CIVIL SERVICE EXAMINATIONS’ ”

By Representatives Sangcopan and Mending
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7207, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE PASKUHAN VILLAGE IN THE CITY OF SAN FERNANDO, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA AS CULTURAL HERITAGE AND FURTHER DECLARING AS PROPERTY OF PUBLIC DOMAIN”

By Representative Gonzales (A.D.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TOURISM

House Bill No. 7208, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE EAR, NOSE AND THROAT (ENT) CENTER AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7209, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE SIARGAO DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS, FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREOF, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

House Bill No. 7210, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AT LEAST ONE (1) HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS IN EVERY REGION NATIONWIDE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Garcia (J.E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 7211, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM SALARIES OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND AUGMENTING THE PERSONNEL ECONOMIC RELIEF ALLOWANCE”

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

House Bill No. 7212, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 17 OF EVERY YEAR AS JAMES L. GORDON DAY, A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF OLONGAPO, AND JANUARY 17 TO FEBRUARY 20 OF EVERY YEAR AS JAMES L. GORDON MONTH IN THE CITY OF OLONGAPO IN RECOGNITION OF THE ACHIEVEMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES LEONARD TAGLE GORDON TO SAID CITY ON THE OCCASION ON HIS 100TH BIRTH ANNIVERSARY”

By Representative Hernandez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 7213, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING ADDITIONAL BENEFITS TO SOLO PARENTS AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8972, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘SOLO PARENTS WELFARE ACT OF 2000’ ”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF LAWS

House Bill No. 7214, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 20, 22, 27, 28, 34, 40, 50, 220, 237, 237-A, 290, 291, 292 AND ADDING SECTIONS 293, 294, 295, 296, 297, 298, 298-A, 299, 300, 301, 302, 303, 304, 305, AND 306 UNDER CHAPTERS I, II, III, IV, V AND VI, ALL UNDER THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED”

By Representatives Suansing (H.) and Suansing (E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1707, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON COOPERATIVES

DEVELOPMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON AGRARIAN REFORM TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ABUSE OF AUTHORITY AND WILLFUL PARTIALITY OF THE REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM (DAR) IN CARAGA REGION, CAUSING GRAVE PREJUDICE AND INJUSTICE TO MAJORITY OF THE AGRARIAN REFORM BENEFICIARIES OF NGPI MPC”

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

House Resolution No. 1708, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE CASE OF KUWAIT OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKER JOANNA DANIELA DEMAFELIS, WITH THE VIEW OF PROTECTING THE WELFARE OF OUR FELLOW FILIPINOS WORKING ABROAD”

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

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated February 19, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 6203, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE SORSOGON STATE COLLEGE IN THE PROVINCE OF SORSOGON INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE SALVADOR H. ESCUDERO III STATE UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated February 19, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 6465, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE NORTHWESTERN MINDANAO STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (NMSCST) IN THE CITY OF TANGUB, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL INTO A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN AS THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHWESTERN MINDANAO (UNM) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated February 19, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date passed with amendments House Bill No. 6202, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE SOUTH COTABATO STATE COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, PROVINCE OF SOUTH COTABATO, INTEGRATING THEREWITH THE SURALLAH NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SCHOOL LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SURALLAH, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated February 20, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on February 19, 2018, the Senate passed without amendment the following House Bills:

House Bill No. 5578, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING MAGTOMA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – DUPLIGAN ANNEX IN BARANGAY DUPLIGAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TANUDAN, PROVINCE OF KALINGA FROM THE MAGTOMA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BIGA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6102, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LINGUNAN, VALENZUELA CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS LINGUNAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6104, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LICOP ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY LICOP, MATI CITY, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL INTO AN INTEGRATED SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS LICOP INTEGRATED SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6522, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY BAGUMBAYAN, BALANGA CITY, PROVINCE OF BATAAN TO BE KNOWN AS BALANGA CITY NATIONAL SCIENCE HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6528, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE LILOY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – PATAWAG EXTENSION

IN BARANGAY PATAWAG, MUNICIPALITY OF LILOY, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FROM THE LILOY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PATAWAG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6531, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SIBULAN, TORIL DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY TO BE KNOWN AS MT. APO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6532, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TALISAY, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN ISIDRO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS TALISAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6533, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CORPORACION, MUNICIPALITY OF LUPON, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS CORPORACION NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6534, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY MAGDUG, MUNICIPALITY OF GOVERNOR GENEROSO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL TO BE KNOWN AS MAGDUG NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6535, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY DIGON, MUNICIPALITY OF MARGOSATUBIG, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL SUR TO BE KNOWN AS DIGON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6607, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE LAWA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY LAPUAN, MUNICIPALITY OF DON MARCELINO, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL FROM THE LAWA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS LUISA

JOYCE MALLARI NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6608, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE FISHING VILLAGE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY MANA, MUNICIPALITY OF MALITA, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL FROM THE FISHING VILLAGE COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS BENJAMIN VELASCO BAUTISTA SR. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6529, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE KALAWIT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – PIANON ANNEX IN BARANGAY PIANON, MUNICIPALITY OF KALAWIT, PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE FROM THE KALAWIT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS PIANON NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6530, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CATIGAN, TORIL DISTRICT, DAVAO CITY TO BE KNOWN AS CATIGAN NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

House Bill No. 6186, entitled:

“AN ACT INTEGRATING THE DR. EMILIO B. ESPINOSA, SR. MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY CAMPUS LEARNING SITE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CAWAYAN, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, AS A REGULAR CAMPUS OF THE DR. EMILIO B. ESPINOSA, SR. MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY TO BE KNOWN AS THE DR. EMILIO B. ESPINOSA, SR. MEMORIAL STATE COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AND TECHNOLOGY – CAWAYAN CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

and

House Bill No. 6523, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY (RMTU) AS THE PRESIDENT RAMON MAGSAYSAY STATE UNIVERSITY

(PRMSU), EXPANDING ITS CURRICULAR OFFERINGS AND STRENGTHENING ITS GOVERNING BOARD, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8498, ENTITLED: ‘AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OUT OF THE INTEGRATION OF THE RAMON MAGSAYSAY POLYTECHNIC COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF IBA, THE WESTERN LUZON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MARCELINO AND THE CANDELARIA SCHOOL OF FISHERIES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CANDELARIA, ALL IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBALES, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR’.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated February 20, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on February 19, 2018 passed Senate Bill No. 1636, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING PUBLIC TELECOMMUNICATIONS ENTITIES TO PROVIDE NATIONWIDE MOBILE NUMBER PORTABILITY TO SUBSCRIBERS”;

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

Message dated February 20, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on February 19, 2018 passed the following Senate Bills:

Senate Bill No. 1317, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING COMPLIANCE WITH OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF”;

Senate Bill No. 108, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING APRIL 27 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING PUBLIC HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY TO COMMEMORATE THE VICTORY OF LAPU-LAPU AND HIS MEN OVER THE SPANIARDS LED BY FERDINAND MAGELLAN IN THE HISTORIC BATTLE OF MACTAN ON APRIL 27, 1521, TO BE KNOWN AS LAPU-LAPU DAY OR ADLAW NI LAPU-LAPU”; and

Senate Bill No. 1617, 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”;

in which it requests the concurrence of the House of Representatives.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated 5 December 2017 of Maria Anthonette Velasco-Allones, Executive Director, Career Executive Service Board (CESB), furnishing the House of Representatives a copy of the CESB’s 2016 Annual Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

Letter dated December 28, 2017 of Hon. Datu Arnold R. Dumat, Chieftain, IPMR and Consultant, submitting the accomplishment report and initiative for CY 2017 of the Office of the Tribal Chieftain/IPMR of Barangay Visayan Village, City of Tagum, Province of Davao del Norte.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Letter dated January 15, 2018 of Hon. Marilyn S. Wenceslao, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Santander, Province of Cebu, submitting the Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 4th Quarter 2017 on the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 15, 2018 of Verna V. Magallon, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Alegria, Province of Cebu, forwarding the Quarterly Report on the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 16, 2018 of Undersecretary Eduardo M. Año, Officer-in-Charge, Department of the Interior and Local Government, submitting the Department’s Performance Challenge Fund (PCF) Annual Accomplishment Report and the 4th Quarter Progress Report on PCF for CY 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Letter dated January 22, 2018 of Hon. Lissa Marie Durano-Streegan, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Sogod, Province of Cebu, transmitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended December 31, 2017 on the Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Email dated January 23, 2018 of Neil Lemon Mediodia, PDO II, Provincial Planning Office, submitting the CMGP-KALSADA LGSF 4th Quarter Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation of the Province of Misamis Occidental.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 24, 2018 of Gen. Ricardo R. Visaya (Ret.), Administrator, National Irrigation Administration (NIA), submitting the Fourth Quarter Report of NIA CARP-Irrigation Component for CY2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

Letter dated January 24, 2018 of Jose Antonio T. Pintor, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Asturias, Province of Cebu, submitting the Local Government Support Fund Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 4th Quarter of 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Transmittal Memo dated January 25, 2018 from Jose B. Esgana, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Santa Fe, Province of Cebu, submitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation on Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund as of December 29, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 27 January 2018 of Atty. Guiller B. Asido, Administrator, Intramuros Administration, submitting their financial reports for the year ending December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ENTERPRISES AND PRIVATIZATION

Letter dated January 29, 2018 of Ace Stefan V. Binghay, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Balamban, Province of Cebu, submitting their Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities under the Local Government Support Fund Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project

Implementation for the 4th Quarter ended 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated January 30, 2018 of Atty. Glen A. Pangapalan, General Manager, Philippine Fisheries Development Authority, submitting their Statement of Allotment, Obligations, Utilization and Balances as of December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Letter dated 1 February 2018 of Kristian R. Ablan, Assistant Secretary and FOI Program Director, Presidential Communications Operations Office, submitting the 2017 FOI Annual Report.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

Letter dated February 2, 2018 of Allan S. Borrromeo, Regional Director, Regional Office XI, Department of Public Works and Highways, submitting to the House of Representatives the Monthly Progress Status Report for the month of January 2018 of projects implemented by their office within the First Legislative District of Davao del Norte province.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

1st Endorsement dated February 5, 2018 of Josephine T. Abing, Municipal Vice Mayor, Municipality of Compostela, Province of Cebu, submitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation of the Local Government Support Fund for the Quarter ended December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Email from Cebu Province submitting their KALSADA/CMGP Program Quarterly Report ending December 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS

Email of Jessica G. Unson, Supervising Agriculturist, Special Projects Coordination Unit, Provincial Governor's Office, Province of Agusan del Sur, submitting their CMGP Quarterly Financial and Physical Reports for the 4th Quarter ending December 31, 2017.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Email of Engineer Josefina N. Pineda, OIC-PPDO, Province of Pampanga, submitting the LGSF-KALSADA Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarter of 2017 of the Province of Pampanga.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Email from the Provincial Planning and Development Office of Nueva Vizcaya, submitting their Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended December 31, 2017 of the Province of Nueva Vizcaya.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation of the Local Government Support Fund – Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities for the 4th Quarter of 2017 of the Municipality of Dalaguete, Province of Cebu.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended December 31, 2017 of the Municipality of Medellin, Province of Cebu of the Local Government Support Fund.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

2016 Annual Report of the Social Housing Finance Corporation.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Letter of Lope T. Lim Jr., Municipal Local Government Operations Officer, submitting the Local Government Support Fund Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended December 31, 2017 of the Municipality of Ginatilan, Province of Cebu.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 619), re H.R. No. 1722, entitled:
“RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO R. DUTERTE TO ISSUE A PROCLAMATION TRANSFERRING THE OWNERSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE INTENDENCIA BUILDING IN INTRAMUROS, MANILA TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES (NAP)”
recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 736
Sponsors: Representatives Durano and Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways (Committee Report No. 620), re H.B. No. 7230, entitled:
“AN ACT RENAMING THE PORTION

OF RADIAL ROAD 10 TRAVERSING BONIFACIO DRIVE AT ANDA CIRCLE IN STATION KILOMETER (STA KM) 1+100, UP TO MARALA BRIDGE AT THE FOOT OF ESTERO DE MARALA STA KM 6+445, ALL IN THE CITY OF MANILA AS MEL LOPEZ BOULEVARD”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 4737 and 4873
Sponsors: Representatives Lobregat, Atienza, Daza, Sy-Alvarado and Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Information and Communications Technology (Committee Report No. 621), re H.B. No. 7233, entitled:
“AN ACT REQUIRING THE REGISTRATION OF ALL USERS OF SUBSCRIBER IDENTITY MODULE CARDS”
recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 590, 931, 1193, 1258, 2328, 2648, 2809, 3649, 3661, 4014, 4404, 4646, 5382 and 5591
Sponsors: Representatives Yap (V.) and Velarde
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 622), re H.B. No. 7236, entitled:
“AN ACT CREATING THE METRO BATAAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR”
recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1418
Sponsors: Representatives Sacdalan, Nograles (K.A.) and Garcia (J.E.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 623), re H.B. No. 7240, entitled:
“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY VEINTE REALES, VALENZUELA CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS VEINTE REALES NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1332
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. 624), re H.B. No. 7241, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BARANGAY SAN ANTONIO, PARAÑAQUE CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS SILVERIO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR” recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4691

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 625), re H.B. No. 7242, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE DON FELIX SERRA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – LOMBOYAN EXTENSION IN BARANGAY LOMBOYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF SAN JOAQUIN, PROVINCE OF ILOILO FROM THE DON FELIX SERRA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS STA. ANA NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4908

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. 626), re H.B. No. 7243, entitled:

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

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6267

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, before we open the Privilege Hour, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. In the gallery are the guests of the honorable Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu. They are students of the College of Arts and Sciences from the University of Batangas, headed by the following Professors: Ms. Elsie Untalan, Ms. Lanifel Manalo, Ms. Anna Marie Orig and Mrs. Mary Ann Macatangay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is hereby noted. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. GULLAS. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Divina Grace C. Yu. This is the Association of Barangay Captains from the Municipality of Labangan, First District of Zamboanga del Sur, headed by their ABC President, Barangay Chairman Jesus Daoala.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is noted. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. GULLAS. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, are the guests of the Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. of 1-ANG EDUKASYON Party-List: the members of the Council of Management Educators and Practitioners of the Philippines, headed by its President, Dr. Edita Bunuan and students of Westfield Science Oriented School, headed by Professor Ivan Faronal and Ms. Melissa Jane Moreno.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is likewise noted. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PRIVILEGE HOUR

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

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

The Chair declares a Privilege Hour.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Erlpe John “Ping” M. Amante of the Second District of Agusan del Norte who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

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

Representative Amante is hereby recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. AMANTE

REP. AMANTE. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues here at the House of Representatives, a pleasant afternoon to all. I address this august Chamber regarding a matter of both personal and collective privilege.

Ladies and Gentlemen, three of my fellow Cabadbaranons, in the place where I come from, are now languishing in jail, helpless and behind bars owing to trumped-up charges. Barangay Captain Judith Cueno of Del Pilar, her husband Rico Cueno and Barangay Captain Alberto Baldo, all from Cabadbaran City, Agusan del Norte, were taken into custody on January 28, 2018. Their arrests came after elements of the Cabadbaran City Police and Agusan del Norte Police Provincial Office raided their homes, with search warrants issued by the Butuan City Trial Court on hand, and supposedly seized several firearms and explosives. Under normal circumstances, the operation would have been a welcome development. It would have been a stellar display of judicial and executive offices' integrity, discipline and proficiency. However, what really transpired could not have been farther from the truth. To begin with, the search warrants served upon the properties of the Cuenos and Barangay Captain Baldo were patently defective, both as regards the way they were procured as well as their substantive basis.

Mr. Speaker, the Rules of Court and existing jurisprudence provide that the issuing court must have territorial jurisdiction over the place to be searched. This means that, as a rule of thumb, search warrant applications shall be filed and can only be granted by the court having territorial jurisdiction where the crime had been committed. Only in extreme and compelling circumstances can the application be filed and acted upon by any court within the same judicial region where the crime was committed, if the place of the commission of the crime is unknown or in any court within the judicial region where the warrant shall be enforced. Any search warrant issued outside of these parameters is considered illegal and its implementation unreasonable.

It is very curious why the search warrants against the Cuenos and Barangay Captain Baldo originated from the Butuan City Regional Trial Court Branch 2. For everybody's information, there are two courts in the City of Cabadbaran: the Regional Trial Court Branch 34 and the Municipal Trial Court in cities. This is why, following the pertinent rules, only these courts have the jurisdiction or authority to issue said search warrants.

Mr. Speaker, the court apparently did not want to let

the three detained know whether the police authorities had in fact proven the extreme and compelling circumstances to justify its deviation from the general rule. For everyone's information, it took the Regional Trial Court of Butuan City two weeks to give the detained Cabadbaranons their own copies of the search warrant application documents as well as the transcript of the stenographic notes of the application proceedings. Even more repulsive is the fact that the Butuan court also required a petition for the production of these same documents. The court previously refused a letter and a motion with the same request for copies of the search warrant application documents.

My dear colleagues, this is unheard of and highly irregular. First, these documents, at that time, already became public documents. The three detained had a right to access to it and yet, the court played hard ball and refused to timely give their respective copies to be used as the bases for their defenses. This is certainly a clear violation of their fundamental right to due process, Mr. Speaker.

Second, the search warrants may only be issued when there is probable cause that a crime had, in fact, been committed and that the objects of the crime would probably have been at the place to be searched. The Cuenos never possessed, much less owned, any firearm or explosive. In the many years that I have known them personally, they have not shown interest or need for any of these weapons. They have no known enemies that could have prompted them not only to possess firearms but, likewise, to hoard explosives. That is why the results of the raid operations were doubtful, nay, incredulous, as I see it. Expectedly, the search warrants do not state in categorical terms what led the police as well as the court to believe that the Cuenos possessed the firearms and explosives.

Third, the law and the rules require that the search warrants describe with particularity, as circumstances would allow, the things and places to be searched. The search warrants issued against the Cuenos and Barangay Captain Baldo utterly failed to comply with this substantive requisite. Take the search warrant of the Cuenos, for instance. It merely stated the residence to be in Barangay Del Pilar, and the search warrant did not specify the street or the house number. In an attempt to particularize the location, it mentioned an attached vicinity sketch pertaining to the residence, not that of the Cuenos located in Barangay Del Pilar, but of Barangay Captain Baldo in Barangay Bayang which is several kilometers away. Despite this patent defect on the face of the search warrant itself, the police officers proceeded with its implementation, turning a blind eye to what was certainly obvious.

The search warrant of Barangay Captain Baldo is another sad tale of woe. While it repeatedly mentioned his residence, the residential house as the place to be

searched, the single motorcycle parked within the vicinity was included in the search where allegedly a hand grenade was discovered. The police officers exercised indiscretion by considering the single motorcycle as an extension of the house. Likewise, the search warrant did not even state what kind of firearms they expected to seize from the raided premises. This only goes to show that the raiding police officers did not even conduct the proper investigation against the Cuenos and Barangay Captain Baldo. They were not certain as to whether or not the three detained, in fact, had the kind of firearms they expected to find in their homes. For all we know, the items that were seized during the operation were merely planted.

That is not all. The subject of the search warrants is even confusing. The caption of the two search warrants uniformly authorized the search for firearms and ammunition on one hand, but the content authorized the seizure of explosives and incendiary devices on the other. It does not need a lawyer to know this obvious defect in a search warrant which authorized a search of one item but a seizure of a different item. What bothers me the most, Mr. Speaker, is the way that the search warrants were implemented in the homes of the Cuenos and Barangay Captain Baldo. Not only did the police execute patently defective search warrants but even worse, they used unnecessary and excessive force in doing so. They broke every rule in the rulebook, so to speak, Mr. Speaker. Witnesses to this unfortunate event also confirmed that the raiding officers did not bother to knock and inform the occupants of the premises of their presence and purpose. Rather, they promptly knocked down the doors of the homes of the three detained and proceeded to violently search the same. Every inch of the raided houses was searched.

What is revolting to common sense is the fact that the explosives, which catapulted their charges to non-bailable offenses, were found in places beyond our wildest imagination. For instance, Barangay Captain Baldo's hand grenade was found inside the utility box of his motorcycle, probably a tool that he will be using in case his motorcycle bogs down. While the search warrant issued against him authorized the search only of his residential house, the police officers deemed his parked motorcycle as an extension of his residence. The case of Barangay Captain Cueno is even hilarious. The Nitro EM 1500 explosives, blasting caps and detonating cords were all found in her kitchen, probably to be used as an ingredient in case she cooks her viand.

Did the Cuenos and Barangay Captain Baldo even pose any objection to the city police's operation? Mr. Speaker, what were they to do? Their homes had been violated and their persons threatened by armed individuals hiding behind the cloak of their police uniforms, most of whom wore bonnets that practically

hid their faces. Overwhelmed and overpowered, one cannot be expected to put up an effective opposition.

Mr. Speaker, every stage of the operation – from the procurement of the search warrants until the implementation – was tainted by corruption and evident malice. There was no just cause for the issuance of the search warrants. The Butuan City court knew better on this. There had been no occasion that called for the raid, much less was there any legal basis for it. The city and provincial police of Agusan del Norte knew this and yet, we now have three innocent persons languishing behind bars and traumatized by what easily could be seen as a desecration of their homes.

Where elements from other branches of government maliciously conspire, let the legislative branch rise and provide redress. Mr. Speaker, my distinguished colleagues, three of my fellow Cabadbaranons are suffering today in prison cells for no reason other than their political affiliation. Yes, this is nothing more than political harassment, and several elements of the Judiciary and the Executive in our province allowed themselves to play part in this tasteless display of abusive authority. They conspired to take away from three innocent persons their liberty and the security of their homes, and they continue to do so by depriving these detained persons of any venue or way of redress.

In the hope of rectifying the plight of the Cuenos and Barangay Captain Baldo, I am filing today a resolution calling for an inquiry into this highly irregular raid conducted by members of the Cabadbaran City and Agusan del Norte provincial police. I will file this measure in the hope of unveiling the truth and imputing responsibility where and to whom it ought to fall. As the duly elected Representative of the Second District of Agusan del Norte, I am tasked to account not only for what I did to defend the constitutional right to privacy of my constituents, but also for what I may have failed to do for the same purpose. I choose to do what is within my means. I cannot just allow to pass the violation of the sanctity of one's abode under the cloak of dubious search warrants so despicable that only the unthinking beasts can orchestrate. These things happened, and I vow not to let it happen anymore.

Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, I seek your support today. Let this most unfortunate incident in Cabadbaran be a take-off point into this august Chamber's reexamination of our current substantive and procedural laws on searches and seizures. There certainly are gaps in our laws on the matter—those that led to the arrest and continued detention of three innocent Cabadbaranons. Let this not happen to your people in your districts.

Mr. Speaker, I will just reiterate this—where elements from the other branches of government maliciously conspire, let the legislative branch rise and provide redress.

Thank you very much.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you very much.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Amante to the Committee on Rules.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, before we recognize the next Member to avail of the Privilege Hour, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. In the gallery are the guests of the Hon. Rodante D. Marcoleta from SAGIP Party-List and they are Ms. Rose Abueg and Ms. Juvy Abueg.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is hereby noted. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Likewise, Mr. Speaker, the guests of the Hon. Sol Aragon, they are school officials and students of the Dalubhasaan ng Lungsod ng San Pablo headed by its school Director Edelio Panaligan; and the Espiritu Santo Parochial School of Sta. Cruz, Manila, headed by Prof. Elena Villareal.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is noted. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Lastly, Mr. Speaker, the guests of the Hon. Tomasito “Tom” S. Villarín, they are from certain organizations and are in the gallery: Anak Balayan, Samahan ng mga Mangingisda sa Calatagan, Pambansang Katipunan ng mga Samahan sa Kanayunan, Institute of Social Order, Samahan ng mga Mangingisda sa Polillo, Quezon, Tambuyog Development Center, Worldwide Fund for Nature, Pangingisda Natin Gawing Tama, and the LGU of Agdangan, Quezon, headed by their mayor, the Hon. Rhadam Aguilar.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is hereby noted. Welcome to the House of Representatives.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Tomasito “Tom” S. Villarín from Akbayan Party-List who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

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

The Honorable Villarín is recognized.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. VILLARIN

REP. VILLARIN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Magandang hapon ho sa ating lahat. Yesterday, February 25, Mr. Speaker, was a milestone in our history, not just because it marked the end of a two-decade dictatorship, but it also marked the day that the poorest of the poor in our society found in law what they lack in life for the longest time. Mr. Speaker, this Representation refers to our fisherfolk, ang mga mangingisda Pilipino who have found a solid and comprehensive legal foundation for their lifestyle and livelihood in the passage of Republic Act No. 8550, commonly known as the Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998. Tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, we mark yet another milestone in our national policy on fisheries. In 2015, amendments were made and passed by the Sixteenth Congress, through Republic Act No. 10654, as a deliberate effort to prevent, deter and eliminate illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing. Such amendments to the Philippine Fisheries Code, were made due to the sheer gravity and adverse impact of illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing not only on the small fisherfolk, but also on our marine ecosystems.

In 2014, we were given a yellow card by the European Union. A yellow card is short of a trade sanction on our fisheries exports. This was also one of the reasons that we have to make our legal system compliant with international fisheries standards. Prior to this legal system, Mr. Speaker, it has been public knowledge that our fishery habitat has been succumbing to degradation.

What I mean, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, are the following:

Seagrass beds, which are important fishery habitats like mangroves and coral reefs, also serve as nursery grounds for fish and crustaceans. It is believed that large sea animals like the dugongs and sea turtles are found in areas with relatively sizeable seagrass beds. Of the 978 square kilometers of seagrass that remained in 1994, about half have been either lost or severely degraded during the past five decades or so. On coral reefs, these serve as spawning grounds for our fish and crustaceans, but reef fisheries have been estimated to directly contribute to around 15 to 30 percent of the total national, municipal and fisheries production. Alas, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, only less than one percent remains in excellent condition.

Mangroves serve as nursery grounds for fish, prawns and crabs, among others. Mangrove forests also serve as protection for coastal areas from storm

surges, strong waves and typhoons. It is estimated that there are only 248,813 hectares of mangrove forests in the Philippines, down from 450,000 hectares in 1914. The rapid conversion of mangroves into shrimp ponds between the 1960's and the 1970's reduced significantly our mangrove forest cover. Many of these converted mangroves have remained idle lands.

Malinaw din po, Mr. Speaker, na ang pagkasira ng mga likas-yamang pangisdaan ay dulot ng mapang-abusong gawain, hindi ng maliliit na mangingisda, kung hindi ng malalaki at establisadong industriya na kadalasan ay lumalabag sa mga alituntuning nakasaad sa ating batas. Ito po ang tinatawag nating commercial fishing industry. Data from the Department of Agriculture and Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources showed that 10 of the 13 fishing grounds in the country have been heavily exploited.

(Slide presentation)

Figure 1 shows that Camiguin waters, Iligan Bay and the Macajalar Bay, located in Mindanao, are the only areas in good condition. Figure 2 in the slide shows that our fishing grounds had already been overfished since 1987, revealing that all major fishing bays in the Philippines have been heavily exploited, including Manila Bay, San Miguel Bay, Honda Bay and Illana Bay, with over 70 fisherfolk per kilometer competing for such marine resources. Dahil magmula pa noon ay halos said na po ang ating mga pangisdaan, hindi kataka-taka na ang ating mga mangingisda ay lugmok sa kahirapan.

Statistically, our fisherfolks are considered to be poorest of the poor with 41.2 percent living below the poverty line in 2006, increasing to 41.3 percent in 2009, but now is only 34 percent in 2015. Most of these poorest fisherfolk are found in Regions V, X and XI. This low income is attributed to the declining fish catch, down from 20 kilograms per day which was the average catch during the 1970's, to an estimated 4.76 kilograms per day currently. Kung gaano po kakaunti ang nahuhuling isda, ganoon din naman po iyong kapalit na kinikita ng ating mga mangingisda. Ngayon po, bukod sa kakaunti na ang isdang nahuhuli, pagkadami-dami din po ng mga pang-aabuso at paglabag ng ilang malalaking mangingisda o commercial fishers na siyang pumapatay, hindi lamang sa mga pangisdaan kundi maging sa kabuhayan mismo ng maliliit na mga mangingisda.

It is estimated that as early as 2000, the Philippines was losing \$66.2 million to dynamite fishing. In 2013, as was cited in Executive Order No. 154, we are losing around \$700 million from poaching, according to the PNP Maritime Group. According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, we are losing \$90 million from poaching in the West Philippine Sea alone back in 2015.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, this Representation

is citing all these reasons to remind us why the 1998 Fisheries Code needed to be amended in 2015. While most of these data were drawn from the past, we have yet to see significant improvements at present with regard to the amendments we made to the Fisheries Code in 2015. Let me cite such examples. First, the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Protection and Law Enforcement Group recorded a total of 649 apprehensions over the last two years. In 2016 and 2017, the highest recorded violations were still unauthorized fishing, the intrusion of fishing vessels within municipal waters, dynamite fishing and the use of active fishing gears in municipal waters, including the hulbot-hulbot and bottom trawl fishing.

Well, we note that the efforts of our law enforcement agencies saw this rise in apprehensions, but the fact remains that there are still a lot of violations in our fisheries laws. Kung patuloy ang paglabag sa batas, ang ibig sabihin po ay may kakulangan sa pagpapatupad nito kaya naman po, balak kong maghain ng isang resolusyon upang siyasin ang pagpapatupad ng ating pamahalaan sa batas tungkol sa pangisdaan. Napapanahon na po na iyong ating Fisheries Code, kaakibat noong mga pag-amyenda nito noong 2015, ay muling balikan. Sa dulo po ng ating pagsisiyasat, ang panawagan naman natin ay tapusin na ang illegal fishing. Alam po natin na bukod doon sa pagkasira ng ating marine eco-systems, ang talagang tinatamaan nito ay ang livelihood ng ating maliliit na mangingisda.

Unang-una na po ang panawagan ng Kinatawan na ito ay mahigpit natin ipagbawal ang hulbot-hulbot at bottom trawling. Alam po ninyo, itong sistema ng fishing, kahit na po deemed illegal ito, ay isa sa pinaka-recorded na mga illegal fishing activities even if we have already implemented or passed the Fisheries Code. Kailangan din po na pag-ibayuhin natin ang kakayanan ng ating pamahalaan sa pamamagitan po ng pagtayo ng isang departamento o Kagawaran ng Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

Sa tingin po namin, tayo bilang an archipelago, bilang isang bansa na kung saan napakalawak noong ating coastal/municipal waters, kailangan hong protektahan itong ating mga karagatan, lalung-lalo na po na ngayon ay mayroon po tayong mga marine resources beyond our economic exclusive zone.

Suportahan din po natin ang ating mga komunidad ng mga maliliit na mangingisda. Kailangan po siyasin natin ang naging implementasyon noong management and rehabilitation plan doon po sa mga degraded fishing grounds. Sinasabi po natin ito dahil sa kasalukuyan, talagang wasak na wasak na po ang karamihan noong ating mga fishing grounds na kung saan noon ay pinagkukunan ng ating maliliit na mga mangingisda ng kanilang kabuhayan. Pangalawa, kailangan din siyasin natin kung ano pang mga batayang social services na kinakailangan ng ating maliliit na mangingisda gaya

ng mga fisherfolk settlements at iyong kaakibat na livelihood programs, lalung-lalo na kung off-season. Alam po natin na ang pangangisda ay hindi ho iyan 12 months or 24 hours na hanapbuhay. Mayroon lang ho na season kung saan sila ay puwedeng mangisda. Pangatlo po, kailangan ding siyasatin iyong ginawang mandato na magkaroon ng municipal waters delineation. Alam po natin na noong isinabatas ang Philippine Fisheries Code, kailangan iyong ating ahensiya ng mga pamahalaan gaya ng NAMRIA, ng DENR, ay gumawa ng municipal waters delineation. Kailangan ding tanungin kung ano na ang nangyari dito. Pang-apat, kailangan din po na siyasatin natin iyong cooperation ng ating mga local government units hinggil sa pagprotekta noong ating 15-kilometer municipal waters. Isa pong nakakalungkot na balita na marami din pong mga local chief executives ang siyang nagmamay-ari ng mga commercial fishing vessels na siyang nagba-violate din po ng ating Philippine Fisheries Code. So, kailangan din po nating siyasatin, tingnan kung gaano na ba ang naging kooperasyon ng ating mga local government units.

Before I end my speech, Mr. Speaker, dear colleagues, I would like to share a short story of success. In 2009, the Municipality of Romblon set a praiseworthy precedent in delineating its municipal waters through a comprehensive municipal fisheries ordinance. This has been widely considered by fisheries-related NGOs as a success story as it is a model worth emulating, both in process and the end product. All stakeholders—the local government units, the NGOs, the fishing communities, the business sector, et cetera—took part in the labor for such ordinance and now, have been reaping its fruits. Kung nagawa po ito sa Romblon, kaya po itong gawin sa ibang lugar. Marahil, marami pa po kayong mga kuwento at aral na nais ibahagi. Sana po ay maiparating din natin sa gobyerno dahil nasa kamay nila, hindi lamang ang kapalaran ng ating mga mangangisda, kung hindi ang kapangyarihan upang magkatotoo ang mga layunin ng ating mga batas.

My dear colleagues, we have a saying: “Give man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime”. Without any fish to catch and without catching those who are illegally fishing them, you may have just condemned all people to hunger and poverty for life. Sana po huwag nating sayangin ang pagkakataong ito. Kailangan po nating ipagpatuloy iyong mga reporma na hinggil sa ating Fisheries Law dahil, kung hindi po, ang ating poorest of the poor and even our marine ecosystems will completely vanish from us.

Maraming salamat at mabuhay ang mangangisdang Pilipino.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Tobias “Toby” M. Tiangco for his interpellation.

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

The Hon. Toby Tiangco is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, may I know if the Gentleman from AKBAYAN is willing to yield to some questions?

REP. VILLARIN. Gladly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to commend the Gentleman from AKBAYAN for a very good speech, a timely speech and a speech that I fully agree to. I would like to inform the honorable Speaker and the Gentleman from AKBAYAN that in the past, I have filed bills to create a Department of Fisheries pero dahil wala hong nangyari in past Congresses, hindi ko na ho na-file ngayon. Gusto ko hong malaman kung ang ating kasama ay nag-file ho ngayon ng isang bill para sa creation ng Department of Fisheries?

REP. VILLARIN. For the information po ng ating august Body, this Representation has already filed that bill, the DOFAR Bill. Although this would not be the topic that I would discuss but again, this Representation would also gladly seek the support of our colleagues with regard to this legislation that this Representation has filed.

REP. TIANGCO. Yes. So, maganda hong malaman iyan. Ito ba ay umusad na ho at nagkaroon na ho ng committee hearing tungkol sa Bill na ito?

REP. VILLARIN. Sa ngayon po ay hindi pa ho ito umusad dahil una po gumawa ng posisyon ang Department of Agriculture. Noong simula ay suportado nila itong panukalang batas pero biglang nagbago ang isip ng DA at sinabi nilang hindi nila ngayon suportado iyong creation ng DOFAR.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, Honorable Villarín, ang ibig ninyo bang sabihin ay iyong liderato ng Department of Agriculture ngayong administrasyon or ang nakaraang administrasyon ho?

REP. VILLARIN. Iyong kasalukuyan pong administration ang nagsabi na hindi nila priority legislation itong DOFAR.

REP. TIANGCO. Ano ho kaya ang dahilan, dahil sabi nga natin ay alam naman natin na openly, di ho ba, na gustong proteksiyunan ng Department of Agriculture iyong Benham Rise na sinasabi nilang susunod na panggagalingan ng yamang-dagat ng ating mga kababayan? So, ano ho kaya ang naging dahilan kung bakit nila hindi sinasang-ayunan iyong inyong napakagandang panukala na magkaroon ng isang departamento para sa fisheries and aquatic resources?

REP. VILLARIN. Batay ho doon sa kanilang inisyal na position paper, ang pananaw lang nila na magki-create ito ng bagong burukrasya at kung baga ito ay sasagka doon sa ginagawang rationalization plan ng gobyerno kung saan kailangan daw paliitin iyong burukrasya at huwag nang lumaki pa ang burukrasya. Ang pananaw din nila sa ngayon daw ay iyong BFAR, kaya naman daw gawin iyong mandato ng panukalang Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources.

REP. TIANGCO. Ang pangalawa ay talagang sang-ayon ho ako sa ating kasama, Mr. Speaker, na talagang hindi ko maintindihan kung papaanong iyong hulbot na bawal—at nag-a-agree ba ang ating kasama na ang hulbot ang pinaka-destructive sa lahat ng forms ng illegal fishing?

REP. VILLARIN. Well, unang-una po, iyong hulbot-hulbot na tinatawag, ito po ay talagang destructive in the sense na dito po ay sinusuyod nito iyong bottom, kung baga ito ay hinahatak ng isang fishing vessel, three tons on the average, at kadalasan po ay nagagamit ito sa less than seven fathoms na mga municipal fishing grounds. Doon po sa mga apprehensions, kadalasan po, iyong mga nahuhuli na mga fishing vessels ay itong hulbot-hulbot. So, ibig sabihin, kahit ipinagbawal na ito ng BFAR at iyong mga lisensiya or iyong pagbibigay ng license doon sa gear na iyan ay bawal, ang ibig sabihin, hindi na iyan nililisensiya, ay patuloy pa rin na nangyayari.

Ito ay batay doon sa mga datos, iyong mga apprehensions made, at hindi pa ho dito kasama iyong mga hindi nahuhuli kasi alam po natin na ang ating mga Bantay Dagat ay kulang ho iyong kagamitan at sila ay naka-depende lang sa PNP. Kung magkaroon ng sighting ng mga illegal fishers, kailangan pa nilang tawagin iyong PNP at kadalasan, ay very late iyong response ng PNP at nakakatakas iyong mga illegal commercial fishers. Iyong nabanggit hong mga apprehensions, mga 600 plus, 649 iyon lang ho iyong parang mga nahuli, pero ang mga reported violations ay napakarami at iyon po ang masaklap doon—na mas marami pa iyong mga hindi nahuhuli na mga illegal fishing na ginagawa doon sa municipal waters.

REP. TIANGCO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, for the record,

talagang ako ay buo ang suporta ko diyan sa laban sa hulbot dahil alam ko kung gaano ka-destructive iyong hulbot na iyan, at alam ninyo naman na sa Navotas, nandiyan ho iyong mga marginal fishermen at nandiyan din ho iyong mga commercial fishermen. Isa lang ho ang sinasabi ng dalawang grupong ito, na normally ho ang mga grupong ito, Mr. Speaker, ay hindi nagkaka-sang-ayonan pero kapag tinanong mo sila kung ano ang pinaka-destructive o bakit humihina ang huli, kung tatanungin ho ninyo ang municipal fisherman, na gross three tons and below, ang isasagot niya—hulbot. Kausapin mo iyong commercial fisherman, ang isasagot niya ay hulbot.

Ang nakakapagtaka, at ito ay nadiskubre ko mismo, na talagang nag-o-operate pa iyong hulbot kahit bawal na ho. Ang nadiskubre kong mga paraan, noong una, ang ginagawa niyan is—at hindi ako makapaniwala na sila ay nakakapag-dispatso—hindi ba, Mr. Speaker, my honorable colleague, bago ho makaalis ang isang bangka o isang lantsa, kailangan ho nito mag-dispatso sa Coast Guard at dapat ho ito ay inspeksiyunin ng Coast Guard, hindi ba ho?

REP. VILLARIN. Ganoon ho iyong proseso pero kadalasan nga ho, dahil limited din iyong capacity ng Coast Guard natin dahil napakalawak iyong kailangang bantayan, so, most of the time ay, alam naman ho natin na iyong mga commercial fishers na iyan, while registered doon sa regional office ng BFAR ay, kumbaga, doon lang iyan nag-o-operate, within certain municipal waters and neighboring municipal waters, so, ang ibig sabihin, mismo iyong mga residente, mismo iyong mga mangingisda, kakilala din nila kung sino iyong mga commercial fishers.

Una po, iyong mga commercial fishers na, I mean, hindi nagba-violate doon sa ating mga municipal waters, pero alam naman natin na hindi lang iyan doon sa malalapit o karatig na mga bayan and so, ang kadalasan talaga, ang nakikita na mga major violations ay supposedly doon lang din sa region or sa bay kung saan we should have been protecting our municipal waters. Mayroon lang mga sitwasyon na may mga commercial fishing vessels na pumupunta—ibig sabihin, galing ang mga ito sa malalayo at pumupunta doon sa isang area o isang bay pero bibihira ho iyon kasi ang logic ay, bakit iyong isang commercial fishing vessel, pupunta doon sa isang bay area at gagastos pa ng napakalaki to transport. So, ibig sabihin, most of the violators are found within the neighboring municipalities or neighboring areas doon ho sa mga fishing grounds na nabanggit natin.

So, the question, bakit ho nangyayari ito? I think one of the reasons is that iyong atin hong municipal waters ay, basically, ang kanyang delineation is political. When we talk about marine resources, hindi ho dapat na parang maglalagay tayo ng boundary. Case in point, sa isang munisipyo o municipality, maganda iyong

kanyang proteksiyon, iyong kanyang ordinance and so, ibig sabihin, tumataas iyong kanyang fish o mga marine resources. Then, here comes a commercial fisher or illegal fishers from the other municipalities na hindi gumagawa ng proteksiyon. Ibig lang sabihin, iyong mga munisipyo na kung saan talagang seryoso sila sa proteksiyon ng kanilang municipal waters, would be frustrated because if the neighboring municipality or the overlapping municipal waters ay wala namang proteksiyon, so, parang lumalabas na wala ding silbi iyong kanilang ginagawa.

I think in the delineation noong mga municipal waters, especially in overlapping municipal waters, we have to make a policy decision with regard to how we treat this. Ibig kong sabihin, while it is the LGUs, the municipal governments that are primarily mandated to protect the municipal waters pero paano kung walang proteksiyon na ginagawa, ano bang sanctions or ano bang iba pang mga pamamaraan na polisiya na talagang gagawin nila ito. Dati, may inisip na panukala na iyong municipal waters ay isama natin sa computation ng Internal Revenue Allotment. So, ibig sabihin, kung may insentibo iyong isang LGU dahil nadagdagan iyong kanyang IRA dahil mayroon siyang municipal waters, gagamitin niya ang dagdag na IRA para pang proteksiyon.

So, iyan lang po ang ilang mga policy interventions pero, again, we have to subject this to further discussions at sana mapaloob ito doon sa discussion noong isang Department of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources na panukala. So, iyon po iyong nakikita ng Representasyong ito.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, iyong hulbot, for the information of the honorable Representative from AKBAYAN, ang nakita ko ho nitong huli ay iyong mga dating ang Certificate of Fishing Gear License nila ay Danish seine o hulbot. Ang ginawa ho nila ay pinalitan nila ng fishing method supposedly ng fishing gear pero pagdating nila doon sa fishing grounds, ganoon pa rin ang ginagawa nila.

Ito ay natuklasan ko by accident, Mr. Speaker, honorable colleague. Hindi ko alam kung natatandaan ninyo na noong nagkaroon ng bagyo sa Disyembre at may nawalang mga mangingisda doon sa may Turtle Island, and so, nagpunta sa tanggapan ng Mayor iyong mga pamilya noong mga nawawalang mga mangingisda, tinanong sila doon, “Ano ba ang klase ng palakaya ninyo?” at ang sabi nila ay hulbot. So, tinanong namin kung papaano naging hulbot iyan e bawal na ho iyong hulbot. Doon ho pinaliwanag na ang nakasulat doon sa Certificate of Fishing Vessel Gear License ay ibang pamamaraan ngunit ang aktwal na ginagawa ay hulbot. So, iyon ho ang gusto kong iparating sa aking colleague.

Ngayon, mayroon na ho tayong batas at iyong

hulbot na sinasabi ninyong destructive ay dapat natin mahinto kaagad. Ano ho sa tingin—kayo ba ay nagmumungkahi na magkaroon ng imbestigasyon in aid of legislation? Ano ho ang inyong imumungkahi para ma-enforce natin ito, or are you asking the Oversight Committee to look at this, to exercise its oversight function? Kasi ho, dapat talaga dito ho ay may nakita na ho tayo na flaw sa batas, o kung paanong nilulusutan ang batas na ito. Paano ho, sa inyong panukala, ano ho ang inyong balak para agaran nating masolusyonan ang bagay na ito?

REP. VILLARIN. Mr. Speaker, I also affirm the observation of my colleague na talagang itong hulbot-hulbot ay—kumbaga, iba iyong nirerehistro na active fishing gear pero hulbot-hulbot pa rin ang ginagamit. So, ang panukala ng Representasyong ito po ay, sa tingin ko ay kailangan na tayong, well, maghahain po ako ng resolusyon para imbestigahan, particularly, itong mga illegal, unreported, unregulated na fishing methods.

Alam po ninyo, sa kasalukuyan kasi, iyong ating mga partner na export countries po ay mino-monitor tayo dito sa compliance natin sa ating Fisheries Law and in fact, I think the European Union is now doing a silent investigation on these violations ng ating Fisheries Law. If it is found na talagang rampant pa rin iyong IUUF ay posible tayong diretsang bigyan na lang ng red card. Ibig sabihin nito, we have around P12 billion worth of exports at tatamaan ho tayo dito. I think the EU, which is our major export partner, would be interested for us to do an investigation and look into the implementation of the Fisheries Code amendments and definitely, this Representation, AKBAYAN, will file a resolution on that matter, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, that is all, Mr. Speaker. Maraming salamat ho to the Hon. Tom Villarín at ibibigay ko ho ang aking buong suporta sa inyong panukala at ako ay nagpapasalamat dito sa inyong adbokasiya na ito na talagang. Ibig kong sabihin, matagal nang kinakailangan ito pero mukhang dapat tutukan natin para siguradong maipatupad ng maayos at mahinto na ho ang pagsira sa ating karagatan.

Maraming salamat ho, Honorable Villarín, Mr. Speaker.

REP. VILLARIN. Maraming salamat din, Kagalang-galang na Toby Tiangco at maraming salamat, distinguished Speaker, my colleague.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, with no other

interpellator, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Villarín and the interpellations thereon to the Committee on Rules. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, before we recognize the next Member to avail of the Privilege Hour, I would like to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. They are the guests of the Hon. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao of the ANAKPAWIS Party-List and they are Nestor Lebico, Marissa Cabaljao and Dean Lacandazo.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Your presence is noted. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Antonio L. Tinio of the ACT-TEACHERS Party-List who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

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

Congressman Tinio is hereby recognized. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. TINIO

REP. TINIO. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker at mga kapwa Kinatawan, tumitindig ako ngayong gabi upang suportahan ang panawagan para sa makabuluhang salary increase ng mga kawani ng gobyerno, kabilang ang ating mga public school teachers at mga nonteaching personnel, at lahat ng iba pa. Ito ay panawagan na panahon nang dinggin ng Duterte administration, lalo na ngayong nasa kalagitnaan na ito, sa pamumuno ng DBM, ng konsultasyon sa mga ahensiya upang buuin ang panukalang 2019 budget. Matagal nang target ng mga global financial institutions na nagtatakda ng patakarang pang-ekonomiya ng Republika ng Pilipinas tulad ng International Monetary Fund, World Bank at Asian Development Bank ang pag-kontrol at pagsupil sa suweldo, benepisyong pag-usapan daw ng mga public sector unions. Hindi tulad ng mga public sector workers sa ibang bansa, hindi rin pinahihintulutan ng Executive Order No. 180 ang mga public sector unions na magwelga. Ang mga tagumpay na nakamit ng kawani ng gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng public sector unionism ay sa kabila ng at hindi dahil sa mga limitasyon na itinatakda ng Executive Order No. 180.

fiscally sustainable manner.” Sa ganitong balangkas, binabantayan ng mga economic managers ang porsiyento ng budget na inilalaan sa Personal Services o PS kada taon upang matiyak, diumano, na hindi kakainin ng pasuweldo ang kalakhan ng pambansang budget at may sapat na pondo para sa mga programa at proyektong tutugon sa mga pangangailangan ng publiko.

Magandang pakinggan at tila makatuwiran sa papel, ngunit, iba ang reyalidad. Sa Pilipinas, ipinatutupad ang ganitong patakaran sa loob ng mahigit tatlong dekada sa konteksto ng pagbayad sa dambuhalang utang panlabas bilang pangunahing prayoridad ng gobyerno, malaganap na pandarambong at graft and corruption ng mga mataas na opisyal, papalaking budget para sa giyera at panunupil sa mararalita at mamamayang lumalaban, at kabuuang kakapusan ng pondo para sa mga serbisyong panlipunan. Ayon sa IMF, maaaring ipatupad ang pagmaneho sa public sector wage bill sa pamamagitan ng sumusunod: pag-kontrol sa pagtaas ng suweldo sa mga kawani ng gobyerno, paglimita sa mga benepisyong kanilang tinatanggap, at pagpapatupad ng labor flexibility sa hanay ng pampublikong sektor.

Sa Pilipinas, isinabatas ang legal framework para sa pag-kontrol ng public sector wage bill sa ilalim ng administrasyon ni Pangulong Cory Aquino sa kalagitnaan ng debt crisis noong Dekada 80. Tampok dito ang sumusunod: una, ang Executive Order No. 180 o ang batas kaugnay sa public sector unionism at 1987 noong isinabatas ito. Nananatili ang Executive Order No. 180 bilang batas na gumagabay sa public sector unionism sa bansa sa kabila ng garantiya ng 1987 Constitution, Article XIII, Section 3, which states that the State “shall guarantee the rights of all workers to self-organization, collective bargaining and negotiations, and peaceful concerted activities, including the right to strike in accordance with law.”

Bigyan natin ng diin: sa Konstitusyon, “the rights of all workers”—so, public and private sector dapat. “Collective bargaining and negotiations” at saka the “right to strike”—iyan ang sabi sa Konstitusyon. Ngunit sa Executive Order No. 180, pinagkakait nito ang full union rights sa mga kawani ng publiko, partikular ang dalawang susing karapatan ng collective bargaining at right to strike. Kinikilala ang karapatang mag-union ng mga kawani sa gobyerno ngunit hindi sila maaaring makipagtawaran sa kanilang employer, ang estado, sa usapin ng suweldo at mga benepisyong pinansyal at ang sabi nga, nonmonetary benefits lamang ang puwedeng pag-usapan daw ng mga public sector unions. Hindi tulad ng mga public sector workers sa ibang bansa, hindi rin pinahihintulutan ng Executive Order No. 180 ang mga public sector unions na magwelga. Ang mga tagumpay na nakamit ng kawani ng gobyerno sa pamamagitan ng public sector unionism ay sa kabila ng at hindi dahil sa mga limitasyon na itinatakda ng Executive Order No. 180.

Sumunod na batas, ang Republic Act No. 6656, ito ang Government Reorganization Law na isinabatas naman noong 1988. Ito ang pangunahing ligal na instrumento para sa atake sa kasiguruhan sa trabaho ng mga kawani sa gobyerno at naglatag ng balangkas para sa malawakang tanggalan. Naghawan din ito ng daan para sa malawakang kontraktwalisasyon sa pampublikong sektor. Regular na ipinatutupad ng mga sumunod na administrasyon ang programang tanggalan tulad ng rationalization sa bisa ng Executive Order No. 366 ni Pangulong Gloria Arroyo at rightsizing sa ilalim ni Pangulong Duterte, at sa panahong ito ay lumaganap din ang outsourcing ng mga government services sa pribadong sektor at ang paggamit ng job order at contract of service sa hanay ng gobyerno.

Pangatlong batas, Republic Act No. 6758, ito ang Salary Standardization Law na isinabatas noong 1989 at ang pangunahing instrumento ng neo-liberal na estado para kontrolin at panatilihin mababa ang suweldo at benepisyong mga kawani ng gobyerno. Naisabatas ito noong 1989 sa kabila ng malawakang pagtutol ng daan-daan libong mga kawani ng gobyerno sa buong bansa, kabilang ang mga public school teachers. Alam natin, eventually, humantong ito sa nationwide strikes at hunger strikes ng mga guro at nagresulta sa tanggalan ng libu-libong mga guro sa serbisyo. Noong Dekada 90 na sila naibalik sa serbisyo.

Sa pamamagitan ng Salary Standardization Law or SSL, itinatali ang suweldo at benepisyong mga kawani ng gobyerno sa batas. Hindi kikilalanin maging ang pagtaas ng cost of living o ang ipinaglalaman ng mga public sector union. Tanging ang batas ang nagtatakda ng ligal na kompensasyon. Taliwas ito sa umiiral na batas sa pasuweldo sa pribadong sektor na nagbibigay ng puwang para sa taunang adjustment ng minimum wage alinsunod sa pagtaas ng cost of living. SSL din ang nagbigay ng ligal na batayan para sa samut-saring disallowance ng DBM at COA sa mga benepisyong naipanalang mga kawani sa pamamagitan ng kanilang sama-samang pagkilos. Kasama na rito iyong mga kasalukuyang ipinaglalaman ng mga public school teachers na binabawasan o tinatangal outright ang kanilang mga local allowance.

Makikita ang bagsik at lupit ng SSL kung babaybayin lamang natin ang kasaysayan nito. Matapos ang unang SSL noong 1989, sunod na nagpatupad ng salary increase ang gobyerno noong 1994 sa bisa ng Joint Resolution No. 1, 1994. Tapos nito, 15 taon ang lilipas bago maisabatas ang SSL 3, Joint Resolution No. 4, 2009, sa panahon na ni Pangulong Arroyo. Mula panahon ni Pangulong Ramos iyong SSL 2, ang sunod na adjustment na ng SSL ay 2009. Sa pagitan nito, may mga ilang percentage increases lamang na ibinigay: 10 percent noong year 2000 and five percent noong year 2001, pero isipin natin iyan na mahigit isang dekada na nakapako ang suweldo ng mga kawani

ng gobyerno sa bisa ng SSL. Kung mayroong malupit na wage freeze sa ilalim ni Pangulong Arroyo, hindi makatarungang wage inequality naman ang tumampok sa Executive Order No. 201 ni Pangulong Noynoy Aquino—Executive Order No. 201, iyan ay madalas na tinatawag na SSL 4.

Isa sa mga prinsipyo ng neo-liberal na public sector wage bill management ay ang pag-benchmark ng suweldo ng gobyerno sa pribadong sektor. Ayon sa IMF, “Competitive compensation can be promoted through public and private sector wage comparisons.” Sa madaling sabi, layuning salaminin ng gobyerno ang hindi pantay na istruktura ng pasuweldo sa pribadong sektor na dikta ng merkado: busabos na suweldo sa mga entry level sa rank and file employees sa isang banda, at stratosperikong suweldo at benepisyong para sa mga pinuno at CEO ng mga korporasyon sa kabilang banda.

Kinomisyon pa ng DBM sa ilalim ng Aquino administration ang American consulting firm na Towers Watson para paghambingin ang suweldo sa gobyerno at pribado. Resulta nito ang salary schedule ng EO 201. Mas pinapaboran nito ang mas mataas na opisyal ng gobyerno kaysa doon sa rank and file employees na bumubuo sa malawak na mayorya ng mga kawani ng gobyerno. Ang EO 201 ay nagpalaki pa sa gap sa pagitan ng lowest and highest paid government employees. Ang pinakamababang government employee ay binigyan lamang ng 22.98 percent increase sa sahod from P9,000 to P11,000, at ang Teacher I at Nurse I, 11.89 percent from P18,549 to P20,754. Samantala, para sa mga executive level position, ang umento para sa kanila ay umaabot mula 76.96 percent para sa Salary Grade 25 hanggang sa 233.12 percent para sa Salary Grade 33 ang pinakamataas. Ito iyong suweldo ng Pangulo.

Sinasalamin lang ng pinakahuling joke ni Pangulong Duterte ang ganitong pag-iisip. Hindi pa raw sapat ang kanyang mahigit P200,000 kada buwan na suweldo dahil daw dalawa ang asawa niya at bising-bisi daw siya. Dapat daw, P1.5 million kada buwan, at least, ang suweldo niya bilang Presidente. So, iyong ideya ay dapat mas mataas pa ang suweldo ng mga pinakamataas na opisyal ng gobyerno.

Samantala, paulit ulit naman sina Secretary Diokno ng DBM at Secretary Briones ng DepEd pagsabi na mataas na ang kasalukuyang suweldo na P20,000 a month ng mga public school teacher kung ikukumpara daw sa private school teacher kaya hindi raw priority ang salary increase para sa kanila. Build, Build, Build daw ang priority ng administrasyon. Sa madaling sabi, binawi na ni Pangulong Duterte ang una niyang pahayag na pagkatapos ng increase sa sundalo at pulis, isusunod na raw ang increase sa public school teachers. Ayon sa huling pahayag ng Malacañang, hihintayin na raw muna ang full implementation ng EO 201. Sa madaling

sabi, hanggang 2019, at pagkatapos ng isa na namang study, maaaring mabigyan muli ng increase ang mga guro, baka daw sa 2020.

Debt crisis noong Dekada 80 at 90; fiscal crisis noong year 2000; Build, Build, Build ngayon; austerity noon, good governance ngayon—iba't iba ang dahilan ng iba't ibang administrasyon upang ipagkait ng gobyerno sa mga kawani nito ang disentang suweldo sa kanila at kanilang mga pamilya.

Ang neo-liberal na pagkontrol sa public sector wage bill mula administrasyong Cory Aquino hanggang Duterte, alinsunod sa dikta ng IMF at iba pang mga global financial institutions, ang isang obhetibong dahilan kung bakit nakabaon sa utang ang maraming mga kawani ng gobyerno. Hindi totoo iyong sinasabi ni Secretary Briones na dahil daw sa maluhong lifestyle ng ilang mga guro at iba pang kawani ng gobyerno kaya nababaon sila sa utang. Sa totoo lang, sa buong bansa ngayon, mayroong personal debt crisis na dinaranas ang libo-libong mga kawani ng gobyerno. Biktima sila ng mga private lending institutions, loan sharks na pawang naniningil nang napakataas na interes.

Walang bailout para sa mga kawani na ito at sa halip, kinakaharap nila ang banta ng mga kasong ligal, ang banta ng garnishment ng kanilang mga suweldo, at ang pinakamalala pa, ang banta ng pagkatanggal sa government service. In fact, may mga kasong ganito na ang mga public school teacher na nabaon sa utang sa loan sharks, kinakasuhan usually sa Professional Regulation Commission, natatanggalan ng lisensiya, natatanggal sa government service. Sa totoo lang, unregulated ang pagpapautang ng mga private lending institutions sa napakaraming government employees at dapat imbestigahan ito ng Kongresong ito.

Lumala pang lalo ang inhustisya sa sistema ng pagpapasahod sa ating mga kawani sa gobyerno nang ipinasa ang Joint Resolution No. 1 ng kasalukuyang Kongreso sa ilalim ng kasalukuyang administrasyon na nagdoble sa suweldo ng mga sundalo, pulis at iba pang military and uniformed personnel nang walang kaakibat na salary increase para sa mga empleyadong sibilyan. Lumikha ang Duterte administration ng malubhang salary distortion o gap sa pagitan ng military and uniformed personnel (MUP) at sibilyang kawani.

Ang isang kandidatong sundalo ay sumasahod na ng pinakamababang P18,587 a month samantalang ang kalakhan ng rank-and-file employees na may Salary Grade One hanggang 10 ay tumatanggap lamang ng P10,510 hanggang P18,718 a month kahit pa pareho lang ang qualifications o mas mataas pa nga ang qualifications o mas matagal na sila na nagsisilbi sa gobyerno. Ang Police Officer 1 at ang isang Private ay nakatatanggap na ng P29,668 kada buwan, halos P10,000 ang diperensiya sa P20,179 na sahod ng Teacher 1, Nurse 1, Registrar 1, Guidance Counselor 1 sa ilalim

ng third tranche ng Revised Salary Standardization Law. Sa mga kadahilanang ito, hindi humuhupa ang panawagan ng ating government employees para sa kagyat na salary increase.

Muli naming idinidiin ngayon ang pangangailangan para sa kagyat na makabuluhang umento sa suweldo ng mga ordinaryong kawani, silang mga guro, mga non-teaching personnel, nurses, social workers, clerks, utility workers, mga doktor at iba pa—mga kawaning susi sa operasyon ng mga tanggapan ng pamahalaan gaya ng mga kasama natin dito sa House of Representatives, sa plenary, sa mga komite at iba pa. Ang kanilang sigaw: Salary Increase, Ngayon Na, Hindi sa 2020!

Ayon sa pag-aaral ng IBON Foundation, ang isang pamilyang may anim na miyembro ay nangangailangan ng P1,119 kada araw o P33,570 kada buwan upang mabuhay nang disente, ngunit ang isang Teacher 1 hanggang Teacher 3 ay sumasahod lamang ng P20,000 hanggang P24,000 kada buwan. Wala pa dito ang mga kaltas tulad ng GSIS, PhilHealth at Pag-IBIG. Nangangahulugan, kulang na kulang talaga ang kanilang sahod kada buwan upang matustusan ang mga pangangailangan ng kanilang pamilya, at dagdag pa dito ang mga biglang gastos, halimbawa, kapagka nagkasakit.

Hindi na dapat hintayin ni Pangulong Duterte na matapos ang ikaapat na tranche ng SSL dahil kitangkita naman natin ang epekto na hindi sapat na suweldo ng mga kawani ng gobyerno at pampublikong guro. Patuloy silang mahihirapan dahil sa TRAIN, ang Tax Reform Law ng kasalukuyang administrasyon dahil binawi naman nito ang additional take-home pay kuno noong nagkaroon ng bagong buwis sa petrolyo na nagresulta sa inflation, tumaas ang presyo ng mga bilihan at serbisyo kaya lalong tumataas ang cost of living. Makikitang nararapat lamang at makatuwiran na singilin si Pangulong Duterte sa kanyang pangako na itaas ang suweldo hindi lamang ng mga guro kung hindi ang lahat ng manggagawa at kawani ng gobyerno. Tunay ngang napapanahon ang pagtaas ng sahod ng mga guro at iba pang kawani ng gobyerno upang makaagapay sa papataas na bilihan at serbisyo.

Kaya naman po kami sa Makabayan ay may na-file na mga bill na sana ay dinggin sa lalong madaling panahon ng Kongresong ito, aksiyunan ng Kongresong ito para itaas sa minimum na P16,000 kada buwan ang minimum na salary sa gobyerno; gawing P30,000 a month ang suweldo ng mga teacher at nurse at matugunan iyong pangangailangang mailapit sa actual cost of living ang kanilang suweldo at ma-address iyong distortion na nilikha ng pagdoble sa suweldo ng military and uniformed personnel pay. Hinihikayat ko ang lahat ngayon na suportahan ang makatuwirang panawagan ng ating mga kasamahan na kawani sa pamahalaan at isabat sa pinakakagyat na panahon ang salary increase para sa government employees.

Bilang pangwakas, ang laban para sa kagyat na pagtaas ng suweldo ng mga kawani ng gobyerno ay bahagi lamang ng mas masaklaw at pang-matagalang laban para ilantad, labanan, baklasin at ibasura ang neo-liberal na balangkas ng pagkontrol sa public sector wage bill na pinaiiral ng iba't ibang administrasyon mula Aquino hanggang Duterte at para itaguyod ang karapatan sa disentang suweldo, kasiguruhan sa trabaho at ganap na karapatan sa pag-uunyon ng mga kawani ng gobyerno.

Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you very much.

Before the Majority Leader goes to the next interpellator, would you entertain, would you indulge the Presiding Officer, just to better understand the point that the Honorable Tinio is raising?

REP. TINIO. Of course, it would be my honor, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Just one observation because I listened intently to your speech, Honorable Tinio. I find it incorrect based on what I had heard. Tatagalugin ko na lang ...

REP. TINIO. Sige po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). ... dahil Tagalog naman ang inyong pagbigay ng inyong talumpati.

Iyong sinasabi po ninyo na noong panahon ni President Cory Aquino, nagsimula iyong pagsupil o iyong hindi pagtaas ng suweldo ng kawani ng gobyerno, lalung-lalo na iyong mga teacher. Tama po ba ako? Sinabi mo nga na noong panahon na iyon, nais ng mga kawani ng ating gobyerno, lalung-lalo na iyong mga teacher, na sana imbes na pigilan, i-peg iyong suweldo ng mga teacher doon sa inflation o kaya iyong pagtaas ng goods or commodities. Tama po ba ako sa obserbasyon ko?

REP. TINIO. More or less, tama po. Ang sinasabi po natin na noong panahon ni Cory Aquino, sa konteksto ng alam natin, ay iyong debt crisis, baon sa utang ang gobyerno noon at ang pangunahing priority ay ang debt servicing at isinabatas po iyong legal framework para kontrolin ang suweldo at mga benepisyo ng gobyerno.

Binanggit nga po natin iyong Executive Order No. 180, so, kinilala iyong public sector unionism pero tinanggalan ng right to strike or hindi kinilala iyong right to strike at saka iyong full bargaining right ng mga public sector union. So, hindi tulad sa ibang bansa, dahil sa ibang bansa po ay regularly nakikita natin sa

balita and international news na may mga government employee, whether in First World countries or in developing countries, na nagwewelga sila at kadalasan ang usapin dito ay suweldo. Hindi ganyan sa Pilipinas. Tapos, binanggit din natin iyong batas sa reorganization at saka iyong Salary Standardization Law.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Yes.

REP. TINIO. So, yes, ganoon po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Yes, at dahil nga doon sa pagpigil na iyan, matagal na panahon ho ang hindi nataasan ang suweldo ng mga public school teachers at hindi nakasabay sa pribadong sektor. Kaya nga sa panahon na iyan, ang dekada na iyan o ang dalawang dekadang interim na iyan, mas tumaas o malayo ang agwat ng suweldo ng pribadong sektor at sa public sector kaya nga ho masasabi natin na medyo humina ang kalidad ng edukasyon sa ating bansa dahil nga may migration ang mga teachers sa private sector na magagaling. Tama po ba ang aking obserbasyon?

REP. TINIO. Tama po kayo na ang epekto noong batas, halimbawa noong SSL ay napako nga ang pagtaas, so, hindi na basta-basta maaaring mag-implement ng salary increase or increase sa benepisyo, hindi lang po public school teachers kundi lahat ng mga kawani ng gobyerno ng walang batas. So, katulad ng binanggit natin, ang pinakatampok dito for 1994, ang susunod na SSL, strictly speaking, ay in 2009 na.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Yes.

REP. TINIO. Fifteen years. Ngayon, hindi lang po ako sang-ayon doon sa observation ninyo na may panahon na mas mataas ang suweldo ng mga private school teacher sa public school teacher kasi historically for various reasons, ay mababa rin naman ang suweldo ng mga private school teachers. Isang basic na dahilan dito dahil malaganap ang kontraktwalisasyon sa private schools, hindi tulad ng sa public schools.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Ang akin lang po, gusto ko lang malaman iyong train of thought ninyo na, noong una, nais nating makumpara sa pribadong sektor dahil nga sa pribadong sektor, nagpa-fluctuate or tumataas ang suweldo nila sang-ayon sa cost of living. Ngayon naman dumating sa panahon na tinabla na sila or pinantay na sa private sector, hindi pa rin tayo maligaya. Parang nag-iiba kada dekada ang polisiya. Iyon naman po ang akin. Gusto ko lang malaman kung ano ba talaga ang basehan natin dito. Iyong basta tataasan na lang ...

REP. TINIO. Okay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). ... o mayroon ba tayong pagbabasehan ng pagtaas o depende na lang kung ano ang argumentong ibigay ng administrasyon? Iyon na lamang po, and if you want to respond to that, go ahead.

REP. TINIO. Naiintindihan ko po iyong punto ninyo, na tama nga ba na kung noon napag-iiwanan ang suweldo ng public school teacher, sa ngayon po ay mas mataas na ang suweldo ng public school teacher kaysa sa private school teacher. Sa totoo lang po, ang tindig po ng Kinatawang ito ay iisa ang laban ng mga public school teachers at actually, ng lahat ng mga sumusweldo sa ating lipunan. So, whether public or private sector worker or employee, problema po nila na hindi nakasasapat sa cost of living ang kanilang suweldo.

So, hindi po natin tinatanggap iyong balangkas na isinasalaksak sa atin ng IMF, World Bank, ADB at iba pa na i-benchmark ang suweldo ng public sector sa private sector dahil busabos nga ang suweldo sa private sector. So, siguro po, ang bottom line, ang tamang balangkas para sa atin ay iyong cost of living at disenteng antas ng pamumuhay.

Iyon lang po, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you very much for indulging the Presiding Officer, Congressman Tinio.

REP. TINIO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the speech of the Honorable Tinio, together with the interpellations thereon, to the Committee on Rules. I so move.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we extend the Privilege Hour for another hour. I so move.

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

The Privilege Hour is extended for one more hour.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Arlene D. Brosas of GABRIELA

Party-List who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour. I so move.

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

Congresswoman Brosas is hereby acknowledged. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BROSAS

REP. BROSAS. Yes. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, ako po ay mula sa Kinatawan ng GABRIELA WOMEN'S Party.

G. Ispiker at mga kapwa ko Kinatawan, tumitindig ako ngayon bilang Kinatawan ng kababaihan, bata at bayan para sa kapayapaan at kaunlaran ng mamamayang Pilipino. Ngayon at sa mga susunod na henerasyon, kaisa ang sambayanan hinihimok at hinahamon tayong mga Mambabatas na tumindig para sa isang kapayapaang nakabatay sa kaunlaran at hustiyang panlipunan.

This Representation took part in a gathering of mass organizations in Abra last week for a discussion aimed at understanding the current status of advancing human rights and development work in their communities. Tunguhin nito ang matugunan ang mga balakid sa pagkakamit ng kapayapaan at seguridad sa probinsiya ng Abra, katuwang ang Center for Development Programs in the Cordillera at Abra Human Rights Alliance, mga institusyong pangkaunlaran at tagapagtaguyod ng karapatang pantao sa rehiyon. Nagbahagi ang mga organisasyon ng mga magbubukid at mga katutubo mula sa mga komunidad ng Tubo, Dolores, Bucay at Malibcong sa Abra ng kanilang mga kalagayan—kawalan ng batayang serbisyong panlipunan at pagharap sa kabi-kabilang pandarahas, pagpatay at iba pang porma ng paglabag sa karapatang pantao.

In 2015, the Philippines was one of more than 190 member-countries of the United Nations which committed to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, a 15-year program aimed to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice and resolve climate change. World leaders have declared their roles in achieving the goal of a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable world. Contrary to this commitment, the Philippine government has not worked collectively with its people. Through people's organizations and their partner humanitarian development and advocacy institutions, the Filipinos work collectively towards the realization of prosperity, peace and security. However, it is unfortunate that these formations are labelled as "unfriendly," "rebels," and at worst, as "members or supporters of terrorists." Leaders of people's organizations are continually being maligned, politically vilified and threatened and are at risk of being jailed, assassinated or forcibly disappeared.

This puts the country's development agenda, policies and programs into question. The beginning of the Duterte administration was full of promises in resolving the most pressing issues of the country—extreme poverty, labor contractualization and floor wages, lack of genuine agrarian reform, drugs, traffic, climate change, mining, armed conflict in Mindanao and peace talks. Whatever promise he commits is retracted days or months after, and what were given in the left hand are taken away twice on the other. Ano po ang ibig sabihin nito, Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa ko Kinatawan? Pangangakuan ang mamamayan, pagkatapos, babawiin at mas higit pa.

Just like his predecessors, the Duterte administration upholds the globalization policies instead of offering new strategies for inclusive economic growth. Majority of the Filipinos are still poverty-stricken. In 2015, five of the nine basic sectors consisting of farmers, fishermen, children, self-employed and unpaid family workers and women belonging to poor families, had higher poverty incidence than the general population estimated at 21.6 percent, according to government statistics. Instead of addressing the roots of poverty, the government pushed forward the institutionalization of the IMF-World Bank-backed dole-out program, Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program.

The Lower House recently approved a security of tenure bill that merely institutionalizes the practice of the so-called permissible job contracting. Instead of ending labor contractualization, the proposed measure strengthens the security of a contractor and is full of loopholes that can be prone to circumvention and abuse. Although the Free Irrigation Service Act was passed this year, the majority of our farmers are still landless.

Even Oplan Double Barrel (Tokhang), the anti-drug war campaign, has failed to annihilate sources of unlawful drugs in the nation but instead, prompted a surge of “drug-related” killings that had killed in excess of thousands of individuals. Nanatiling pangimbabaw at militarista ang aksiyon sa pagtangkang pagresolba sa isyung malalim ang pinag-ugatan. Napakarami na pong namatay sa diumano ay digmaan kontra droga na ang pangunahing casualty ay ang mga mahihirap.

The killings of innocent lives continue as the President and his cronies pushed for the extension of martial law in Mindanao and the termination of the peace talks with the revolutionary organizations. The atrocities committed by the police force and the military have spread all over the country, taking innocent lives of the Lumads in Mindanao, the farmers in the countryside, and other indigenous people in different regions. The cases presented by the people's organization from Bangued, Abra highlight the reflection of these anti-people policies in the region. The Abra communities have a rich knowledge and experience in their practice of development work based on self-reliance and

self-determination. However, there are many barriers that hinder the community to do so such as political vilification of the Armed Forces of the Philippines towards people's organizations and humanitarian institutions, accusing the projects as either funded, supported or for the benefit of the New People's Army. State forces and some local government officials deter the entry of the much-needed development projects and services. Aerial bombings continue to prevail due to the counter-insurgency operations in several parts of the ancestral territories of indigenous Tingguians. In Malibcong, Abra, the PNP and the AFP claimed that there were no aerial bombings by the military in the communities despite testimonies of residents that at least 14 phosphorous bombs were dropped in their rice fields and forests. The residents also gathered big shrapnels, indicating not only phosphorous but also fatal bombs.

Recently, Roger Gonzales, a 50-year old farmer and council member of the Nagkahiusang Mag-uuma sa Agusan del Sur-Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (NAMASUR-KMP), was illegally arrested by about 30 combined SWAT and Provincial Public Safety Battalion (PPSB) personnel in his home in Talacogon, Agusan del Sur. The arresting officers claimed that he was in possession of a caliber .357 gun. Without showing a search warrant, the team began searching his house. Illegal arrests seem to be the current trend in the government's non-existent efforts to uplift human rights. The forcible arrest on impossible trumped-up charges of Marklen Maojo Maga and Raffy Baylous is a desperate attempt to undermine the growing protests against the fascist Duterte regime. By illegally arresting human rights defenders, Duterte thinks he can put an end to the growing mass movement against his anti-people agenda. Moreover, organizations pushing forward the people's agenda are ostracized, enforcedly disappeared, charged with trumped-up cases or worst, killed. Peasant leader Ronald Manlapat, a member of the local chapter of the National Federation of Sugar Workers (NSFW) in Negros Occidental was shot by an unknown assailant at the back of his head. Previously, Manlapat had been receiving threats for being actively involved in organizing laborers and farmers in their village.

Contrary to the people's outcry for progressive economic and political reforms, the government coined the word “development” which has been used to suppress any critics to its anti-democratic policies. Questioning any government projects or activities carried out in the name of “development” was then considered a subversive act against the State and the government. Ang gobyerno at ang kanyang pasistang katangian ang pinakamalaking balakid sa pangkalahatang kaunlaran ng bansa. Ang drug war, counter-insurgency war at ang batas militar sa Mindanao ay tatlong digmaang inilulunsad ng rehimeng Duterte kontra mamamayan. These three wars are the essential

tools of the administration to achieve its goals—to consolidate power and move to authoritarian rule. Duterte’s refusal to continue the peace negotiations with the National Democratic Front of the Philippines and recent “shoot the vagina” remark against female rebels, are manifestations of the government’s refusal to address the roots of the armed conflict and forge comprehensive agreements on social, economic and political reforms.

Mr. Speaker, and distinguished colleagues, the 17 sustainable goals towards a more prosperous, equitable and sustainable development can only be realized through pushing forward plans and programs that will provide land distribution to farmers, substantial wage hikes, genuine agrarian reform, purposeful pro-Filipino industrial policy and direct public delivery of education, health and housing. However, the current plans of the Administration continues to focus on foreign investments over Filipino capital, exports over the domestic market, business owners’ profits over worker/employee’s welfare, and landlord rights over peasant entitlements. Mr. Speaker, these goals can only be achieved if the government is willing to institute policies that will go against vested interests. As legislators, may we be responsive to their calls and aspirations as we continue to advocate for laws and policies that duly advance their right to self-determined development, a development based on social justice.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you very much, Congresswoman Brosas.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Brosas to the Committee on Rules. I so move.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Sarah Jane I. Elago for her privilege speech.

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

Congresswoman Sarah Elago is hereby recognized. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. ELAGO

REP. ELAGO. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Magandang gabi po sa lahat.

I rise on the advocacy campaign, “Stand with Samar.” Members and supporters of peasants from Northern Samar under the banner of Northern Samar Small Farmers Association or NSSFA are here in Manila to drumbeat their demands for assistance and respect for human rights. They aim to engage with the national government and call attention to the continuing plight of their communities still devastated by typhoons which swept through the Eastern Visayas region over the past four years and worse, with pest infestation affecting major crops in the province.

On February 23, Mr. Speaker, they joined us in Morayta where the main program of the Metro Manila protest convergence of the nationwide “#WalkoutPH” was held. Not only students and young people were present but also professors, faculty members, school administrators, canteen vendors, jeepney drivers, peasants, fisherfolk and workers. Tagumpay ang naging pagkilos ng mga kabataan sa buong bansa para sa kanilang mga karapatan, sa kalayaan at sa demokrasya. Pagpupugay sa lahat ng mga makabayan at matatapang na kumilos noong araw na iyon na sa kabila ng mga banta ng kickout, ang naging sagot ng mga kabataan ay mas malalaking mga walk-out at mga pagkilos na nagpapakita ng kanilang pakikiisa. More than a “youthquake,” Manila witnessed a people’s quake.

Mr. Speaker, we requested a representative from the small farmers’ group from Northern Samar to deliver a solidarity message during the #WalkoutPH program. They volunteered Ate Marisa Cabalhao who is also a member of People Surge, a group that has taken the lead in organizing disaster victims to serve as watchdogs in the implementation of the government’s calamity-related programs. She spoke of their plight as farmers and disaster victims, the urgency of their demands and how they plan to go from one government office to another to demand accountability, and how their schedules were packed with support and integration visits of students, health professionals, government employees, religious and faith-based organizations.

In a letter which they sent to our office last week, Mr. Speaker, they recounted that the peasants of the province who are victims of successive typhoons such as Yolanda, Glenda, Ruby, Seniang and Nona, have received very minimal aid from the government. Based on the briefer of their advocacy campaign, several villages have not received any aid at all and rehabilitation efforts are at no rate felt by the farmers. From the very little that was left from the onslaught of consecutive storms, the peasants of the province took best efforts to recover, only to be devastated further by pests. Mr. Speaker, abaca, one of the main products of the province, has been heavily affected.

Northern Samar is considered as the regional hub in the production of abaca, and is the second biggest abaca-producing province in the entire country. Eleven

percent of the total abaca production in the country comes from the province, with 3,373,750 kilograms of abaca produced by the province in the first half of 2016 as noted by the Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority. People's organizations have raised these issues to the national government in previous protests. They shared that even public officials from the Municipality of Las Navas joined the farmers in storming the gates of the Department of Agriculture in December 2016. A municipal resolution has already been passed to address the problem, but still to no avail. Another major agricultural output, rice, is also affected by pests, particularly the bacterial leaf blight pest. Coconut, on the other hand, is affected by coconut scale insect. Almost all of the main agricultural outputs of the province have been affected by the pests. According to the peasant group, recovery is impossible as long as the agriculture and fisheries sectors in the province remain neglected. They have repeatedly sought the help of the government regarding their situation, but little did they expect that militarization will be the response.

According to the group, Mr. Speaker, gross human rights violations have been recorded in the hinterlands of the province, perpetrated by no less than the elements of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Some of these rights violations are as follows: psychological warfare operations are being conducted against civilians; schools are being used as barracks by the military; places of worship are consistently disrespected by the military troops when they use them as their barracks and remote stations; torture; arbitrary arrests; death threats; damaging of crops and forced labor. To boot, Mr. Speaker, they wrote:

The peasants have no land to till, no government support and services for farmers and fisherfolks. Coconut farmlands are infested with coconut scale insect or cocolisap. Abaca is infested with bunchy top virus. People who are trying to start a new life in the hinterlands cannot live in peace because of intense military operations. It is like the farmers are struck between purgatory and hell.

Mr. Speaker, the participation of small farmers and their supporters in such an organized campaign to air their grievances is a move that inspires and emboldens us young people to further arouse, inform, unite and mobilize our fellow Filipinos for the democratic assertion of people's rights. We salute their self-organization and tireless initiative in pursuit of their legitimate demands.

Mr. Speaker, here are the demands of the "Stand with Samar" peasant caravan: First is to provide immediate financial subsidy and relief to all families with damaged crops; second is to craft and implement

a pro-people agricultural rehabilitation program; third is to junk the anti-people Typhoon Recovery Plan as according to them, it is anti-people and pro-big businesses and so, we must craft a new program that is anchored on pro-people objectives and policies. We must create a plan that underwent consultation, coordination and partnership with farmers.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, they are calling for the pullout of AFP troops in the province to put a halt to the streak of gross human rights violations that they have reportedly committed. These demands deserve no further delay in response. They must neither be ignored nor suppressed. Hindi po katulad ng nabalitaan natin ngayong hapon, Mr. Speaker, na sa kanilang itinatayo na campout sa labas ng Department of Agriculture, kung saan nais po nilang maipaabot pa ang kanilang mga panawagan, lahat po ng naitayo na nila ay binuwag, at lahat ng naikabit na ay tinanggal.

Buti na lang, Mr. Speaker, na walang nasaktan. Mr. Speaker, huwag po nating payagan na mayroon pang masaktan. Tama na ang pasakit sa kanila na dulot ng gutom, na dulot ng militarisasyon. Sila ay nananawagan ng suporta para sa sapat na subsidyo, relief and rehabilitation, at paggulong ng mga programa para sa tunay na repormang agraryo. Huwag nating sasagutin ang mga panawagang ito sa pagbuwag ng kanilang pagkakaisa, sa pagbuwag ng kanilang kampuhan, dahil sila ay naririto at nagpunta dito na buo ang loob na ipapaabot at ipapanalo ang kanilang mga panawagan. Let us support the Northern Samar Small Farmers Association by echoing their demands resoundingly. Let us all stand with Samar. To all our fellow legislators, we hope that we can promptly host a dialogue here with the Stand with Samar participants to explore and exhaust what can be our points of unity and plan of action.

We call on the public, especially the Filipino youth, to come and visit the peasants' campout. Isusulong po nila na maibuo ito at maitayo sa labas mismo ng Department of Agriculture. They will be hosting a solidarity cultural program every night starting today, Mr. Speaker. We must go and show our support and get to know more of their stories of struggle and resilience. Let us support the very people who bring food to our tables.

KABATAAN stands with Samar! Again, Mr. Speaker, nananawagan po tayo, lahat tayo ay tumindig na kasama nila.

Maraming salamat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you very much, Congresswoman Sarah Elago.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Elago to the Committee on Rules. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Salvador B. Belaro Jr. of 1-ANG EDUKASYON Party-List who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

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

Congressman Salvador Belaro is hereby recognized. Please proceed.

REP. BELARO. Before I proceed with the delivery of my privilege speech, Mr. Speaker, may I be allowed to make a short manifestation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Go ahead, Congressman Belaro.

REP. BELARO. Mr. Speaker, I just want to make it of record that this Representation from 1-ANG EDUKASYON Party-List joins the clamor for a general salary increase which was earlier espoused by the discussion between the presiding officer and the Representative from ACT-TEACHERS Party-List.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). That is noted. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. BELARO

REP. BELARO. Let me begin with my privilege speech by citing that at our homes, we are often told by our parents that when we need to go out to the world, we always have to put our best foot forward. In the Community of Nations, it is already urban legend that we claim that we have the English advantage as our comparative advantage in the global labor of market. Now comes the report of Hopkins International Partners last week, debunking that what is the reality is that our university graduates have, and in fact, fallen below the global standards. This means, Ladies and Gentlemen, only one thing: when we claim that we have the English advantage, that in fact we are not putting our best foot forward but in reality, we are just pulling our legs.

Mr. Speaker, my dear colleagues, distinguished guests in the gallery, especially those from the Council of Management Educators and Practitioners of the Philippines, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

The report is also telling us that our supposed best foot, that of English proficiency, is suffering from arthritis. Consider this data, Ladies and Gentlemen. In the said two-year study, Filipino university graduates averaged only 630, a far cry from the passable score of 850 required by business process outsourcing companies the world over. The study also noted that it is lower than the net competency requirement for taxi drivers in the United Arab Emirates, and lower than that of the high school graduates in Thailand and Vietnam. I am sure that this is a report that our elders would regret. Many of those from older generations would claim, which is quite verifiable, that even in schools in the provinces, people spoke better English in the olden days. In fact, many of you would agree with me that each one of us probably know a lot of older people who may have finished high school only and yet, have a better command of English than many of our graduates today.

In view of this development, it is just fair to ask who or what are the culprits? Of course, the usual suspect is the agency tasked with taking care of the education of our young people at the formative stage, the Department of Education. While it may not be fair to ascribe this to it, the primary difficulty of getting our schoolchildren to school, given the milieu of poverty and all the related problems it brings, the agency certainly has a pivotal role in making out the most of whatever budget it can get.

Ladies and Gentlemen, let me emphasize this—at the heart of the problem is the Department of Education's neglect of giving English the proper emphasis it deserves in the instruction of our schoolchildren. Instead of allowing it to grow in conjunction with the teaching in Filipino, our national language, the resulting scenario was that the promotion of Filipino in our schools came at the expense of teaching English, when the ideal but also realizable scenario could have been the mutual development of both English and Filipino as languages of instruction. Worse, the Department of Education also allowed the use of the vernacular, the regional dialects, in the teaching of our schoolchildren.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this Representation, together with other Members of the House of Representatives such as CHTE Chair Ann Hofer, Cong. Ma. Lourdes Acosta-Alba, Cong. Juliette T. Uy and Cong. Peter “Sr. Pedro” M. Unabia, just came from a regional consultation on the fate of several extension centers of the Bukidnon State University and the University of Science and Technology of the Philippines. During the consultations, one local government official relayed to this Representation that the DepEd's instruction is in the local dialect when, in fact, the students already know the dialect. Accordingly, there is simply no value added to the vernacularization of such instruction, as it deprives the students of opportunities to practice in the school

setting, the global language of science, mathematics and of course, commerce and industry, which is English. Practice, after all, Ladies and Gentlemen, is regularity of use, consistency through time, preparation for perfection. After all, there is no other road to better English than constant practice.

From basic education, we also need to reexamine how higher education deals with the matter of the English proficiency of our college students. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) certainly needs to reexamine its curricular offerings to arrest the worsening English proficiency of our college graduates. We may also need to reexamine the role of media, especially institutional and commercial media in this development. Perhaps, it is about time that we obligate the institutional press and the mass media to help in the development of programs that would contain the proliferation of pidgin or hybrid English, and the development of programs that will enhance the English proficiency of our youth.

The telecommunications companies should also share a part of the responsibility in our quest to reassert our English advantage, if not supremacy, in the global labor market. In this era of abbreviated text messages, our telecommunications companies may be compelled, as a condition to the renewal of their franchises, to make use of technology so that correct spelling of text messages may be promoted, and that it would be easier for the youth of today to enhance their vocabulary.

Indeed, arresting the trend of the worsening English proficiency of our youth would require a multisectoral effort. On the part of the legislature, the Seventeenth Congress, we also need to review the pertinent laws and in this regard, the initial point of inquiry should be the highest law of the land which is the 1987 Constitution. On this point, let me point out that it may not be fair to blame the CHED or the DepEd primarily for the worsening English proficiency of our students. This is so because even the Constitution, our very Constitution is wishy-washy with respect to the promotion and development of the English language.

Please allow me to cite Article XIV, Section 6 of the 1987 Constitution which provides that “the national language of the Philippines is Filipino.” Kindly make no mistake on this. This Representation is for all the retention and promotion of Filipino as our national language. It is and will always be the national language of our country, the language of unity, and the language of national pride. What is problematic, Ladies and Gentlemen, is the subsequent constitutional provision which is Article XIV, Section 7 which provides, if I may quote, “For purposes of communication and instruction, the official languages of the Philippines are Filipino and, until otherwise provided by law, English.”

Ladies and Gentlemen, at the expense of sounding repetitious, please allow me to reiterate this point that this Representation holds that there should be no debate

on Filipino as our national language. There should also be no debate on its being the official language of our country. The problem lies in the status of English, whether it could also be elevated into an official language of our country together with Filipino. Ladies and Gentlemen, kindly take note of the nuance between a national language and an official language.

For this reason, this Representation, after this privilege speech, will be filing a bill that will make English an official language of the Philippines together with Filipino, so as to fill in the void left by the 1987 Constitution. Indeed, it is high time that we provide an enabling law that will promote and strengthen English being the lingua franca of instruction, commerce and industry in a globalized community. That way, the agencies tasked with the instruction of our schoolchildren, the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education, in particular, will be guided accordingly in the formulation of policies and regulations that affect the education of our youth.

In a previous speech before this august Body, Ladies and Gentlemen, this Representation cited that the Duterte administration has revolutionized Philippine education with the Free College Education Law and the Free Wi-Fi Law. In relation to this, my dear colleagues, I would like again to make an appeal to you to support the bill that I will file on the promotion and strengthening of the English language as a major language of instruction in this country, of commerce and industry. This will strengthen the comparative advantage of our human resources in the world market as English is the current lingua franca in our globalized world. It would also complete the revolution in Philippine education that we started as strengthening competencies in the lingua franca is already a step ahead in the world labor market.

In the beginning of my speech, I likened strengthening the English proficiency of our youth to putting our best foot forward. That is so as it would enable our youth of today, and the generations to come, to dance with the music, as understanding the lingua franca would make them understand the language of the music and to act appropriately according to the required cadence, rhythm and harmony. Ladies and Gentlemen, we are now at this juncture of our national history wherein we have a choice—whether we allow the proliferation of this condition of our English proficiency or to arrest it. My dear colleagues, let me appeal to your sense of reason and sensibility because I believe that strengthening the English competencies of our youth is the best gift we could give them at this time. That way, we could give them the gift of language which is also the gift of development, empowerment and survival.

By analogy, I started by saying that we have to put our best foot forward because that would enable us, today’s generation and future generations, to dance

to the music. This is true because, in that way, we would assure the youth of today and of tomorrow, that they will not become the wallflowers in whatever music tomorrow will hold, that they will not become benchwarmers in the games of tomorrow, but rather we can be confident of them having a good chance of becoming not only survivors but also opinion-makers, not rabble-rousers.

Ladies and Gentlemen, there is no assurance in our participation in shaping tomorrow but certainly, we as a people can do our best in shaping what it could become. By strengthening the competencies in the English language of the youth and the youth of tomorrow, we can be assured that the future generations will not only dance to the music, but will also survive in it, enjoy it and wiggle it.

Again, Ladies and Gentlemen, a pleasant afternoon. Long live Philippine education. Long live the Seventeenth Congress. Long live the Philippines.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Well said Congressman Belaro.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

For the information of everyone, what is the official language of communication of this Chamber?

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, Kapampangan ya pu.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Not Bicolano?

REP. GULLAS. Cebuano.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER. Cebuano. What is the official language of communication?

REP. GULLAS. It is English, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). So, it is English. Thank you very much.

Let us proceed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Belaro to the Committee on Rules.

I so move.

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Ariel “Ka Ayik” B. Casilao from ANAKPAWIS Party-List who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Congressman Ariel B. Casilao is hereby recognized. Please proceed.

PRIVILEGE SPEECH OF REP. CASILAO

REP. CASILAO. Salamat, Mr. Speaker.

G. Ispiker, mga kapwa ko mambabatas, magandang hapon sa inyong lahat; isang mapagpalayang hapon po.

Nitong nakaraang linggo, February 18 to 22, naging kabahagi ang Kinatawang ito sa isinagawang International Solidarity Mission sa apat na rehiyon ng Mindanao upang siyasin, imbestigahan ang napakahabang listahan ng mga karumal-dumal na krimen, mga kaganapan na kung saan karamihan nito ay mga paglabag sa karapatang pantao ng ating mga magsasaka at mga kapatid na mga katutubong Lumad sa Western Mindanao Region, Northern Mindanao Region, CARAGA Region, SOCCSKSARGEN at sa rehiyon na aking pinanggalingan, ang Southern Mindanao Region.

Naging bahagi po ang Kinatawang ito sa mission area sa Lake Sebu, South Cotabato, kung saan inimestigahan ang isang pangyayari, ang karumal-dumal na pangyayari noong December 3, 2017 na kung saan mayroong walong katao, puro mga miyembro ng T’boli, Dulangan Manobo tribe, ang naging biktima ng isang masaker. Oo, G. Ispiker, masaker, taliwas sa mga nagdaang pahayag ng Armed Forces of the Philippines, partikular ng 33rd Infantry Battalion sa pangunguna ni Lt. Col. Harold Cabunoc na, kuno, ang kaganapan noong December 3, 2017 ay isang produkto ng lehitimong engkuwentro.

Mr. Speaker, I joined more than 50 delegates of mixed nationalities, local delegations, foreigners coming from the International Committee on Human Rights for the Philippines or ICHRP and the Mindanaoans for Civil Liberties. We travelled for four hours, in a bone-breaking and death-defying ride. Magkabilaan po ang mga pampang at napakalalim na mga pampang. Ginamit po namin ang sasakyan na lokal na kung tawagin ay “Sadam” dahil hindi kakayanin ng four-wheel vehicle, kahit ng motorsiklo o skylab ay limitado din. Naglakad kami ng halos tatlong oras papunta sa Sitio Datal, Bonglangon, Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato. Kasama namin ang mga survivor ng sinasabing masaker. Kasama ko ang asawa at anak ng pangunahing biktima na si Datu Victor Danyan.

Mr. Speaker, taliwas sa mga naglabasang mga report, partikular sa unang linggo matapos ang insidente, na binabanggit ng AFP 33rd Infantry Battalion na, kuno, may nangyaring engkuwentro kaya napaslang ang walong tribong miyembro ng Manobo-Dulangan tribe. Ayon sa aking mga narinig na salaysay ng mga mismong

biktima-survivor at pamilya ni Datu Victor, walang engkuwentrong naganap. Ibabahagi ko po, Mr. Speaker, ang mga makatotohanang at detalyadong karanasan ng mga nakasaksi at mga survivor sa masaker na iyon. December 3, 2017, at around 11:00 a.m., dumating si Barangay Captain Jerry Noblita, kasama ang kanyang kagawad na si Melencio Tungkay, isang CAFGU at isang volunteer ng Balikat Rescue Team sa Sitio Datal Bonglangon, Barangay Ned, upang kausapin si Datu Victor Danyan hinggil sa kanyang ancestral claim o CADT.

Isang linggo bago ang December 3 incident, Mr. Speaker, ni-reclaim ng tribong Dulangan Manobo, T'boli sa pangunguna ni Datu Victor Danyan ang mahigit 1,600 hectares na area mula sa napasong kontrata o Integrated Forest Management Agreement na na-award sa kompanyang DMCI or Consunji Incorporated. Ang area na ito na tinamnan ng kape, pine trees sa kunong proyektong reforestation, ay binawi dahil nga paso na ang IFMA nito, kaya binawi ng tribo sa pangunguna ni Datu Danyan, ni Victor Danyan, para tamnan ng mais, gulay at iba pang mga food crops.

Noong pumunta si Kapitan Noblita sa kanilang lugar, December 3, 11:00 a.m., pilit na pinapa-surrender si Datu Victor at inaakusahan na siya daw ay NPA, kasama ng kanyang anak, mga pamangkin at ibang mga kalalakihang tribo. Nagtaka at iginiit ni Datu Victor Danyan na hindi po siya NPA at sa matagal na panahon siya ay nandiyan sa area niya, sa kanyang CADT upang linangin at i-develop ang area sa kapakinabangan ng kanyang tribo. Pilit na pinapapirma si Datu Victor ng isang dokumentong hindi niya naiintindihan, at iyon pala, ang dokumentong ito ay isang kontratang magpapalawig, at sumasang-ayon kuno si Datu Victor, ng 25 years ang IFMA ng DMCI, Consunji, sa lupang claim ni Datu Victor.

Bandang alas-dos, hindi nila nakuha ang pirma ni Datu Victor. Umalis sina Barangay Kapitan Noblita pero biglang dumating ang mga miyembro ng 33rd Infantry Battalion and 27th Infantry Battalion at nagpaulan ng putok. Sa salaysay po ng mga biktima at mga survivors, hindi po armado ng anumang baril sina Datu Victor, bagkus, sila ay may mga hawak na mga indigenous na gamit pang-saka; bolo at pana para sa kanilang ginagamit pang hunting. Ngunit pinagbabaril sina Datu Victor, sampu ng kanyang kasamahan, at halos dalawang oras na walang tigil na pagpapaputok ang 27th and 33rd Infantry Battalions, at walong katao na miyembro ng tribo ang napaslang: si Datu Victor Danyan, ang kanyang anak, Victor Danyan Jr.; Artemio Danyan, ang kanyang son-in-law; Pato Celardo, Samuel Angkoy, To Diamante, Bobot Lagase at si Mateng Bantel. Kinabukasan, sinabi ni Col. Harold Cabunoc na ang walong kataong namatay ay mga NPA at miyembro, kuno, ng unit militar sa ilalim ni Datu Victor Danyan aka Commander Danyan.

Mr. Speaker, malinaw po, mula sa karanasan at kuwento ng mga survivors ng masaker na iyon, na pinagbabaril sila na parang mga baboy-ramo. Hindi sila armado, wala silang kalaban-laban ngunit walang habas na pinagbabaril. Ano ang kadahilanan kung bakit tinarget ang komunidad ni Datu Victor Danyan? Sa 1,600 hectares na lupaing nasa ilalim ng CADT claim ni Datu Victor, nandiyan din ang halos 600 hectares na plantasyon ng kape ng DMCI, at nandiyan din nakaamba ang 300 hectares na balak i-operate ang mining sa pamamagitan ng San Miguel Corporation. Ito po ang tingin ng komunidad kung bakit tinarget, na-red tag si Datu Victor, sinabi at pinagbintangan na sila ay mga NPA. Sa mga nagdaang buwan, malinaw po ang paglaban ni Datu Victor upang protektahan ang kanyang lupang ninuno, ang kanyang CADT claim laban sa anumang pagpasok ng mga korporasyon tulad ng DMCI at ng SMC.

Ang karanasan ko po, ang Kinatawang mismong ito ay nakaranas din ng harassment sa aming pagpunta at pagbalik sa Koronadal City. Anim na checkpoint ang aming nadaanan, hinabol ng dalawang column ng 27th IB dahil sa order ni Governor Daisy Fuentes na hindi kami papuntahin doon sa area kung saan naganap ang massacre. Hindi namin narinig kung ano ang naging result ng imbestigasyon ng local government unit, bagkus, sinang-ayunan ang claim ng AFP na ito ay produkto ng engkuwentro.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa Mambabatas, naghain po ang Kinatawang ito, kasama ng aking mga kasamahan sa Makabayan bloc, ng panukalang Resolusyon, House Resolution No. 1550, para imbestigahan ang kaganapan sa Barangay Ned, Lake Sebu, South Cotabato. Ang paniniwala po ng Kinatawang ito, ang malagim na karanasan ng mga kapatid nating lumad na Dulangan Manobo at T'boli sa South Cotabato ay hindi hiwalay sa napakaraming listahan ng paglabag sa karapatang-pantao sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Mindanao.

Matapos po ang International Solidarity Mission, naging guest/resource person po ang Kinatawang ito sa dalawang araw na Mindanao-wide Human Rights Summit noong February 23 and 24 para buuin ang mga datos na nakalap sa iba't ibang bahagi ng Mindanao, kung saan ginanap ang ISM sa mga mission areas. Sa kabuuan, sa inisyal na pagbubuo ng mga datos, 265 trumped-up charges are being faced by the different activists, religious workers at human rights advocates dahil tumututol sa pangyagari o sa nagaganap na martial law sa Mindanao. Ang nangyari noong December 3, 2017, Mr. Speaker, ay isa sanang ebidensiya noong tinatalakay ng Kapulungang ito ang extension ng one year ng martial law sa Mindanao. Bitbit sana ng Kinatawang ito ang pamilya para kayo ay kumbinsihin at maipakita sa inyo kung bakit kailangan ng ipahinto o itigil ang deklarasyon ng martial law sa Mindanao, dahil ang katotohanan ay malayo po sa sinasabing walang

paglabag sa karapatang pantao, na may puso na martial law ang binabanggit, at taliwas sa karanasan ng mga biktima ng martial law sa Mindanao.

Mr. Speaker, mga kapwa kong Mambabatas, sana bigyang-pansin ang panukalang resolusyon at mailunsad ang imbestigasyon para makita natin ang katotohanan, labas doon ipinakalat na kasinungalingan ng lokal na pamahalaan at maging ng 33rd Infantry Battalion.

Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you, Congressman Casilao.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we refer the privilege speech of the Honorable Casilao to the Committee on Rules

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

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, with no other Member who wishes to avail of the Privilege Hour, I move that we terminate the Privilege Hour.

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

The Privilege Hour is hereby terminated.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GULLAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 27 at four o'clock in the afternoon. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The session is adjourned until tomorrow Tuesday, February 27, at four o'clock in the afternoon

It was 6:50 p.m.