



# Congressional Record

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*House of Representatives*

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No. 69

## 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). Please remain standing for a moment of silent prayer.

*Everybody remained standing for the prayer.*

Lord, make us instruments of change through laws that grant our people what they want in a way which distills their wisdom:

Where there have been decades of conflict, help us craft an instrument of peace based on justice and not on financial dependence;

When love between two people has gone sour, let us set the rules of disengagement that is fast, friendly and fair;

When there is hunger, bless us as we prepare a menu of programs that will feed both the mind and body of our young, and please help us provide for our tillers and our fishers as they deliver to us our daily meal;

When cars and commerce barely move, show us how we can make more trains run on time as we lay more tracks in front of them ahead of schedule;

When there is ignorance and fake news, make us beacons of enlightenment through speech that adds to, and not subtracts from, the sum of human knowledge;

When crimes still abound, grant us the resources to send more policemen on the streets so that when they patrol at night, a grateful people, secure in their homes, will say, "There by the grace of taxes we pay, they go";

And because all of these require money: Ask from those who we owe, forgive us our debts and lead us not to the temptation of maxing out our national credit.

Amen.

The Majority Leader is recognized

## ROLL CALL

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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. 69, dated February 28, 2018.\**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 198 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). With 198 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

## APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 68, dated February 27, 2018. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

\* See ANNEX (printed separately)

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the reading of the Reference of Business. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, before we go on, we would like to acknowledge the presence of some of the guests in the gallery. They are the guests of the Hon. Jericho Jonas B. Nograles, the Barangay Captains, namely: Teofilo Guinoo, Rogelio Nocom, Franklin Librado, Roderico Llubit, Jose Gamolo, Cristito Lazaro, Antonio Tinasas, Ronaldo Trajera, Bendor Calamba, Nestor Oguio, and Kagawad Allan Linao.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7179  
ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7179, contained in Committee Report No. 607, as reported out by the Committee on Justice.

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

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the title of the measure.

*With the permission of the Body, and since copies of the measure have been previously distributed, the Secretary General read only the title thereof without prejudice to inserting its text in the Congressional Record.*

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7179, entitled: AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO MAYLEEN TING.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo of the

Second District of Pampanga to deliver her sponsorship speech. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Representative Arroyo is recognized. Please proceed.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF  
REP. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

REP. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of Rep. Carmelo “Jon” B. Lazatin II who is the Congressman of the First District of Pampanga, and the Chairman of the Committee on Justice, Rep. Reynaldo V. Umali, I would like to ask our fellow Congressmen to pass this Bill granting Filipino citizenship to Mayleen Ting.

She is an American but she grew up in the Philippines from childhood because her parents had put up a very important corporation, TIPCO, in the First District of Pampanga, the district of Congressman Lazatin, a very, very long time ago in the 1970s. She grew up here, she studied here, she inherited the management of the company and having grown up in the Philippines, she wants to become a Filipino citizen.

I wish there was a way for foreigners who grew up in the Philippines to become Filipino citizens without having to go through a law. I know of many people who grew up in the Philippines but sadly, they then had to leave the country because they were not granted Filipino citizenship. I think we should amend our immigration laws to provide a way for foreigners who grew up in the Philippines to become Filipinos but until that happens, we will have to go through the legislative process.

So, therefore, Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can grant Filipino citizenship to Mayleen Ting.

Thank you.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is a motion to open the period of sponsorship and debate.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman from the First District of Albay for his interpellation. I so move.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Representative Lagman is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, there are actually three bills granting, by congressional grant, citizenship to certain foreigners: House Bills No. 7179, 7180 and 7206. Before we proceed in considering these Bills on Second Reading, this Representation would like to be given more time to access the legislative records of these three bills so that I can ask policy questions again with respect to Congress granting citizenship to foreigners, instead of these foreigners going through Republic Act No. 9139 which is the acquisition of Philippine citizenship by administrative naturalization.

I therefore move, Mr. Speaker, to suspend further consideration of this Bill and the two other Bills. I am not per se against the Bill but again, I would like to ask, from the Committee on Justice, certain policy questions.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, we note the manifestation of the Gentleman from the First District of Albay, and we were listening intently when he previously interpellated the Chairman of the Committee on Justice regarding the issue on the grant of citizenship by legislative fiat. We are one with him in seeking a solution for a legislative format for the grant of Philippine citizenship to foreigners; but could we please plead for his indulgence in the case of these three bills which had already gone through the legislative mill, to allow them to be processed while we together seek a legislative way for granting citizenship to foreign nationals.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Congressman Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. I am not asking for a long time to access the legislative records and other pertinent facts about these foreigners who are projected to be the congressional grantees of citizenship. Maybe next week, it is only a few days, so that I could properly ask the necessary policy questions. In one of these bills, I was informed that the projected grantee is not even a resident of the Philippines. So, I just would like to have some time. By next week, we can proceed with the consideration of these bills.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, may I make one last appeal on behalf of our colleague and the beloved former President, my cabalen, Mme. Gloria, who has so graciously taken to the floor today to sponsor this measure. May I please plead with the Gentleman from the First District of Albay that if this lady, the subject of this legislation, is not the person with deficiencies in her application, could we just please allow this particular piece of legislation to go through today on Second Reading, so that it will not be held up as we work for the crafting of a legislative process on the grant of Filipino citizenship, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, I would agree to the request of the distinguished Majority Leader, but only with respect to House Bill No. 7179, which is sponsored by no less than the former President of the Republic, but I would have to ask some policy questions just the same. With respect to the two other bills, House Bills No. 7180 and 7206, then we should hold those in abeyance until I am able to access the legislative records and pertinent facts about these projected grantees.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we thank the Gentleman from the First District of Albay for giving us the chance to go through with House Bill No. 7179, and we will be true to our commitment to him not to take up the other two bills while he is still seeking a way for the legislative grant of citizenship.

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

Congressman Lagman is recognized. Will you proceed with House Bill No. 7179?

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Please proceed.

REP. LAGMAN. May we know the special attributes and extraordinary achievements that Mayleen Ting has, that Mayleen Ting possesses, so much so that she would be qualified for a congressional grant of citizenship without undergoing the acquisition of Philippine citizenship by administrative naturalization under Republic Act No. 9139?

REP. MACAPAGAL-ARROYO. To my knowledge, Mr. Speaker, Ms. Ting grew up in the Philippines because her parents invested in a very important industry in our region, specifically Mabalacat, Pampanga, which is the district of Congressman Lazatin and this was way back in

the 1970s when we still did not have too many investments. They put up a very important industry, and this is a very big paper factory that is located in Mabalacat. In fact, I remember meeting her parents when they were new investors in the Philippines and the person who introduced them to me was the publisher of an important newspaper. So, the importance of this company is that it allowed the newspaper industry to flourish because they provided a lot of the newsprint at that time. This girl grew up in the Philippines, this is really her home, and now she has taken over the family business and she loves the Philippines.

So, my experience with her is the same as my experience with at least two or three other foreigners who grew up in the Philippines and who contributed a lot to the economy of the Philippines. For instance, one of them is the son of Allan Miyay, Edward Miyay who grew up in the Philippines and inherited a lot of businesses in the Philippines, who is a Filipino in every sense except that he does not qualify under the *jus sanguinis* requirement.

So, she tried to apply for an administrative Philippine citizenship, but somehow or the other, she could not qualify with some requirements. If I am not mistaken, many others complained, like even the Filipino-Chinese and the Indian-Chinese who have been here for a long time, because I understand that one big problem is the requirement of a continuous stay in the country. I am not quite sure if that is the case, but many have complained about that. Mr. Miyay, about two years ago, sadly left the country and went back to France because he could not get Philippine citizenship.

I also have had another experience with a Chinese priest; he came from China and then became a priest here. You know, in China, there is no religion. He lived here for the longest time and, again, he also tried to comply administratively with the requirements of citizenship. He was not able to do so and so, he had to leave the country and now lives in Australia. I have met many, many others, Mr. Speaker, and I feel that we missed a lot of potential good citizens because of our very restrictive immigration and citizenship laws. Though this lady is from the district of Congressman Lazatin, I very gladly agree to co-author a bill on her citizenship not that she is a national hero, not that she is a captain of a large industry, but because of the fact that she wants to be a Filipino, and she has been a good citizen in every sense of the word except for the legal documents. I do not think that we should require somebody to be so special and so heroic, except to know that they have been behaving as good citizens of the Philippines, to be able to give them the legal right to become citizens, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). What is the pleasure of the Gentleman?

REP. ATIENZA. May we ask for a suspension of the session.

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

REP. ATIENZA. One minute, Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, Your Honor, the Honorable Lagman has the floor. He is interpellating the Sponsor of this measure, so the floor belongs to the Honorable Lagman, and I move that he be allowed to continue with his interpellation, which the good Sponsor is answering.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, may I appeal to the Majority Leader to just give us one minute to talk to the interpellator. Is there anything abnormal or irregular about that?

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no objection to this one-minute suspension of the session.

REP. ATIENZA. One minute.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move then that we suspend the session for one minute.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The session is suspended for one-minute.

*It was 4:35 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 4:37 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, with the indulgence of the Honorable Atienza and the Honorable Macapagal-Arroyo, I move that we recognize the Hon. Lito Atienza.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Congressman Atienza is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. During the break, we had a short talk with the interpellator, the honorable

Congressman Lagman, and indeed he has a good point in his argument that Congress should be very prudent and very careful in exercising the grant of Filipino citizenship to anyone. I agree with him, we agree with him, and I believe that the greater majority of our Members here agree with him.

Upon request by many of us, since he has no genuine first-hand derogatory information on the person being given the honor of being called a Filipino, he has acceded to our request that we now pass judgment on this particular person in the Bill that Congresswoman Macapagal Arroyo is now sponsoring on the floor.

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

REP. ATIENZA. We will join him, in the same breath, in raising the valid points that he has for us to be very prudent in granting Filipino citizenship to anyone.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, our parliamentary status is that we are in the consideration still of House Bill No. 7179 and with that, I move again for the recognition of the honorable Gentleman from the First District of Albay, the Hon. Edcel Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Congressman Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I confirm the statements of the Hon. Lito Atienza.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would relent in my interpellation but on the two other Bills, I will again rise to make policy questions. I am just being consistent, Mr. Speaker. On the first bill last week granting citizenship to an American, I stood up to ask clarificatory questions, and I said that when I was the Chairman of the Committee on Justice, I did not recommend the approval of any bill granting congressional citizenship to an alien.

Now, just a note, Mr. Speaker, the fact that the foreigner grew up in the Philippines and her parents organized a paper industry corporation, will not really qualify one to be granted Philippine citizenship because many foreigners would have the same qualifications. I would like to suggest also that we amend Republic Act

No. 9139 to make it less stringent, but we should not make the acquisition of citizenship one with facility because citizenship is a sacrosanct attribute. On that note, Mr. Speaker, I would like also to say that this particular grantee, Mayleen Ting, is not even qualified under Republic Act No. 9139 to acquire Philippine citizenship by naturalization.

Mr. Speaker, I will not proceed anymore with my interpellation as I committed to the Honorable Atienza and to the honorable former President of the Republic.

Thank you.

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

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you, Honorable Lagman.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, there being no other colleague who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate on House Bill No. 7179. 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. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments. However, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments on House Bill No. 7179. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval on Second Reading of House Bill 7179. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye.*

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay.*

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7179  
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7179 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, before we move on, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests in the gallery of Hon. Ben P. Evardone of the Lone District of Eastern Samar: the barangay officials and municipal employees headed by the Hon. Roger Eder, ABC Municipal President of Lawaan; and Hon. Darwin Cernal of Llorente.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. We also have in the gallery, the guests of Hon. Michael L. Romero, PhD, Representative of 1-PACMAN Party-List and they are Julius Tamayo, Jeffrey Ciocon, Windell Billiones, Eduardo Sumpay, Josephine Tamayo, Charlene Kate Pabular and Lady Gles Gonzales.

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6973

*Continuation*

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up the Unfinished Business. I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6973, under Committee Report No. 572, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed to read only the title of the measure.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6973, entitled: AN ACT ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE METROPOLITAN MANILA COUNCIL IN FORMULATING POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS, AND IN ENACTING ORDINANCES FOR METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7924, ENTITLED, "AN ACT CREATING THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES."

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Winston "Winnie" Castelo, the Sponsor of the said Bill and the Chairman of the Metro Manila Development Committee. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Sponsor is recognized. Congressman Castelo, please proceed.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. CASTELO

REP. CASTELO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

For consideration before this Body is a very important piece of legislation. Much has been said about this legislation and as you all know, we are now experiencing tremendous traffic. The actual mandate of the Metro Manila Development Authority is not fully realized because there are some setbacks, so it has been inefficient lately. However, there is a way wherein we will be able to contain and realize the mandate of the MMDA, particularly the problems on garbage, traffic and flooding and that is, to empower the Metro Manila Council composed of the Metro Manila mayors.

There has been apprehension, Mr. Speaker, that the said Bill would be treated as usurping the power of the local government units. I would want to assure you that there is nothing in the provisions of the said Bill that would undermine the power of the local government unit. In fact, there are a lot of technical working groups—four actually—which conducted meetings where we invited the Mayors League, the Vice Mayors League, the NMYL, the Philippine Councilors League, and they interposed no objections to the same. With that, Mr. Speaker, I hope all of the Representatives here present would soon realize the importance of this piece of legislation.

So, I move for the approval of the measure, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, the status of this Bill is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we proceed to the interpellation.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, to interpellate our Sponsor, I move that we recognize the Hon. Tobias “Toby” Tiangco from the Lone District of Navotas City. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

Representative Tiangco is recognized. Please proceed.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, honorable Sponsor, good afternoon. I would want to ask, Mr. Speaker, the honorable Sponsor, if he is willing.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Is the Sponsor willing?

REP. CASTELO. I am willing, Your Honor.

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

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, does this Bill give powers to the MMDA to enact ordinances?

REP. CASTELO. No. In reality, strictly speaking, it would not because the very function, the very beauty of the Bill is for the Metro Manila Council to convene, and whatever resolutions, whatever ordinances approved by the Metro Manila Council will also be reverted to the local government units for their approval. In other words, the Metro Manila Council, composed of the Metro Manila Mayors, will not enjoy these legislative powers that are vested only upon the local government units. There is no violation of the Local Government Code, and we realize and we respect the powers of the LGU, the Sangguniang Bayan particularly, to legislate laws.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, so the categorical answer of the honorable Sponsor is that this does not give the MMDA the power to enact ordinances. Am I correct, Mr. Speaker?

REP. CASTELO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TIANGCO. Okay. This is where all the confusion comes in, Mr. Speaker, because based on the copy of the Bill that I have, it gives the MMDA powers to enact ordinances. Mr. Speaker, just to make sure that I am holding the same copy of the proposed Bill as that of the honorable Sponsor, may I request the honorable Sponsor to read the title of House Bill No. 6973.

REP. CASTELO. Mr. Speaker, the title of the Bill is as follows: AN ACT ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE METROPOLITAN MANILA COUNCIL IN FORMULATING POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS, AND IN ENACTING ORDINANCES FOR METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7924, ENTITLED, “AN ACT CREATING THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

Yes, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker, the words are “Enacting Ordinances” and we admit that. However, no ordinances, no resolutions will be approved without—I repeat—without the concurrence of the sanggunian. So, if the good Representative from Navotas is fearful and concerned that it would be usurping the power of the sanggunian, I assure him that there is no part of the proposed Bill that would compromise the legislative powers of the sanggunian or any LGU in Metro Manila, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, the question was very simple; the answer was very simple. When I asked that the title be read, the Sponsor was the one who clearly said, “ENACT ORDINANCES FOR METRO MANILA.” When I asked, Mr. Speaker: Does this Bill give power to enact ordinances? The honorable Sponsor said, “No.” When I asked him to read the title of the Bill, he read it—“ENACT ORDINANCES FOR METRO MANILA.”

Mr. Speaker, which is true—the answer or the title?

REP. CASTELO. Well, we have to insist, Mr. Speaker, that the sole authority to approve ordinances is vested on the LGUs. However, the Metro Manila Council, being composed of the Metro Manila mayors, is not precluded from introducing resolutions and ordinances and these will not take effect without the concurrence of the LGUs. That is the problem right now, Your Honor, Mr. Speaker. There are a lot of ordinances and resolutions adopted by the Metro Manila Council that have no effect of law. So, one typical example

here is the identification of bus terminals, iyong iba-iba po ang mga requirements, iba-iba po ang mga conditions.

Another shining example, which was a recent subject matter in our Committee meeting, is the unified ticketing system. For every municipality, for every city, there are different kinds or issuances of tickets. There is no uniformity, hindi po synchronized, there is no harmony and so, to each his own. That is why through the Metro Manila Council, it is hoped that these issues would be addressed. However, whatever is approved in the Metro Manila Council, it will always be devolved or the sanggunian will always be consulted, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, I am very sorry but I cannot leave this question, and I will have to keep asking it because the answer is different from the title.

Mr. Speaker, I will ask again: Which is the real, alin ba dito iyong totoo? Kanina ho—tatagalugin ko naman kasi doon sa English, hindi ho kami nagkaintindihan. Noong sa English, tinanong ko, “Does it give MMDA the power to enact ordinances”? Ang sabi ho, “No” but when he read the title, it clearly stated therein, “ENACTING ORDINANCES.” Ngayon, tatagalugin ko na lang ho—dito ho ba ay binibigyan ang MMDA ng kapangyarihan na mag-enact ng ordinansa o hindi?

REP. FERNANDO. Mr. Speaker.

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

May I request that we recognize the new Sponsor of the Bill?

REP. FERNANDO. Yes.

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, we have no objection and we move for the recognition of the Hon. Bayani F. Fernando.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The Honorable Fernando is recognized to sponsor the Bill. Please proceed to answer the question.

REP. FERNANDO. Mr. Speaker, my honorable colleague seems to have misread the Bill. It is not the MMDA but it is the MMC, Metro Manila Council. It is different. We have to differentiate between the MMDA and the Metro Manila Council. The Metro Manila Council is actually composed of, basically, all the local government units of Metro Manila and they are being represented by their mayor in that Council. More so, they are represented in the Council by their Vice Mayors League, as the President of the Vice Mayors League of Metro Manila is part of that

Council; and also, the League of Councilors, the sanggunian members, its President for Metro Manila is also part of that Council. So, I do not think there is a conflict in that aspect.

Thank you.

REP. TIANGCO. So, Mr. Speaker, I will ask the Hon. Bayani Fernando to be the one to read the title of the Bill. Maybe, when he reads it, it will be different, so that we will be clear whether we are giving the Metro Manila Council the power to enact ordinances.

So, may I request the honorable Sponsor to read it so that, maliwanag, are we giving the power or not? Sabi nila, hindi, so, we will request that the title be read just to make sure that I am holding the same copy.

REP. FERNANDO. The title is: AN ACT ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE METROPOLITAN MANILA COUNCIL IN FORMULATING POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS, AND IN ENACTING ORDINANCES FOR METRO MANILA, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7924, ENTITLED, “AN ACT CREATING THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.”

In conjunction with this, it may be also good for us to refer to the MMDA Law which created that Metro Manila Council, which law was passed in this Congress and it says thereat—that the publication of it—that the Metro Manila Council, the MMC actually is empowered to pass ordinances, policies, rules and regulations and ordinances. That is very clear in the law.

Unfortunately, some courts have actually changed this—in a way, there was some judicial legislation that happened and the courts disregarded that and they find that the MMDA or the Metro Manila Council has no right to pass ordinances, where in fact, it is mentioned in so many instances in the said law that the MMDA, on certain functions, basically, on things that are of metrowide impact or metrowide effect, is actually given—the law gives the Metro Manila Council that right on those particular things. Like, for example, on traffic, the law says that the MMDA—and it actually mandates that the MMDA will have to put up a single ticketing system for Metro Manila. Single ticketing for Metro Manila includes the formulation of policies, rules and regulations and ordinances.

So, that law even said, particularly, that the MMC actually has the right to impose fines and penalties and it can actually confiscate licenses and in so many other instances; but anyway, this would actually be giving up all those powers given to the MMC by that R.A. No. 7924.



It is giving it up, and that power now is given by this Bill to the local governments as represented by their councils. So, I do not see anything that would impair on or remove any power of the local governments.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, so, the honorable Sponsor also read into the records the words “ENACT ORDINANCES FOR METRO MANILA.” When asked whether we are giving powers to the MMDA to enact ordinances, the answer is “No”. When asked to read the title, he read it and stated “ENACTING ORDINANCES.” So, alin ba talaga?

REP. FERNANDO. I have said earlier, Mr. Speaker, that it is the MMC and not the MMDA. It is the MMC, the Metro Manila Council, and the MMDA is just an instrument of that MMC.

REP. TIANGCO. Okay, I will rephrase it. So, does this Bill give powers to the MMC to enact ordinances?

REP. FERNANDO. Mr. Speaker, please repeat the question.

REP. TIANGCO. Does this bill, itong Bill ho na ito ay binibigyan iyong MMC o iyong Metro Manila Council ng kapangyarihan to enact ordinances? Ang sabi kasi ninyo ho kanina ay hindi ang MMDA, kundi ang MMC. So, binabago ko ho ang tanong: Ang Bill ba na ito ay binibigyan ang MMC ng kapangyarihan to enact ordinances?

REP. FERNANDO. Hindi po. Lalabas na hindi sapagkat ang kapangyarihan ay ibinibigay na nga sa mga lokal na pamahalaan sa pamamagitan ng kanilang local councils. Ang local councils, they have the right to pass ordinances, hindi ba? Ano sila, they have that legislative power. Gini-give up na nga ng MMC that power, at ibinibigay na natin sa kanila para wala na lang kuwestyon. In fact, in the end, it will be to the benefit of the MMC because everybody, all the local governments are members of it anyway, they are part and parcel of it.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, ang sabi ho ng honorable Sponsor ay hindi ho binibigyan ng kapangyarihan iyong MMC o iyong Metro Manila Council na gumawa ng ordinansa ngunit sa title ho, AN ACT ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE METROPOLITAN MANILA COUNCIL IN FORMULATING POLICIES, RULES, REGULATIONS AND IN ENACTING ORDINANCES FOR METRO MANILA et cetera.

So, bakit magkaiba ho iyong sagot doon sa titulo? Ang sinasabi nila, hindi binibigyan ng kapangyarihan,

ngunit kapag sila ay nagbasa noong titulo, kahit basahin ko ho iyong titulo, nakasulat doon, “ENACT ORDINANCES.” So, alin ho ba talaga ang totoo? Hindi ho tayo makakaalis dito sa isyu na ito, 16 minutes na ho tayo. Iba iyong sagot sa tanong, at iba naman iyong sinasabi noong title. So alin ba talaga—binibigyan ba o hindi? Alin ho ba ang tama, iyong sagot nila o iyong titulo?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Majority Leader, we have a change of Sponsor.

REP. CASTELO. Majority Leader, may I ask, to amplify the statement, that is, that we recognize one of the coauthors?

REP. BONDOC. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize both of them so that they can defend the measure alternately.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Okay, the tag team of Reps. Winston Castelo and Bayani F. Fernando is hereby recognized.

REP. CASTELO. Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker. The title of the proposed Bill would not spell everything, Mr. Speaker and so, do not have to be technical and strict about it. If you will read the provision of the Bill in one of the sections thereat, it is clearly spelled out that the power of the LGUs will always be respected, that there will be no ordinances and resolutions approved by the Metro Manila Council without the concurrence of the sanggunians.

This is the very purpose of this Bill, Mr. Speaker. In the IRR on the creation of the Metro Manila Development Authority, it is already spelled out that the MMDA could promulgate ordinances and resolutions. However, the experience of the several Chairmen who headed the MMDA is, wala pong nagagawa ang Metro Manila Council at that time and so, we have to empower them. We have to mandate na lahat po ng mga maa-approve ng Metro Manila Council should always be devolved sa sanggunians for their action, something na hindi po nagagawa before. Even during the time of Rep. BF Fernando, they have been ineffective, they have been slow. So, kung nakikita po natin, kaya nga mayroon pong emergency power, hindi po talagang na-exercise ang function to the fullest ng Metro Manila Council.

This is the very purpose of the Bill, Mr. Speaker—to empower them and to make them more effective because as it is, iyong IRR that empowered the Metro Manila Council to promulgate ordinances and resolutions ay hindi po nagiging effective, kulang pa. Kaya kung may mga trapik, ito ay dahil po hindi

synchronized ang mga batas, ang issuance ng mga ordinansa, lalong-lalo na po sa mga bus terminals, lalong-lalo na po doon po sa unified ticket system at iyong mga no smoking ban. Iba-iba po ang mga batas sapagkat kulang po ang poder ng MMDA at that time. We are trying to cure that defect, Mr. Speaker, so that function of the MMDA will be utilized in the hope that iyong magnitude ng problem po ng traffic ho dito, hopefully, ay maayos na po natin. It is an impossible task, it is a difficult undertaking but, at least, we tried our best by coming up with this piece of legislation that would redound to the interest and benefit of our constituents. It is our only hope, it is our only chance. Recently, the JICA issued a document wherein it stated that P3.5 billion is lost daily because of lost productivity and lost opportunities. So, ito po ang ating pag-asa na sana po ay mas malakas ang MMDA para nang sa ganoon po, iyong function po nito ay magiging kaakit-akit, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Thank you very much. Before we proceed, the Chair would like to ...

REP. CASTELO. So, I would like to reiterate and emphasize once more to our colleague in Navotas that we should not be technical and strict about the title. The title is just a title and that if you would read the provisions as contained in the Bill, we will realize that we would not solely devolve functions doon po sa Metro Manila Council, and that we will still be respecting the functions and the power of the LGUs.

In fact, when we deliberated on this measure several times, Mr. Speaker, we took into consideration the Supreme Court's jurisprudence on the *Bel Air vs. MMDA* case. This was brought up, so we skirted this issue, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Chair would like to make exception to the statement, "The title is just a title." No, the title controls the contents of the particular Bill and so, it is not the content which explains the title, but the title which explains the contents. It is the other way around.

So, may we request that you rephrase that statement completely as it is totally against the grain of legal logic.

REP. CASTELO. May I just rephrase and restate, Mr. Speaker, that the title does not spell out everything...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). It should spell out everything.

REP. CASTELO. ... for us to understand, I think.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The contents of the Bill cannot go beyond the title of the Bill.

REP. CASTELO. My only appeal, Mr. Speaker, is for us to appreciate not only the title, we should also read the provisions of the Bill.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). I agree.

REP. CASTELO. However, we respect the opinion of the good Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). No, that is legal logic. That is not my opinion, honorable Sponsor. Be that as it may, just to clarify the issue, why is the Sponsor hesitant if he is confident that this will not affect the local government units in their autonomy to craft laws and ordinances? Why is the Sponsor not amenable to changing the title?

REP. CASTELO. So, what is the train of thought of the interpellator?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). I think his train of ...

REP. CASTELO. Is he batting for the amendment of the title?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). No, his train of thought, Mr. Speaker...

REP. CASTELO. ... so that we will ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). ...I am taking up the cudgels for the Plenary because both of you have been going back and forth on the same issue, reading the titles over and over again and coming up with different conclusions, but reading the same thing.

Let me ask—are you amenable, Mr. Sponsor, at the proper time, to amend the title of the Bill to reflect the explanation which you and the other honorable Sponsor, Congressman Fernando, has been painstakingly explaining to us? Are you willing to amend the title to finally put this issue to rest so we can move forward?

REP. CASTELO. I have consulted my coauthor and ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Ang bilis ha.

REP. CASTELO. ... he has given his consent that in

the right time, we are amenable to have a minor revision of the title, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Minor revision—does that mean, a period, comma, or a word?

REP. CASTELO. Well, as long as it is an acceptable amendment and so, we have to wait for the proposed amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). No, the Committee can itself, issue an amendment. So, if you are amenable to an amendment, what would the Committee amendment be?

REP. CASTELO. Well, we have to wait for the proposed amendment of the ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). No, it is a Committee amendment, not his amendment. It is the Committee's amendment.

REP. CASTELO. So, ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). If you are amenable, Mr. Sponsor, then the Committee—you, being the Sponsor of the Committee, are willing to sponsor an amendment on your own, the Committee on its own, and so, what would be the Committee's proposed amendment to the title?

REP. CASTELO. On that, Mr. Speaker, I have to consult with my coauthor. If it is possible that we call for a one-minute suspension so that I would be able to confer with my coauthor with respect to the proposed amendment on the train of thought of the Chair.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, before the one-minute suspension, can I just reply? I do not have any objection. Can I just reply before the one-minute suspension?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). One last point before we suspend.

REP. TIANGCO. Okay.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). To both parties, please come up with a solution, or we move on to the next Bill, okay? Thank you very much.

One minute from the Gentleman—please go ahead, you are recognized.

REP. TIANGCO. Yes. Mr. Speaker, I totally agree with you about the title, that we cannot use the reason that we cannot be technical or strict about the title

because the title has to reflect the intent of the whole Bill. I totally agree with the Chair, and the power to enact ordinances is not only contained in the title but in fact, it is contained in other sections of the Bill.

That is all, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Okay. Let us have a one-minute suspension. Please make use of the time wisely.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Okay. Before we suspend the session, the Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Before we suspend, we would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of some Members. We have the guests of the Hon. Rolando "Klarex" A. Uy and the Hon. Maximo B. Rodriguez Jr. of the First and Second Districts of Cagayan de Oro City, respectively, and they are Barangay Captains Marlo Tabac, Francisco Laihee—sorry, Lucilo Legaspi, Ernesto Edrote, Joel Perocho, Cecilio Dagasaan, Felipe Baang, Mary Cor Calizo, Jacky Lynn Mern, Dante Roa, Vivian Malingin, Nancy Aban, Eric Nafarete, and Anniecris Gacang; and the honorable Barangay Captain Rosemary Uy who is the wife of Congressman Klarex Uy, and of course, the Kagawads from the First and Second Districts of Cagayan de Oro City.

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. We also would like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Sabiniano S. Canama of COOP-NATCCO Party-List and they are Rola Andal, Jana Mensiona, Zita Manaug, Charlin Salazar, Romeo Batilo, Socorro Canonigo, Lyneth Belarmino, Annabel Sayson, and Socrates Manaug. I so move.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker. I move to suspend the session.

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

*It was 5:15 p.m.*

## RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:26 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, may we recognize the Sponsor, Congressman Fernando, and the interpellator, Congressman Tiangco.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The parliamentary status is, after we went on break, there was an agreement that the two parties would try to come up with a solution in amending the title of the Bill. Take note that we are just merely on the title of the Bill and not on any particular section. So, with finality, to put this issue to rest, is the Sponsor now amenable at this point to have an amendment, at the proper time, limiting the powers of the MMC in enacting ordinances?

REP. FERNANDO. Mr. Speaker, yes, we have. I agree with the Chair that, probably, we can take this up during the period of amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Okay. So, at this point, we are not in agreement that there will be any amendment as to the title of the Bill.

REP. FERNANDO. We are just looking for the proper word for it.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Okay. So, I will take that as a notice at this time. So, we move on, Honorable Tiangco.

REP. TIANGCO. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). We are now past the title of the Bill. Let us now proceed to the specific sections and contents of this particular House Bill.

Please proceed, Congressman Tiangco.

REP. TIANGCO. Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker. Earlier, the honorable Sponsor made a clarification that it was the MMC and not the MMDA. So, may I request that the honorable Sponsor, just to make sure that we are holding the same copy, to read lines 1 to 8, page 3, of House Bill No. 6973, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERNANDO. Line 1 reads, and I quote: "... supervision of the President of the Philippines] THE METROPOLITAN MANILA DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SHALL FORMULATE RULES AND

REGULATIONS AND ENACT ORDINANCES TO ADDRESS METRO-WIDE PROBLEMS BY AUGMENTING AND HARMONIZING CONFLICTING POLICIES BETWEEN AND AMONG THE LOCALITIES OF METROPOLITAN MANILA."

REP. TIANGCO. So, Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the words "ENACTING ORDINANCES" in the title do not refer only to the MMC but also to the MMDA, based on the own reading of the honorable Sponsor of the Bill. I think there is no argument there, unless the honorable Sponsor will say that I heard it wrongly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. FERNANDO. You are right, Mr. Speaker. I think the comment is accurate on the words "ENACT ORDINANCES." Actually, it is part of a process because, whatever it is, that ordinance should only come from the sanggunians which approves ordinances. Actually, the Metro Manila Council is part of that, but the final approval is made by the 17 sanggunians of Metro Manila.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, will the honorable Sponsor confirm that these words "ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT ORDINANCES" are present in line 10 of page 4?

REP. FERNANDO. Yes, that is right, Mr. Speaker, where it reads: "ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT ORDINANCES AND OTHER REGULATIONS THAT FALL WITHIN ITS MANDATE, UPON THE APPROVAL BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE COUNCIL."

REP. TIANGCO. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Again, these words "ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT ORDINANCES" are not only in the title but are also found in Section 5 of the Bill. Will the honorable Sponsor also confirm that the words "PRESCRIBE, FORMULATE, AND ISSUE ORDINANCES" are present in Section 6 of the Bill, on lines 13 and 14 of page 5, Mr. Speaker?

REP. FERNANDO. Yes, Mr. Speaker, on the phrase "PRESCRIBE, FORMULATE, AND ISSUE ORDINANCES," I think the MMC will issue the ordinances as approved by the sanggunians. I see nothing wrong with that and it is actually consistent with the idea of this measure.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, may I ask the honorable Sponsor up to what area is the effectivity of a local ordinance?

REP. FERNANDO. As you said, Mr. Speaker, the local ordinance should be implementable in that locality or wherever the law was made for the purpose.

REP. TIANGCO. Does that mean, Mr. Speaker, that the Sponsor agrees with me that an ordinance, for example, that is passed in Navotas can only be implemented in Navotas and cannot be implemented outside Navotas?

REP. FERNANDO. I agree with that, Mr. Speaker, 100 percent. The local government ordinance can only be implemented in that particular locality.

REP. TIANGCO. Okay. Mr. Speaker, if the honorable Sponsor agrees that the ordinance is only implementable within the political boundary where it has been approved, how will this Bill implement Section 5(I) which reads: "IF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE IS APPROVED, THE METRO MANILA COUNCIL SHALL RATIFY THE APPROVED ORDINANCE BY THE MAJORITY VOTE OF ALL ITS VOTING MEMBERS." In other words, if it is approved, how will they implement the provision—that if the majority voted, if nine out of 17 LGUs approved the ordinance, how will they implement it in the LGUs that did not approve it if the honorable Sponsor agrees that the ordinance is only applicable in the LGU where it was approved?

REP. FERNANDO. Mr. Speaker, I think that it will no longer be a local ordinance because it was approved by the collegial body. If it was approved, it is a collective decision not only of a local government, but of all the local governments comprising Metro Manila. I do not see anything wrong with that. As a matter of fact, these ordinances that we are talking about can only happen on things that would affect other communities and they are not limited to a particular local government. It is no longer a local ordinance once it is approved by the 17 local governments.

I think there is a misconception on that aspect, which I think the MMDA Law failed to define, on what is really local autonomy. Local autonomy is only good for the particular interest of a locality but where the interest extends outside of its boundaries, it cannot unilaterally make any ordinance that will have any effect at all. So, that is it, and even in the past, in the other part of this Bill, it is also stated herein that it will not transgress because this ordinance will only be within the mandate of the MMDA, within its mandate as prescribed in R.A. No. 7924. I think we have to recognize that voting carries with it a responsibility. Voting is an authority, it is an exercise of authority, and so once you vote, there is a consequence to it, there is a responsibility that goes with it.

Halimbawa, dito sa atin, we enact an ordinance, probably, on tax. Ang big ba sabihin, lahat ng hindi bumoto sa tax is now exempted from paying the tax? Hindi naman puwede iyon. It is like the Congress of

the Philippines, that once we vote on something, it is of national interest. Hindi ba, mayroon tayong days allotted for local bills, but there are days na we only entertain things for the Filipino people, the whole Filipino nation, not only for a particular district or a particular locale. That is, I think, the idea of this thing which actually, for so long, the mayors of Metro Manila composing the Metro Manila Council have actually not exercised or they have lost that, and in the end, they lost their belief and they think the Metro Manila Council is that ineffective, but it is because they themselves have failed to recognize their responsibilities. So, I think this one will create something that will oblige the local governments to at least toe the line, to act for the interest of the bigger Metro Manila, not confined only to their own constituency or their own locale.

Ngayon naman ay atin nang i-recognize ang 13 million Metro Manilans. Ni hindi nga alam ng ibang tao kung hanggang saan ang boundary ng kanilang local government pero, at least, ay magkaroon tayo ng isang boses sa pamamagitan nito. Hindi tayo puwedeng magkanya-kanya habang panahon. Napakalaki ng ating responsibilidad sa 13 milyong Pilipino. Katulad na nga ng single ticketing system. Pumunta ka sa 17 local governments sa Metro Manila at may kanya-kayang silang traffic laws. Hindi mo malaman kung ano ang susundin mo. Now, through this measure, at least after 24 years, we will be able to come out with a unified, single ticketing system for Metro Manila with laws that everybody can understand, and it will be for the protection of everybody in this metropolis.

Sa pamamagitan ng pagkawala ng isang batas para diyan, nagkaloko-loko ang lahat kaya hanggang sa bandang huli, kotong ang lumalabas sa ating mga lansangan. Hindi natin malaman kung saan tayo pupunta sapagkat ang mga motorista, in their confusion, resorted to only one thing—kotong. Iyan ang isang napapanatili. This was borne out—as I speak on this, emotional na ako—I think that, in the eight years of my stint with the MMDA, wala akong nakitang paraan dito, na talagang—kahapon nga, in a meeting with the Congressmen of Metro Manila, in that meeting yesterday ay nasabi nga ng ating former Speaker Belmonte iyong kakulangan noong kanilang ginawang MMDA Law 24 years ago. Ina-admit niya iyon, ina-accept niya iyon, na may kakulangan talaga.

Kaya nga ito ngayon ang sagot sa kakulangan na iyon, ang mabigyan natin ng hustong pamantayan ang lahat sa pamamagitan nito. If there is any better idea from anybody that can happen soon, then let it out, let us know. In the meantime, as I have not heard anything in so many years on how to remedy the situation, let us accept this one. Wala namang masama because with this Bill now, we will get involved—all the councilors and vice mayors of Metro Manila. The mayors did not have

time for meeting with the MMDA, and we never had a meeting where the mayors stayed for at least half an hour. They did not have time as they were so engrossed with so many problems in their locale. Now, at least with this, we will get all the councilors, the 298 or 287 councilors of the 17 cities of Metro Manila. If you count it, 297 or 287 councilors and 17 vice mayors now will be involved in creating policies for this metropolis. We need these policies.

Itong nangyayari sa atin na kaguluhan is because of the absence of clear-cut or, in many instances, total absence of rules, and we cannot rely on this Congress to do all these things. Congress is also engrossed in so many things and so, nobody is minding, nobody is taking up these problems so that we can have solutions to them. It affects even the character of every Metro Manilan, this absence of rules. We should note that the character of people starts with the laws, that it is molded by the laws implemented by the state. Without any clear-cut, unified laws for Metro Manila, we will be fragmented like we are now.

Thank you very much, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TIANGCO. Mr. Speaker, earlier, the honorable Sponsor made an analogy. Ang sabi ho niya, dito sa Congress, kapag pinagbotohan natin at majority ay pumayag, hindi naman pupuwedeng hindi kasama iyong hindi pumayag. Totoo ho iyon dahil tayong lahat ay inihalal as legislators, as Congressmen. Iyong mayor ho ng Metro Manila, inihalal siya as mayor ng Metro Manila. Hindi ho siya inihalal bilang legislator and so, papaano siya boboto doon sa MMC at iyong bobotohan niya ay magiging batas, e hindi naman siya inihalal bilang mambabatas? Siya ho ay inihalal bilang local chief executive kaya hindi ho talaga pupuwede na iyong pinagbotohan ng majority na pumayag na mga siyudad ay i-implement mo ito doon sa siyudad na hindi pumayag. Ang epekto ho noon ay, parang sinasabi na iyong ordinansa ay ginawa mong effective outside your political boundary, Mr. Speaker.

So, kanina ho, may binabanggit ang ating Sponsor na kapangyarihan ho iyan ng MMDA o MMC. Puwede ko ho bang malaman kung anong probisyon ho ng batas ang nagsasabi na may kapangyarihan ang MMDA o ang MMC na bumoto o gumawa ng ordinansa?

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6973

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 6973.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### REFERRAL OF HOUSE RESOLUTIONS ON INQUIRIES IN AID OF LEGISLATION

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

House Resolution No. 1358, to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

House Resolution No. 1360, to the Committee on Muslim Affairs;

House Resolution No. 1361, to the Committee on Muslim Affairs;

House Resolution No. 1362, to the Committee on Muslim Affairs;

House Resolution No. 1363, to the Committee on Government Enterprises and Privatization;

House Resolution No. 1370, to the Committee on Agrarian Reform;

House Resolution No. 1371, to the Committee on Agrarian Reform;

House Resolution No. 1373, to the Committee on Agrarian Reform;

House Resolution No. 1385, to the Committee on Energy;

House Resolution No. 1682, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;

House Resolution No. 1683, to the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability;

House Resolution No. 1684, to the Committee on Public Order and Safety;

House Resolution No. 1685, to the Committee on Tourism;

House Resolution No. 1686, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;

House Resolution No. 1689, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;

House Resolution No. 1692, to the Committee on Poverty Alleviation;

House Resolution No. 1693, to the Committees on Public Works and Highways and Housing and Urban Development;

House Resolution No. 1694, to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs;

House Resolution No. 1697, to the Committee on Health;

House Resolution No. 1702, to the Committee on Agriculture and Food;

House Resolution No. 1704 to the Committee on Overseas Workers Affairs; and

House Resolution No. 1706, to the Committee on Natural Resources.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is a motion to refer the aforementioned Resolutions to their respective Committees. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

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

*It was 5:47 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:48 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Minority Leader, Rep. Aniceto "John" D. Bertiz III. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is a motion to recognize the Minority Leader, Congressman Bertiz. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

Congressman Bertiz is recognized.

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker; thank you, Majority Leader.

Good evening. Mr. Speaker, on February 20, we elected the honorable Rep. Ciriaco S. Calalang of the Party-List KABAYAN as a member of the Special Committee on Bases Conversion on the part of the Minority. With leave of the House, I move that we reconsider the election of Representative Calalang to the Special Committee on Bases Conversion, and instead, I move that we elect Representative Calalang to the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for a minute suspension of the session.

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

*It was 5:49 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:50 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

Can you please clarify or restate the motion, Congressman Bertiz, one by one, please.

REP. BERTIZ. My apologies, Mr. Speaker. I will repeat.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The first one.

REP. BERTIZ. On February 20, we elected Rep. Ciriaco S. Calalang of the Party-List KABAYAN as a member of the Special Committee on Bases Conversion on the part of the Minority. With leave of the House, I move, Mr. Speaker, that we reconsider the election of Representative Calalang to the Special Committee on Bases Conversion. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Does the Majority Leader adopt the motion of the honorable Minority Leader?

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Yes, Mr. Speaker, we have no objection.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Can you turn that into a motion, please.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). We join the Minority Leader in the reconsideration, per the motion of the Minority Leader. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you so much, Mr. Speaker. Thank you so much, Majority Leader.

Mr. Speaker, I move that we elect Representative Calalang to the Special Committee

on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, we have no objection and we join the Minority Leader in his motion for the election.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). And adopting the same motion?

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). And adopting the same motion, Mr. Speaker. I so move.

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

REP. BERTIZ. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you so much, Majority Leader.

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 5:52 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 5:54 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we now 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, Communication, and Committee Reports, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:*

#### BILLS ON FIRST READING

House Bill No. 7231, entitled:

“AN ACT INTRODUCING A SYSTEM TO INCENTIVIZE TOURIST PURCHASE THROUGH THE REFUND OF VALUE ADDED TAX ON PERISHABLE AND NON-PERISHABLE GOODS AND ITEMS TO BOOST LOCAL ECONOMY AND TOURISM, AND OTHER PURPOSES THEREFOR”

By Representative Romero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 7232, entitled:

“AN ACT PRESCRIBING UNIFORM GUIDELINES FOR THE REGULATION AND OPERATION OF TRICYCLES IN THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Tambunting

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 7234, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING RESOURCE CENTERS FOR INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES/INDIGENOUS PEOPLES TO ENHANCE AND ENSURE DELIVERY OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFORE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

House Bill No. 7235, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE PROVISION OF EXCLUSIVE PARKING SPACE FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY AND PENALIZING THE UNAUTHORIZED USE THEREOF, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE BATAS PAMBANSA BLG. 344, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ACCESSIBILITY LAW”

By Representative Vargas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL SERVICES

House Bill No. 7237, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING A CLASS ON AGRICULTURE AND FISHERIES IN PUBLIC ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS”

By Representative Zubiri

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE



House Bill No. 7238, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INDIGENOUS TRAINING CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF QUEZON, BUKIDNON, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Zubiri

TO THE COMMITTEE ON INDIGENOUS CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

GRANTING A LUMP SUM GRATUITY PAY EQUIVALENT TO ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00), AND OTHER NON-MONETARY BENEFITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 393 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 7239, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION, USE, RECOVERY, COLLECTION, AND DISPOSAL OF PLASTIC STRAWS IN FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS”

By Representative Zubiri

TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECOLOGY

House Bill No. 7248, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING ALL STUDENTS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES (SUCs) RECEIVING SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, OR SUBSIDY FROM THE GOVERNMENT TO RENDER AT LEAST ONE YEAR OF RETURN SERVICE IN THE PHILIPPINES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado

TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 7244, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A NATIONAL REVERSE MIGRATION POLICY, CREATING THE NATIONAL REVERSE MIGRATION COMMISSION, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Manalo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS WORKERS AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 7249, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF VILLANUEVA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7245, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE REVISED CORPORATION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Romualdo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Bill No. 7250, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF JASAAN, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7246, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING THE PRACTICE OF AGRICULTURE PROFESSION IN THE PHILIPPINES CREATING FOR THE PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL REGULATORY BOARD FOR AGRICULTURISTS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Yap (A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7251, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF OPOL, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7247, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE HONORARIUM AND CHRISTMAS BONUS OF BARANGAY OFFICIALS, INCLUDING BARANGAY TANODS, AND MEMBERS OF THE LUPON NG TAGAPAMAYAPA, AND

House Bill No. 7252, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE CITY OF EL SALVADOR, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7253, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ALUBIJID, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7254, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LAGUINDINGAN, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7255, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF GITAGUM, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (R.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7256, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LIBERTAD, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7257, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF INITAO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (J.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7258, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A MULTI-SPECIES MARINE HATCHERY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANTICAO, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7259, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN AQUATIC RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTAL BREEDING STATION FOR LAKE, RIVER, AND OTHER INLAND FISHES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CLAVERIA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Uy (J.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON AQUACULTURE AND FISHERIES RESOURCES

House Bill No. 7261, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A DISTRICT HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LUCBAN, PROVINCE OF QUEZON AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Enverga  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 7262, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GOVERNMENT INTERNSHIP PROGRAM, PROVIDING FUNDS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Dalipe  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 7263, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MAY 29 OF EVERY YEAR AS ANNUAL NATIONAL COMMUNITY SAVINGS DAY”

By Representative Relampagos  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 1723, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION HONORING THE MEMORY

OF THE LATE NAPOLEON ABUEVA, A NATIONAL ARTIST AWARDEE AND THE FATHER OF MODERN PHILIPPINE SCULPTURE, FOR HIS SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PHILIPPINE ARTS AND EXPRESSING THE SINCERE CONDOLENCES AND SYMPATHY OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR HIS PASSING”

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

House Resolution No. 1724, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT TO REALLOCATE THE AMOUNT OF ONE BILLION PESOS FROM AVAILABLE SAVINGS TO AUGMENT THE ALLOCATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT, SPECIFICALLY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AMELIORATION ASSISTANCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE CONTROVERSIAL DENGUE VACCINES, IN TERMS OF COUNSELLING, MEDICAL AID, AND EMERGENCY ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO THE AFFECTED FAMILIES”

By Representative Vargas  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 1725, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING PRESIDENT RODRIGO DUTERTE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE FREE AND LONG-TERM MEDICAL SERVICES AND TREATMENT FOR MORE THAN 800,000 FILIPINO CHILDREN SUBJECTED TO THE DENGUE VACCINE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM”

By Representatives Brosas and De Jesus  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Resolution No. 1726, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE SUPREME COURT TO REVISIT THE PROSPECTIVE RULING ABANDONING THE AGUINALDO DOCTRINE”

By Representatives Teves, Sagarbarria and Limkaichong  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated 20 February 2018 of Roger E. Dino, Deputy Director, Office of the General Counsel

and Legal Services, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP), furnishing the House of Representatives with duly certified and authenticated BSP issuances, to wit:

Circular No. 997 dated 15 February 2018; and Circular Letter No. CL-2018-011 dated 9 February 2018.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON BANKS AND FINANCIAL INTERMEDIARIES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Rural Development and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 629), re H.B. No. 7266, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A RURAL EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 530 and 5188

Sponsors: Representatives Ramos, Nograles (K.A.) and Batocabe

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Information (Committee Report No. 630), re H.B. No. 7290, entitled:

“AN ACT CHANGING THE COMPOSITION OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN’S TELEVISION, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 6 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8370, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘CHILDREN’S TELEVISION ACT OF 1997’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4503

Sponsors: Representatives Lanete and De Venecia  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Revision of Laws (Committee Report No. 631), re H.B. No. 6285, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING JANUARY 18 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY FOR ALL KASAMBAHAY IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY TO BE KNOWN AS ‘ARAW NG KASAMBAHAY’ ”

recommending its approval without amendment  
Sponsors: Representatives Primicias-Agabas and Fariñas

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability and the Committee on Energy

(Committee Report No. 632), re H.R. No. 1741, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (ERC) TO IMMEDIATELY RESOLVE THE SEVEN (7) POWER SUPPLY AGREEMENT APPLICATIONS OF THE MANILA ELECTRIC COMPANY (MERALCO), PROVIDED ALL THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED BY LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN COMPLIED WITH AND THE APPROPRIATE HEARINGS ON THE APPLICATIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED”

recommending its adoption pursuant to House Resolution No. 1161 and informing the House of the Committees findings and recommendations

Sponsors: Representatives Pimentel, Velasco, Suarez and the Members of the joint Committees on Good Government and Public Accountability and Energy

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 633), re H.B. No. 7291, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH CHURCH, SANCTUARY OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS, IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF NAMPICUAN, PROVINCE OF NUEVA ECIJAA PILGRIMAGE SITE AND TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2488

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Suansing (E.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 634), re H.B. No. 7292, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE PURARAN BEACH AND ITS PREMISES LOCATED IN BARANGAY PURARAN, MUNICIPALITY OF BARAS, PROVINCE OF CATANDUANES A TOURIST SPOT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1201

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Sarmiento (C.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 635), re H.B. No. 7293, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING THE KAPARKAN FALLS IN BARANGAY CAGANAYAN, MUNICIPALITY OF TINEG, PROVINCE OF ABRA AN ECOTOURISM SITE, ESTABLISHING THE KAPARKAN FALLS DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3634

Sponsors: Representatives Gomez, Nograles (K.A.) and Bernos

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Suffrage and Electoral Reforms (Committee Report No. 636), re H.B. No. 7295, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE AUTHORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURES OF CANDIDATES AND POLITICAL PARTIES AND DEFINING AN INDEPENDENT CANDIDATE FOR THIS PURPOSE, AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7166, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT PROVIDING FOR SYNCHRONIZED NATIONAL AND LOCAL ELECTIONS AND FOR ELECTORAL REFORMS, AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 15, 519, 902, 1712, 1917, 2925, 3249, 3380 and 3411

Sponsors: Representatives Tugna, Belmonte (F.), Castro (F.H.), Fortuno, Oaminal, Panganiban, Ocampo, Villanueva, Primicias-Agabas, and Unabia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Banks and Financial Intermediaries (Committee Report No. 637), re H.B. No. 7296, entitled:

“AN ACT REINFORCING THE CORPORATE VIABILITY OF THE BANGKO SENTRAL NG PILIPINAS, STRENGTHENING ITS MONETARY AND FINANCIAL STABILITY FUNCTIONS AND ENHANCING ITS REGULATORY POWERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7653, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE NEW CENTRAL BANK ACT’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 731, 2436, 3456, 4283 and 6599

Sponsors: Representatives Evardone, Oaminal and Collantes  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability (Committee Report No. 638), re H.R. No. 882, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON GOOD GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC ACCOUNTABILITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, IN REGARD TO THE USE BY THE PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT OF ILOCOS NORTE OF ITS SHARES FROM THE EXCISE TAXES ON LOCALLY MANUFACTURED VIRGINIA-TYPE CIGARETTES OR THE SPECIAL SUPPORT FUND UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7171 FOR A PURPOSE OTHER THAN THOSE PROVIDED FOR BY THE SAID LAW, IN ITS HIGHLY IRREGULAR PURCHASE OF MOTOR VEHICLES MADE THROUGH CASH ADVANCES WITHOUT THE BENEFIT OF PUBLIC BIDDINGS FOR THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF SIXTY-SIX MILLION FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (PHP66,450,000.00)”

informing the House of its findings and recommendations

Sponsors: Representative Pimentel and the Members of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

#### ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 639), re H.B. No. 7302, entitled:

“AN ACT TO REFORM THE BUDGET PROCESS BY ENFORCING GREATER ACCOUNTABILITY IN PUBLIC FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (PFM), PROMOTING FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY, STRENGTHENING CONGRESS’ POWER OF THE PURSE, INSTITUTING AN INTEGRATED PFM SYSTEM AND INCREASING BUDGET TRANSPARENCY AND PARTICIPATION”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 5590, 5993, 343, 930, 1056, 2385, 2387, 2828, 2832, 2868, 3897, 4652 and 6847

Sponsors: Representatives Nograles (K.A.), Nograles (J.J.) and Yap (A.)  
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Population and Family Relations (Committee Report No. 640), re H.B. No. 7303, entitled:

“AN ACT INSTITUTING ABSOLUTE DIVORCE AND DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE IN THE PHILIPPINES”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 116, 1062, 2380 and 6027

Sponsors: Representatives Aragonés, Lagman and De Jesus

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 5:59 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:02 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

#### OMNIBUS CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider bills under the Calendar of Business for Thursday and Friday. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to our rules, allow me to put forth an omnibus motion for the consideration of the following measures: House Bill No. 7176, contained in Committee Report No. 604; House Bill No. 7178, contained in Committee Report No. 606; and House Bill No. 7184, contained in Committee Report No. 609.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is an omnibus motion for the consideration of the aforementioned bills. Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the respective Explanatory Notes of the bills as the sponsorship speeches on the said measures. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or to speak against the said local Bills, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). This is with regard to the three Bills?

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Yes, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is a motion to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate on the said Bills.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments and approve the Committee amendments, if any, as contained in the respective Committee Reports of the aforementioned Bills. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, there being no individual amendments, I move that we terminate the period of amendments. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on Second Reading on House Bill No. 7176, House Bill No. 7178 and House Bill No. 7184.

#### VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is an omnibus motion for the votation on the aforementioned three Bills. As many as are in favor of the approval of the Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

#### OMNIBUS APPROVAL OF LOCAL BILLS ON SECOND READING

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

The Bills enumerated in the omnibus motion are approved on Second Reading.\*

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The Hon. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr. is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. We are not even aware of these Bills that we had approved. Ano po ba itong Bills on Second Reading na pinaaprubahan ninyo?

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

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, what we approved are local House Bills. Can we ask the Secretary General to read the titles of the three House Bills.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The Secretary General is so requested.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 7176, entitled: AN ACT SEPARATING THE SAN EMMANUEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL – ANNEX IN BARANGAY SAN PABLO, TACURONG CITY, PROVINCE OF SULTAN KUDARAT FROM THE SAN EMMANUEL NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS SAN PABLO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR;

House Bill No. 7178, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY TAMBO, PARAÑAQUE CITY, TO BE KNOWN AS TAMBO NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR; and

House Bill No. 7184, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FOREST BOUNDARY OF THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC.

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

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker.

\* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Congressman Atienza is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. We have no question as to the first two measures but on the third measure which is defining, establishing a new boundary for the province of Tarlac, this may necessitate a more thorough study and a more thorough discussion. So, we move for a reconsideration of the approval of this third measure while we concur with the action on the first two. I-hold lang natin ng kaunti.

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

#### SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

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

*It was 6:06 p.m.*

#### RESUMPTION OF SESSION

*At 6:09 p.m., the session was resumed.*

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status—there is a motion by the Sr. Dep. Minority Leader for the reconsideration of the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 7184, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FOREST BOUNDARY OF THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). Yes. What sayeth the Majority Leader?

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). No objection, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). No objection and so, can you please turn that into a motion.

#### RECONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7184 ON SECOND READING

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). I move that we reconsider the approval on Second Reading of House Bill No. 7184, entitled: AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE FOREST BOUNDARY OF THE PROVINCE OF TARLAC.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). There is a motion for reconsideration.

Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The approval of House Bill No. 7184 on Second Reading is hereby reconsidered.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move to reconsider the approval of the termination of the period of amendments on House Bill No. 7184. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Mr. Speaker, I move to adjourn the session until Monday, March 5, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). So, until Monday, March 5, 2018, at four o'clock in the afternoon.

REP. GONZALES (A.D.). Monday, March 5, three weeks before your birthday, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Andaya). The session is adjourned until Monday, March 5, at 4:00 p.m.

Thank you, Majority Leader.

*It was 6:11 p.m.*