



Congressional Record

PLENARY PROCEEDINGS OF THE 17th CONGRESS, THIRD REGULAR SESSION

House of Representatives

Vol. 1

Wednesday, August 15, 2018

No. 11

CALL TO ORDER

At 3:00 p.m., Deputy Speaker Raneo “Ranie” E. Abu called the session to order.

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

NATIONAL ANTHEM

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Everybody will please rise to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

Everybody rose to sing the Philippine National Anthem.

PRAYER

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Everybody will please remain standing for a minute of prayer and meditation.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Good afternoon, Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move that we call the roll of Members.

ROLL CALL

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

The Secretary General will please call the roll of Members.

*The Secretary General called the roll, and the result is reflected in Journal No. 11, dated August 15, 2018.**

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. The Speaker is present.

Mr. Speaker, the roll call shows that 208 Members responded to the call.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). With 208 Members responding to the call, the Chair declares the presence of a quorum.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, may we be allowed to acknowledge the presence of some special guests in the gallery. First, we have the guests of the honorable Majority Leader Rolando G. Andaya Jr. They are the Municipal Councilors of Sipocot, Camarines Sur: Councilors Felix Macalino III, Marcelo Abergos, Robell Astor, Eduardo Dela Peña, Joby Alemania and Liga President Elano C. Gabriel.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Majority Leader Rolando Andaya, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, we would also like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of the Hon. Tom S. Villarín from AKBAYAN Party-List. They are the members of Workers for EML: Eva Arcos, Sion Binos, Sussane Dejon, Rea Folliente, Teresita Yuen Abana, Anna Lisa Bulaong, Rene Magtubo, Reyanne Librado and Nice Coronacion.

In addition to those members previously mentioned, Mr. Speaker, we also have Julieta Gipalen, Robelin Duroca, Rhina Jade Pascual, Mary Ann Oros, Janette Demos, Mary Jane Labongray, Lolyn Paglinawan, Ruby Monge, Marjorie Acera, Zhalie Bermal, Jinky Fulgencio, Jennifer Navora, Julie Peralta, Armeliza Gamo, Evangeline Esguerra, Josefina Dela Serna, Cherrie Catalan, Christine Annel Vitalicia, Jilian Roque, Laila Arlegui, Lyn Signo, Rosita Clemente, Cristy Bon, Imelda Lawingco, Danica Canamaque, Marilyn Carpela,

* See ANNEX (printed separately)

Ligaya Samuya, Cecilia Ileve, Maryjane Franco, Imelda Beriña, Nilda Gapasen, Liza Sta. Romana, Liezel Benmonte, Maria Teresa Co, Graziella Mae Cervantes, Cathy Gayo, Myra Doncila, Charito Jose, Edgardo Ignacio, Sharon Grace Francisco, Salvacion Gagani, Evangeline Aborita, Rosemarie Aborita and Romelina Cordova.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Rep. Tom S. Villarin, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, we would also like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of Hon. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy. They are the members of the Workers for EML (Expanded Maternity Leave), headed by Ms. Reyanne Librado.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, we would also like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of the honorable Deputy Speaker Ferdinand L. Hernandez. They are his constituents and guests from Barangay Kematu, municipality of T’boli, South Cotabato, namely: Datu Gemon Tuan, Datu Yanie Tuan Jr., Boi Sandi Carter, Boi Lamfay Tuan, Boi Rowena Tuan, Emily Sanz, and Atty. Precy Villa Agustin and her husband.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Deputy Speaker Ferdinand Hernandez, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, we would also like to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of Hon. Francisco Gamboa Datol Jr. from SENIOR CITIZENS Party-List. They are his visitors from from Barangay Niyugan, Jaen, Nueva Ecija, particularly: Barangay Captain Jimmy J. Barioga, Barangay Kagawad Julita Yanga, Barangay Kagawad Leoncio Marquez, Barangay Kagawad Antonio Santillan, Barangay Kagawad Anthony Quinlantang, Barangay Kagawad Roberto Manio, Barangay Secretary Cesar Bitangol, and Manding Adordionisio.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Rep. Francisco Gamboa Datol, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, allow us to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of the Hon. Ramon V. A. “Rav” Rocamora from the Lone District of Siquijor. They are students mostly from PUP, belonging to the organization Student Advocates for Reform Tax or START Now Coalition, namely: Isnihayah Binumbaran, Johaima Pacasum, Sittie Aina Cosain, Maria Nicole Policarpio, Trixia Mae Consul, Johanny Arteche, Inah Erica Aquino, Charizze Santiana Villaruel, Joshua Carlo Buban, Johanness Rivera, Leila Guelas, Gabriel Gloton, Maria Siannel Payumo, Christine Mae Rubis, and Arvin Capiral.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Rep. Ramon Rocamora, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

REP. DE VENECIA. Finally, Mr. Speaker, may we be allowed to acknowledge the presence in the gallery of the guests of Hon. Jeffrey D. Khonghun from the First District of Zambales. They are Barangay Council Members and other Officials of Barangay San Isidro, San Marcelino, Zambales, and from Barangay Linusungan, San Marcelino, Zambales. These are: Punong Barangay Romeo Jalasco, with Kagawad Lynard Ramos, Kagawad Herculino Paje Jr., Kagawad Jojo Arabe, Kagawad Rolando Flamiano, Kagawad Violeta Salonga, Kagawad Marilyn Abelon, Kagawad Federico Cruz, SK Chairperson Kristelle Mary Labrador, Secretary Marivic Raguine, Treasurer Leticia Alkuino, as well as Lupon Members: Mauro Paje, Conrado Rosete, Reynaldo Lontoc, Rolando Obrero, Johnny Paje, Revie Vergara, Nenita Felarca, Segundina Regua, Delma Mangindin, Estelita De Jesus. Also, we have the Barangay Council and other Barangay Officials of Barangay Linusungan. These are Punong Barangay Dionisio Garcia, Kagawad Joe Ragadio, Kagawad Jeffrey Dela Cruz, Kagawad George Alamangco, Kagawad Lina Fontila, Kagawad Journey Racel, Kagawad Bobby Tomas, Kagawad Gertrudes Domingo, SK Chairman Rex Raymond Ragadio, Secretary Shiela Marie Dalit, Day Care Worker Cyelene Reg, BHW Lilamay Reg, BHW Carmelita Alipio, BHW Venus Segiente, Lupon Sionaida Rabe, Corazon Reg, Noemi Roldan, PESO Officer Criselda Babas, BPAT Rene Apano, Edelyn Reg, and Joseph Tizon, Karren Racel, Adeluisa Florita, Elizabeth Apano and Clarita Garcia.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Rep. Jeffrey Khonghun, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Reference of Business. I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). 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. 8095, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING 14TH MONTH PAY FOR ALL EMPLOYEES IN THE GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR REGARDLESS OF STATUS OF EMPLOYMENT”

By Representatives Salo and Calalang
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

House Bill No. 8096, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTEGRATED NATIONAL SCHOOL IN BARANGAY CAPUY, CITY OF SORSOGON, PROVINCE OF SORSOGON TO BE KNOWN AS CAPUY INTEGRATED NATIONAL SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Escudero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8097, entitled:

“AN ACT URGING THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT TO SET FISH AND MEAT TARIFFS TO ZERO, TO COMBAT INFLATION RATE HIKE, TO EASE FINANCIAL CONSTRAINTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

House Bill No. 8098, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING FEBRUARY 26 OF THE YEAR AS PHILIPPINE ISRAELI FRIENDSHIP DAY”

By Representative Aumentado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

House Bill No. 8099, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR MONETARY REPARATION FOR THE LOSS OR DESTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL HOUSES, COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND OTHER PROPERTIES IN MARAWI CITY DURING THE 2017 SIEGE OF MARAWI, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Papandayan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Bill No. 8103, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CALAMBA, PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Almonte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 2063, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEES ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE PLIGHT OF THE WORKERS OF MIDDLEBY PHILIPPINES CORPORATION WHO WERE ILLEGALLY DISMISSED BY THE COMPANY, IN DEFIANCE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT’S ORDER FOR THEIR REGULARIZATION”

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

House Resolution No. 2064, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING UTMOST CONCERN ON THE ISSUANCE OF WARRANTS OF ARREST ON THE TWO MURDER CHARGES FOR FORMER FOUR MAKABAYAN LAWMAKERS SATUR OCAMPO AND TEDDY CASIÑO, NOW NATIONAL ANTI-POVERTY COMMISSION CHAIRPERSON LIZAMAZA AND FORMER DEPARTMENT OF AGRARIAN REFORM SECRETARY RAFAEL MARIANO AND IMPLOING THE PALAYAN REGIONAL TRIAL COURT TO RECONSIDER THE ARREST ORDER AGAINST THE FOUR LEGISLATORS”

By Representatives Zarate, Amante, Amatong, Antonio, Arenas, Belmonte (J.C.), Brosas, Casilao, Castro (F.L.), Dalipe, Daza, De Jesus, Dy, Elago, Eriguel, Lacson, Lagman, Mendoza, Nieto, Ortega (P.), Panganiban, Pineda, Romero, Salo, Salon, Singson, Ting, Tinio, Ty, Uy (R.), Vargas-Alfonso, Yap (V.), Villarín and Romualdo

TO THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS DRUGS AND THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CONTINUED INABILITY OF THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS TO PREVENT THE LARGE-SCALE SMUGGLING OF ILLEGAL DRUGS INTO THE COUNTRY”

By Representative Quimbo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2065, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON PEACE, RECONCILIATION AND UNITY TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE STALLED FIFTH ROUND OF PEACE TALKS BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES (GRP) AND THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT OF THE PHILIPPINES (NDFP) AND TO PRESS FOR ITS IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION BASED ON PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS BETWEEN THE TWO PARTIES AND THE RECENTLY SIGNED STAND-DOWN AGREEMENT ON JUNE 8”

By Representatives Zarate, Amatong, Belaro, Brosas, Casilao, Castro (F.L.), Cueva, Daza, De Jesus, Elago, Aquino-Magsaysay, Marquez, Ong (H.), Sacdalan, Salo, Tan (M.), Tinio, Unabia, Uy (R.), Villarín and Zubiri

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2069, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE ALLEGED ANOMALOUS PRACTICE BY THE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN THE PROVINCE OF MISAMIS OCCIDENTAL SUCH AS BUT NOT LIMITED TO THE MUNICIPALITIES OF SINACABAN AND DON VICTORINO IN THE SECOND LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT OF USING THEIR INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF GROSSLY OVERPRICED CONSTRUCTION EQUIPMENT OR THEIR PENCHANT OF USING THEIR INTERNAL REVENUE ALLOTMENT AS COLLATERAL IN OBTAINING LOANS FOR WHATEVER PURPOSE IT MAY SERVE THEM”

By Representative Oaminal
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2066, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION COMMENDING POLICE CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT VALERIANO T. DE LEON FOR EXCELLENT WORK IN THE REORGANIZATION OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE - FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES OFFICE”

By Representative Bernos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER AND SAFETY

House Resolution No. 2070, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION CONGRATULATING AND COMMENDING JHACK TEPORA FOR WINNING THE WORLD BOXING ASSOCIATION (WBA) FEATHERWEIGHT TITLE”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GAMES AND AMUSEMENTS

House Resolution No. 2067, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE HOUSE COMMITTEE(S) TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PROCLAMATION NOS. 96 (S. 2001), 518 (S. 1990), AND 825 (S. 1996)”

By Representative Benitez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2071, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING WARM FELICITATIONS AND CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. ALPHONSE AREOLA FOR BEING THE FIRST PERSON WITH A FILIPINO HERITAGE TO WIN THE 2018 FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (FIFA) WORLD CUP CHAMPIONSHIP TOGETHER WITH FRANCE’S NATIONAL SOCCER TEAM, PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN-CHAMBLY (PSG)”

House Resolution No. 2068, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND
SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

SOUTHERN LEYTE STATE UNIVERSITY
(SLSU) AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS
THEREFOR”
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2072, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING DEEPEST
SYMPATHIES AND CONDOLENCES TO
THE FAMILIES OF THE VICTIMS OF THE
RECENT FLOODING AND LANDSLIDES
IN JAPAN”

By Representative Olivarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated August 8, 2018, informing the House
of Representatives that the Senate on even date
approved the Conference Committee Report of the
Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing
provisions of 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 SORSOGON STATE
UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2073, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE
INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION
ON THE RAMPANT CONSTRUCTION AND
ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIVATE RESORTS
AND OTHER BUILDINGS AROUND
BODIES OF WATER OF THE PUBLIC
DOMAIN”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated July 3, 2018 of Adolph Edward G. Plaza,
Provincial Governor, Province of Agusan Del Sur,
submitting the Quarterly Physical and Financial
Reports of Operations for the Quarter Ended
June 30, 2018, on the Local Government Support
Fund – Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces
for Road Repair, Rehabilitation and Improvement
(CMGP).

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 2074, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN
INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION
BY THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON
THE REVIVAL AND RECONSTITUTION
OF THE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE
ON OVERSIGHT IN THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES”

By Representative Suarez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Email dated July 6, 2018 of Darwin D. David of DILG,
Municipality of Pulilan, Province of Bulacan,
submitting the Report on Fund Utilization and
Status of Program/Project Implementation for
the Quarter Ended June 30, 2018, on the Local
Government Support Fund, attested by Maria
Rosario O. Montejo, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

House Resolution No. 2075, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING PROFOUND
CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES ON THE DEMISE OF
FORMER DAGUPAN CITY MAYOR AND
IMMIGRATION COMMISSIONER ALIPIO
‘AL’ F. FERNANDEZ, JR.”

By Representatives Macapagal-Arroyo and De
Venecia
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Email dated July 9, 2018 of Darwin D. David of DILG,
Municipality of Marilao, Province of Bulacan,
submitting the Report on Fund Utilization and
Status of Program/Project Implementation for
the Quarter Ended June 2018, on the Local
Government Support Fund, attested by Juanito H.
Santiago, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated August 8, 2018, informing the House
of Representatives that the Senate on even date
approved the Conference Committee Report of the
Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing
provisions of House Bill No. 6031, entitled:
“AN ACT MANDATING THE INTEGRATION OF
THE MAASIN CITY COLLEGE INTO THE

Email dated July 12, 2018 of Darwin D. David of
DILG, Municipality of Balagtas, Province of
Bulacan, submitting the Report on Fund Utilization
and Status of Program/Project Implementation
for the Quarter Ended June 2018, on the Local
Government Support Fund, attested by Hon. Eladio
E. Gonzales, Jr., Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Email dated July 12, 2018 of Zigfred P. Duterte, Municipal Mayor, Municipality of Tabogon, Province of Cebu, submitting the Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2018 on the Local Government Support Fund.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Quarterly Financial Report of Operations for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2018 of Cebu Capitol, Province of Cebu, on the Local Government Support Fund – Conditional Matching Grant to Provinces for Road Repair, Rehabilitation and Improvement (CMGP), attested by Hilario P. Davide III, Provincial Governor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 2nd Quarter of 2018 of the Municipality of San Fernando, Province of Cebu, on the Local Government Support Fund, attested by Hon. Lakambini G. Reluya, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2018 of the Municipality of Gamu, Province of Isabela, on the Local Government Support Fund, attested by Nestor M. Uy, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended June 2018 of the Municipality of Itogon, Province of Benguet, on the Local Government Support Fund, attested by Atty. Victorio T. Palangdan, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended June 30, 2018 of the Municipality of Borbon, Province of Cebu, on the Local Government Support Fund, attested by Noel T. Dotillos, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 2nd Quarter of 2018 of the Municipality of Boljoon, Province of Cebu, on the Local Government Support Fund, attested by Merlou D. Derama, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter Ended

June 30, 2018, on the Local Government Support Fund, attested by Rolando S. Bue, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the 2nd Quarter of 2018 of the Municipality of San Isidro, Province of Nueva Ecija, on the Local Government Support Fund, attested by Cesario I. Lopez, Jr., Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Report on Fund Utilization and Status of Program/Project Implementation for the Quarter ended June 30, 2018 of the Municipality of Liloan, Province of Cebu, on the Local Government Support Fund – Assistance to Disadvantaged Municipalities, attested by Hon. Ma. Esperanza Christina C. Frasco, Municipal Mayor.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 820), re H.B. No. 8100, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE FOURTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ROSARIO, PROVINCE OF BATANGAS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(E) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 3113

Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Nograles (K.A.) Veloso and Bolilia

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 821), re H.B. No. 8101, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING SURVIVORSHIP BENEFITS TO THE DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF A DECEASED RETIRED MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY WHO IS A SOLO PARENT, OR TO THE SURVIVING PARENTS OR NOMINATED PERSONS OF SUCH DECEASED RETIREE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO.

910, AS AMENDED, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”
 recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5897
 Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Nograles (K.A.) Veloso and Fariñas
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Justice and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 822), re H.B. No. 8102, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ONE (1) ADDITIONAL BRANCH OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT IN THE SEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF LARENA, PROVINCE OF SIQUIJOR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(H) OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS ‘THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980’, AS AMENDED”
 recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 5985

Sponsors: Representatives Umali, Nograles (K.A.) Veloso and Rocamora
 TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

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

The session is suspended.

It was 3:32 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:37 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed with our Unfinished Business, I would like to acknowledge the presence of a special guest, actually he is here right now in the plenary with us, BAYAN MUNA Rep. Satur Ocampo. (*Applause*)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Ipinagmamalaki po nating makasama dito ang dati nating kasamahan, Kinatawan Satur Ocampo.

Mabuhay po kayo. Welcome po sa inyong Bahay. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6770

Continuation

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, the consideration of House Bill No. 6770, contained in Committee Report No. 508, as reported out by the Committee on Labor and Employment.

For this purpose, may I ask that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

I so move.

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

The Secretary General is directed to read only the measure.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6770, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE SERVICE INCENTIVE LEAVE OF EMPLOYEES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 95 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, the status of the Bill is that it is in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that the Chairperson of the Committee on Labor and Employment, the Hon. Randolph S. Ting, be recognized.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman and the distinguished Chairperson of the Committee on Labor and Employment, Rep. Randolph S. Ting, is recognized.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. TING

REP. TING. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, may I present for your approval House Bill No. 6770, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE SERVICE INCENTIVE LEAVE OF EMPLOYEES

IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 95 OF P.D. 442, THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

This Bill seeks to amend the law on the right of employees to service incentive leave.

The Labor Code provides that every employee who has rendered at least one year of service shall be entitled to a yearly service incentive of five days with pay. There are exemptions though to this mandated benefit. It shall not apply to those who are already enjoying the benefit herein provided: those enjoying vacation leave with pay for at least five days; and those employed in establishments regularly employing less than 10 employees or in establishments exempted from granting this benefit.

Mr. Speaker, the proposal of this Bill is simply to increase the mandated yearly incentive to 10 days from the existing five days. The current five-day SIL granted to our workers annually is inadequate to meet the need of our workers for sufficient rest. The complex and stressful lifestyle of our generation leaves the worker susceptible to sickness, aside from stress due to natural and man-made calamities, and other emergencies that require absence from our jobs.

The increase of the service incentive leave to 10 days gives a balanced work life to employees as it provides a longer period of vacation leave with pay. Also, the increase to 10 days will certainly be more beneficial to the employee as this benefit is readily available when the employee is sick and in need of seeking medical care. A sick employee who may have a contagious illness will not be able to work effectively, and the additional service incentive leave gives the employee more time to take some respite for self-care and healing.

Mr. Speaker, we therefore seek the approval of this measure because the grant of additional service incentive leave will be good for the welfare of our workers. Additional days for the service incentive leave would mean more time for the employees to rest, to recharge, to heal, or more time to be with the people that inspire him to work even better.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or speak against the measure, I move that we terminate the period of interpellation. Sorry, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Yes.

REP. DE VENECIA. Sorry, Mr. Speaker, allow me to amend that motion.

I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor or speak against the measure, I move that we terminate the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the Committee amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee amendment, I now move that we proceed to consider the individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Let us first close the period for Committee amendments. Is there any motion to close the period of Committee amendments?

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we close the period for Committee amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we reconsider my earlier motion to close the period for individual amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). I think the motion that you made is the closing of the period for Committee amendments. There is no motion yet for the opening of the period for individual amendments.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I actually made a motion to close the period of amendments after I closed the period for Committee amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Okay. What is the next motion?

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move to open the period for individual amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for a one-minute suspension of the session.

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

It was 3:45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:46 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6770

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 6770.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 3:48 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:50 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up some items in the Business for the Day.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6769 ON SECOND READING

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 6769, contained in Committee Report No. 507, as reported out by the Committee on Labor and Employment.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). 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. 6769, entitled: AN ACT EXPANDING THE PROHIBITION OF DISCRIMINATORY ACTS AGAINST WOMEN ON ACCOUNT OF SEX, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES."

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. To sponsor the measure, Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Randolph S. Ting.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairperson of the Committee on Labor and Employment, our distinguished colleague, Hon. Randy Ting, is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 6769.

SPONSORSHIP SPEECH OF REP. TING

REP. TING. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

May I first sincerely thank the authors, Reps. Emmeline Aglipay-Villar and Strike B. Revilla, for espousing House Bill No. 6769, which the Committee on Labor and Employment has submitted under Committee Report No. 508 for consideration in the House of Representatives.

This Bill seeks to penalize employers who give preference to a male employee, over a female employee, in the hiring process whether through notices or advertisement for employment, or in the actual recruitment, hiring or employment where the job could be equally handled by a woman. This Bill also prohibits the denial to any woman of the benefits of employment or other statutory benefits under our laws by reason of her sex.

Section 14, Article II of the Philippine Constitution requires the State to recognize the role of women in nation-building, and to ensure the fundamental equality before the law of women and men. Through this legislation, we are translating into action this constitutional mandate and contributing to a stronger policy framework that will not only protect women, but strengthen and further define her important role in our society.

Even in this day and age, discrimination on the basis of sex persists. It takes many forms, but it is, perhaps, the most debilitating in the workplace where rigid company hierarchies and a lack of transparency ensure that abuses persist unchecked. The role of legislation in this case is to rid away the protective veil of sexual discrimination by making its violations visible and by making the text of the law explicit with regard to its action that constitute discrimination, as well as making sure that the gravity of the punishment suits the gravity of the offense.

Mr. Speaker, with these considerations, I ask your support for this very important measure.

On behalf of the Committee on Labor and Employment, I earnestly seek the support and approval of the House of Representatives of this important Bill, which aims to prevent and combat discrimination against women, which is fundamental to a democracy.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Since we have no interpellators, Mr. Speaker, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. TING. Mr. Speaker, we have some perfecting amendments on House Bill No. 6769.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Are those Committee amendments?

REP. DEFENSOR. Yes, may we know from the Sponsor if these are Committee amendments or individual amendments that will be proposed by other Members of the House.

REP. TING. These are Committee amendments, Mr. Speaker.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we have the Sponsor proceed with the Committee amendments, Mr. Speaker.

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

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

REP. TING. On page 1, line 1, change the number "133" to 135.

On the same page, line 4, one by one.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, may we have this

...

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

REP. DEFENSOR. I move, Mr. Speaker, for the approval of the amendment as proposed by the Sponsor.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. May we have the next amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Next amendment, please.

REP. TING. On the same page, line 4, change the number "133" to 135.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of the amendment as stated by the Sponsor.

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

Mr. Sponsor, next amendment, please.

REP. TING. On page 2, line 4, change the number "288" to 273, and number "289" to 274.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of the amendment as proposed by the Sponsor.

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

Next amendment.

REP. TING. On the same page, line 10, change the number "135" to 137.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of the amendment as proposed by the Sponsor.

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

Next amendment.

REP. TING. On the same page, line 12, change the number "135" to 137.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of the amendment as proposed by the Sponsor.

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

Next amendment.

REP. TING. On the same page, line 28, change the number "135-A" to 137-A.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of the amendment as proposed by the Sponsor.

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

Next amendment.

REP. TING. On the same page, line 29, change the number "135" to 137.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of the amendment as proposed by the Sponsor.

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

Next amendment.

REP. TING. On the same page, line 31, change the number "135-A" to 137-A.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of the amendment as proposed by the Sponsor.

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

Next amendment.

REP. TING. There are two more amendments, Mr. Speaker.

On the same page, line 32, change the number "133" to 135, and the number "135" to 137.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of the amendments as proposed by the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendments are approved.

Any other amendment?

REP. TING. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

The last will be on page 3, line 5, change the number “133” to 135, and the number “135” to 137.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of the amendments as proposed by the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendments are approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, with that, I move that we approve House Bill No. 6769, as amended, on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of the approval of House Bill No. 6769, as amended, on Second Reading, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6769, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6769, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for a suspension of the session.

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

It was 3:59 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:07 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, before we proceed with the Business for the Day, allow me to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery. They are the guests of the Hon. France L. Castro and Hon. Antonio “Tonchi” L. Tinio. We have the members of the Caloocan Public Elementary and Secondary Teachers Federation, namely: Mylene Amparo, Grace Edora, Marietta Tan, Jackeline Abinales and Nelson Portes; the members of the Quezon City Public School Teachers Association—Ruby Ana Bernardo, Annariza Alzate, Kristhean Navales; the members of the Malabon Public School Teachers Association—Welhelmina Vibar, Ma. Divina Esteban, Charito Tamondong; ACT-Pasay member—Roberto Surban; and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers-Philippines Secretary General Raymond Basilio, ACT NCR Union President Joselyn Martinez and ACT NCR Union Education Committee Chair Vladimir Quetua.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Reps. France Castro and Antonio Tinio, please rise. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*) The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, we acknowledged the presence of some guests earlier but we found out from Congressman Rocamora that they were not yet here. So, allow me to read their names again. These are the students from PUP belonging to the organization Student Advocates for Reform Tax or START Now Coalition. These are: Isnihayah Binumbaran, Johaima Pacasum, Sittie Aina Cosain, Maria Nicole Policarpio, Trixia Mae Consul, Johanny Arteche, Inah Erica Aquino, Charizze Santiana Villaruel, Joshua Carlo Buban, Johanness Rivera, Leila Guelas, Gabriel Gloton, Maria Siannel Payumo, Christine Mae Rubis and Arvin Capiral.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Guests of Representative Ramon Rocamora, welcome to the House of Representatives. *(Applause)*

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

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

It was 4:09 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:11 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 7857 ON SECOND READING

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 7857, contained in Committee Report No. 787, as reported out by the Committees on Trade and Industry and Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). 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. 7857, entitled: AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A *TIMBANGAN NG BAYAN* CENTER IN ALL MARKETS NATIONWIDE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CHAPTER II OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES”.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is now in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Trade and Industry, the Hon. Ferjanel G. Biron, M.D.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The distinguished Sponsor and Chairperson of Committee on Trade and Industry, Rep. Ferjanel Biron, is recognized to sponsor House Bill No. 7857.

REP. BIRON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I move to adopt the Explanatory Note of the original House Bill No. 2957 as the sponsorship remarks thereon.

Mr. Speaker, I move to approve House Bill No. 7857 contained in Committee Report No. 787, AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A *TIMBANGAN NG BAYAN* CENTER IN ALL MARKETS NATIONWIDE, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CHAPTER II OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES”.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection?

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, our parliamentary status is that we are in the period of sponsorship and debate. With the manifestation of the Gentleman, I move that we have the Explanatory Note of the Bill as the sponsorship speech thereon.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, we have an interpellator. May we recognize the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, the Hon. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza Jr., for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, Hon. Lito Atienza is recognized to interpellate the good Sponsor, the Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Industry.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Salamat po, Mr. Majority Leader.

With the kind indulgence of the Sponsor, this Representation would like to ask some questions to clarify certain provisions of the proposed law.

REP. BIRON. Yes, go ahead, Congressman Atienza.

REP. ATIENZA. Opo. Ang unang nais naming liwanagin ay ano po ba ang definition ninyo ng “palengke,” market? What do you mean by “market”? Do you mean public markets, private markets or semi-private markets? Ano po ba ang ibig sabihin ng “palengke” dito sa inyong proposal na ito?

REP. BIRON. Yes. Mr. Speaker, what is defined as a “market” here includes both public and private markets.

REP. ATIENZA. Public and private, eh iyong semi-private and semi-public, covered din po ba iyon?

REP. BIRON. Ah, Mr. Speaker, I believe it is included, because the Act provides for the establishment of a Timbangan ng Bayan for all markets, whether it is private or public, whether it is semi-private or private.

REP. ATIENZA. I am asking the question, Mr. Speaker, simply because there are many markets now which are semi-private and semi-public. Eh baka magkaturuan po iyan—who will provide the Timbangan ng Bayan, the private market or the public market?

REP. BIRON. Mr. Speaker, as contained in the proposed Bill, the market does not qualify whether it is public or private. In fact, it includes all flea markets and tiangge.

REP. ATIENZA. So, it includes even flea markets? Is that what the Gentleman is saying?

REP. BIRON. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. So, I am still waiting for a definite answer on the issue of who will provide the Timbangan ng Bayan—the private market, the public market or both?

REP. BIRON. Both, Mr. Speaker, private and public markets.

REP. ATIENZA. So, therefore, it is possible to have two Timbangan ng Bayan? It is possible and probable to have two Timbangan ng Bayan in some markets.

REP. BIRON. In a situation where the market is classified as public market, then the public market provides for the Timbangan ng Bayan; otherwise, for private markets, the private market provides for their own Timbangan ng Bayan.

REP. ATIENZA. Kagaya po ng sinabi ng inyong lingkod, mayroon pong mga palengke ngayon na dalawa ang nagmamay-ari—private and public. Puwede po ba nating liwanagin sa ganitong uring sitwasyon, both public and private are required by this law to provide a Timbangan ng Bayan? Hindi puwedeng sabihin noong private market na doon na kayo magpatimbang sa public market. In the same manner, hindi rin puwedeng sabihin ng public market na doon na kayo magpatimbang sa private market.

Let us make it very clear in the law, that in any case, in a situation where the market has two characters, both public and private, they are required to have a Timbangan ng Bayan for the purpose of a clear delivery of accurate measures in the public markets—both public and private in the country.

REP. BIRON. Mr. Speaker, the Timbangan ng Bayan is provided for every market regardless of whether it is private or public. So, for every market, there should be a Timbangan ng Bayan, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Who will run the Timbangan ng Bayan, Mr. Speaker?

REP. BIRON. The local government units, Mr. Speaker, through their provincial, city or municipal treasurers are mandated to provide the Timbangan ng Bayan and the monitoring as well should be done by the LGU.

REP. ATIENZA. So, it is very clear—and it is clear in the proposed law that the Timbangan ng Bayan will be provided by the local or provincial governments. The Treasurer’s Office of local or provincial governments are required to provide this particular protection of consumer’s rights. Puwede po ba nating liwanagin iyan sa letra ng ating proposed law para malinaw po? Dahil nakikita ko po na sa darating na mga panahon, ito ay magkakaroon ng konting confusion, and when there is confusion, of course, the consumer will suffer because of non-implementation. So, ilalagay po ba natin doon na talagang ang local or provincial government units are the ones who will be made responsible?

REP. BIRON. That is correct, Mr. Speaker. The law strictly provides that the local government units, through their provincial, city or municipal treasurers, are mandated to establish their respective Timbangan ng Bayan in both private and public markets, Mr. Speaker.

And the monitoring of such Timbangan ng Bayan is given or should be provided by the local government unit, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. In the same manner, we should clearly state that all consumers, whether customers of the private or the public market, can avail of the Timbangan ng Bayan.

REP. BIRON. Yes, Mr. Speaker, everyone who goes to the market, whether it is a public or private market, should be able to avail of the Timbangan ng Bayan.

REP. ATIENZA. This is where we will include the phrase that says, INCLUDING FLEA MARKETS THAT ARE ORGANIZED ON CERTAIN DAYS WHERE CONSUMERS ALSO SHOULD BE PROTECTED.

REP. BIRON. That is correct, Mr. Speaker. Flea markets and tiangge are not regular markets but they are set up for certain occasions or weekends, and they are also covered by this law.

REP. ATIENZA. Isa na lang pong tanong na kailangan po nating idiin. Ano po ba ang ating iminumungkahi na kaparusahan kapagka nahuling nandadaya ang sinuman sa ating mga mamimili? Sa hirap ng panahon ngayon, ang dayain ka ng 1 percent, 2 percent or 10 percent is a big reduction to the buying capacity of the peso. So, magkano po ba ang inyong naiisip na karapat-dapat na kaparusahan?

REP. BIRON. Well, Mr. Speaker, the penalties are quite stiff. Any person who shall violate the provisions of this Act will be subject to a fine of not less than P50,000.

REP. ATIENZA. Magkano po?

REP. BIRON. Not less than P50,000, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Not less than P50,000.

REP. BIRON. Yes, but not more than P300,000, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Eh binabati po natin sila sa kanilang tamang estima, na ito ay napakaselang pandaraya na kailangang ang kaparusahan ay mahigpit at mabigat. Puwede ba nating dagdagan: AT REPEATED VIOLATION OF THIS LAW, ANY VENDOR OR ANY STORE FOUND CHEATING ANY CONSUMER WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE CANCELLATION OF THEIR BUSINESS PERMITS.

REP. BIRON. We could consider the same, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, the pleasure of the Gentleman ...

REP. ATIENZA. Ang suggestion po namin ay ...

REP. BIRON. Yes.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon po ba tayong provision diyang, that after a number of repeated violations of this law, the vendor, who is a perpetual cheater, will be deprived of his business permit to be cancelled by the provincial or the local government; therefore, he cannot cheat anymore?

REP. BIRON. Well, as I have mentioned, Mr. Speaker, apart from the monetary penalty that is imposed on violators of this law, there is an imprisonment of not less than one year but not more than five years, or both, upon the discretion of the court. So, ...

REP. ATIENZA. Again, we congratulate the Sponsor for the magnitude, the gravity of the punishment which will be meted out to a cheater in any market. Puwede ba nating ilagay doon na hindi lamang siya makukulong, kundi siya ay hindi na makapagnenegosyo sapagkat tatanggalan siya ng lisensiya ng alkalde o ng gobernador?

REP. BIRON. Well, the assumption, Mr. Speaker, that if the violator gets penalized, including imprisonment, then that would deprive him automatically of setting up or continuing his business because of the penalty imposed on the violation committed, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, hindi po naman automatic iyon sapagkat ang isang mandaraya, kapag nahuli ay mandaraya ulit, puwedeng iyong asawa niya o iyong anak niya, puwedeng iyong empleyado niya, o puwedeng ang umamin ay empleyado at iyon ang makukulong. Pero iyong negosyo tuloy, at iyong mandaraya ay uulit nang uulit. Puwede ba nating isingit iyon na he or she or the store will no longer be doing business in that particular market, or rather, his permit to do business will be cancelled after a repeated—you determine, three times kang mahuling nandaraya, you will be perpetually disqualified to do business? Puwede po ba namin isingit iyon?

REP. BIRON. Well, as I said, Mr. Speaker, that suggestion of Representative Atienza is a welcome suggestion, and perhaps we could incorporate that in the proposed measure as well, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Yes, Mr. Speaker. We are making this clarification and issuing the recommendations so that this law will put a stop to the cheating activities in practically everywhere in the country.

Kapag bumili kayo ng isang kilo, malamang bawas po ng dalawang guhit iyan. Kapag kayo ay bumili ng prutas, ganoon din po. Kapag bumili kayo ng bigas, malamang mayroon ding kakulangan, isa o dalawang guhit. Kaya kailangan pong ilagay nating lahat ito upang matiyak natin na iyong ating iniwasan at iyong ating nais matigil na masamang gawain ay magkaroon ng tunay na bisa, at nang matakot at i-respeto ito ng sinumang mag-iisip mandaya. Kapag ikaw ay naalisan ng lisensya, mahihirapan ka nang makapagbukas muli ng iyong tindahan. Kaya iyon pong mga mungkahi ng inyong lingkod ay mga mungkahing naglalayon na magkaroon ng bisa itong panukalang batas ninyo upang kapag ito ay umiral na, ang ating consumer ay mabibigyan ng proteksyon sa napakahalagang salapi ngayon.

Mawawalan ng buying power ang ating piso, agrabyado ang mga mahihirap dito. Pero dito sa batas na ito, sa bawat salapi, sa bawat piso na kanilang gugugulin, nakatitiyak sila na tama ang bigat noong kanilang binibili.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I thank the Sponsor as I will wait for the period of amendments to urge him to just adjust the wording of his proposal so that mabilis po nating maaprubahan ang panukala sa araw na ito.

Salamat po.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Marami pong salamat.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, there being no other interpellator, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I now move that we open the period of amendments.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:29 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:40 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Ferjanel G. Biron, M.D.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairman of the Committee on Trade and Industry is recognized.

REP. BIRON. Yes, thank you, Mr. Speaker.

After conferring with the Gentleman from BUHAY, the following amendment is introduced: after subparagraph (c) of Section 3, the following amendment is inserted: PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT THE SUCCEED...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Before we—before I recognize you for that amendment, may I clarify whether it is a Committee amendment or an individual amendment.

REP. BIRON. It is a Committee amendment, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Please, proceed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, we have an individual amendment. Mr. Speaker, may we hear from the Sponsor.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). That is an individual amendment.

REP. DEFENSOR. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). May I hear from the Sponsor? What is the individual amendment?

INDIVIDUAL AMENDMENT

REP. BIRON. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The following individual amendment is inserted after subparagraph (c) of Section 3, Mr. Speaker, which provides: THAT TWO SUCCESSIVE VIOLATIONS OF THIS ACT SHALL AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN THE CANCELLATION OF THE BUSINESS PERMIT OF THE VIOLATOR, WHETHER NATURAL OR JURIDICAL.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). May I know who introduced that individual amendment for record purposes?

REP. BIRON. The individual amendment was introduced by BUHAY Rep. Jose L. Atienza Jr.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is the Sponsor amenable to that amendment?

REP. BIRON. Yes, after conferring with Representative Atienza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection from the Body? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendment is approved.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker. Mr. Speaker, I move for a suspension of the session.

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

It was 4:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:43 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, since the amendment is an individual amendment as proposed by the Honorable Atienza, may we hear from Honorable Atienza on these amendments, Mr. Speaker?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Honorable Lito Atienza of BUHAY Party-List is recognized.

REP. ATIENZA. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

The amendment that we have agreed on will read after subparagraph (c) of Section 3, the insertion of PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT REPEATED VIOLATION OF THIS ACT FOR A TOTAL OF TWO, TWO VIOLATIONS, WILL AUTOMATICALLY RESULT IN THE CANCELLATION OF THE BUSINESS PERMIT OF THE VIOLATOR WHETHER NATURAL OR JURIDICAL.

I so move for the approval of these amendments.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is the good Sponsor, the distinguished Sponsor, amenable to that amendment?

REP. BIRON. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection?

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. With that, Mr. Speaker, I move for the approval of the amendments as introduced by the Honorable Atienza.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the amendments are approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the same.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 7857, as amended, on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 7857, as amended, on Second Reading.

As many as are in favor, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 7857, AS AMENDED, ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 7857 under Committee Report No. 787, as amended, is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DEFENSOR. Mr. Speaker, I move for the suspension of the session.

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

It was 4:45 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:54 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4113

Continuation

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 4113 as contained in Committee Report No. 13, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). 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 House Bill No. 4113 under Committee Report No. 13 for consideration on Second Reading.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 4113, entitled: ANACT INCREASING THE MATERNITY LEAVE PERIOD TO ONE HUNDRED (100) DAYS FOR FEMALE WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND GRANTING AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR AN ADDITIONAL THIRTY (30) DAYS WITHOUT PAY.

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

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the bill is that it is in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we recognize the honorable Chairperson of Women and Gender Equality, Rep. Bernadette Herrera-Dy.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender

Equality, Rep. Bernadette “BH” Herrera-Dy is recognized.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Chair, I think we are in the period of sponsorship and debate, so we are open to any additional interpellations.

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

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, the Hon. Jose “Lito” L. Atienza, Jr. for his interpellation. I so move.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman from BUHAY Party-List, Representative Atienza, is recognized to interpellate the good Sponsor.

REP. ATIENZA. Salamat po, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Mr. Majority Floor Leader, and thank you to the Congresswoman who has worked very hard for the passage of this Bill and for the sponsors of the measure.

Permit me to just be repetitive about the questions that we have been asking all this time since we have taken it up in the Committee on Rules. Gusto ko pong tiyakin na talagang matutuloy po ito at magagawa nating bigyan ng 100 na araw na maternity leave ang mga ina na magsisilang ng kanilang mga sanggol.

As a pro-lifer, Mr. Speaker, I like this Bill because it will encourage mothers to have more children, and to enjoy the privileges of this Act. On the other hand, we have to be very clear as to how this measure will be implemented. Otherwise, we will create a big disappointment on the part of mothers who expect to enjoy the benefits of this measure.

Puwede po bang makapagtanong ng ilan pang mga katanungan?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Chair—Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Una po, iyon po bang 100 na araw ay binibilang ang Sabado at Linggo o iyong 100 na araw na bibilangin natin ay separate from the Saturdays and Sundays of the period?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Bale ay kasama po ang Sabado at Linggo, tuloy-tuloy po siya. For example, January one to 31, February one to February 28, March one to March 31. So, bilang po siya sa 100 days.

REP. ATIENZA. Sa madalit salita ay sa 100 na araw ay kasama na po ang Sabado at Linggo.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang susunod na gusto ko pong linawin ay para matiyak nating ito ay matutuloy at hindi mabibitin sa balag ng alanganin at magbibigay lamang ng false hope to our women and our mothers. Importante po iyong mayroon po ba kayong assurance na mayroong salapi na magugugol dito sa pribilehiyong ito? Una, mayroon ba kayong certification galing sa GSIS sapagkat sila po ay bahagi sa susuporta sa problemang pananalapi?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact, ang SSS, ang GSIS, ang ECOP or Employees Confederation of the Philippines, at ganoon din po ang League of Cities of the Philippines and Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines are all in support of this Bill, at sinasabi po nila na sila po ay natutuwa at sila ay kabilang at kasama natin sa pagpapatupad nitong 100-Day Maternity Leave Law.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon po ba silang mga nilagdaang approval of the suggestion and commitment to provide the necessary funds to implement the law?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Nandoon po sa kanilang position paper, Mr. Speaker, na sila po ay sumusuporta dito at nakahanda po silang i-implement ito. As a matter of fact, ang sabi nga po ng ECOP, most of the corporations in the Philippines, dahil under na rin sila ng ILO na 98 days, iyong two days, talagang na-additional, bale wala na sa kanila ito kaya ginagawa na nila itong practice ngayon. Iyong additional na dalawang araw para sa kanila is nothing already. Kaya ito ay isang practice na ginagawa na ng mga private companies sa ngayon.

REP. ATIENZA. Maraming salamat po doon sa inyong pagpapaliwanag na iyon, sapagkat importante po na may pera na gugugulin sa benepisyo. Kung hindi ay kawawa naman po iyong mga ina, na aasa, kung sila man ay government employee o private employee, ay hindi naman sila mabibigyan pala ng benepisyo.

So, with that assurance, we congratulate the Lady for her perseverance and diligence in securing these guarantees.

Doon po naman sa mga local government employees and provincial employees, mayroon po ba tayong

pagsang-ayon na hawak na ninyo at nanggaling po sa mga gobernador, mayor, city mayor, municipal mayor, and other local officials who are also burdened with their budgetary requirements? Kung sila po ay nakabuo na ng budget, mahihirapan na silang magbigay ng benepisyo sa taong ito, pero kung sa darating na taon, with their guarantee, puwede naman pong asahan ng mga benepisyaryo iyan, at iyong batas ay maipatutupad.

So, the questions that I have been asking in the Committee are the questions that I am constrained to ask the Lady Sponsor, the Chairperson, and other Sponsors of the measure. Mayroon na po ba tayong garantiya mula sa mga provincial government leaders, na sila ay sumasang-ayon at mayroong salapi na ilalaan para sa batas na ito?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Speaker. Ako ay nagpapasalamat sa ating Deputy Minority Leader dahil sa kaniya na-secure talaga namin iyong position papers mula sa Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines. Ito po iyong umbrella organization ng lahat ng leagues ng local governments, subdivisions, provinces, cities, municipalities and barangays. Sila po ay nagbigay ng assurance na talagang sinusupportahan nila itong 100 days maternity leave. Mayroon din po tayong nakuha mula sa League of Cities of the Philippines na sila po ay sumusuporta rin dito po sa panukalang batas na ito.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, sa kanilang pagsuporta, naiintindihan ba nila na sila ay gugugol ng malaking salapi sa pagsuporta dito sa batas na ito, na iyong benepisyong ng empleyado nila ay hihingi ng karagdagang sustento para sa 100 araw ng kanilang pagdadalantao, pagsisilang ng sanggol at recovery period for the mothers?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Malinaw po ba iyong pera na pinag-uusapan natin?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Speaker. As a matter of fact, una para doon sa mga GSIS members natin, naka-ready po at nakahanda ang GSIS para dito. Para naman doon sa mga ibang mga empleyado, Kapag po tayo ay nage-set o nag-a-appropriate ng budget, mayroon po tayong personal services, kasama po kasi ito dahil hindi naman po siya humihingi ng additional na sweldo, hindi lang papasok doon sa araw na iyon ang isang empleyado, pero susuweldo pa rin siya. So, naka-earmark na iyong suweldo kaya wala silang additional appropriation para sa taon na iyon.

REP. ATIENZA. Ang nais lamang po nating siguruhin ay kung iyong mga alkalde ay tinatanggap

nila iyong kanilang tungkulin na ang benepisyaryo ay kailangang mabigyan ng karagdagang benepisyo.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Opo.

REP. ATIENZA. Dahil hindi po natin masasabing kumuha kayo sa GSIS. Hindi po ganoon kasimple ang karapatan ng mga empleyado sa local government. And with your assurance that local government organizations like ULAP, mayroon na ba kayong written assurance and support from them?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon din po kayong binanggit na League of Cities and Municipalities, nangangahulugan ba na iyong mga alkalde naman ng munisipyo at mga lungsod ay sumasang-ayon din?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Mayroon din silang salapi...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. ...na nakalaan para dito?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. ATIENZA. Puwede po ba iyong inyong mga dokumentong nakalap ay mabigyan ninyo ang aking tanggapan ng kopya para po naman maidipensa natin ang lahat ng mga ina na sa mga darating na panahon ay magreklamo na hindi ibinibigay sa kanila ng kanilang local government iyong karapatan nila. Can we have copies of the GSIS, the SSS ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes.

REP. ATIENZA. ... the League of Cities, the Union of Local Authorities, para po matulungan namin kayo?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Opo.

REP. ATIENZA. Mr. Speaker, with these assurances of the Lady, I congratulate her for being patient with our kakulitan sapagkat gusto naming matuloy talaga itong panukalang ito. Ang ina ay bigyan ng 100 araw na pamamahinga at pag-aaruga, at mabigyan ng breastfeeding iyong mga bagong silang na sanggol. And with that, I am proud to apply to be one of the Co-sponsors of the measure.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Maraming salamat, Mr. Speaker. Through you, I will submit all the position

papers that our Committee has received para po mabasa po lahat ng ating Deputy Minority Leader.

Marami pong salamat sa inyong suporta at sa inyong pagsabi na gusto ninyong maging author ng batas na ito. Salamat po at salamat din po sa kakulitan ninyo.

REP. DE VENECIA. Maraming salamat po, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Marami pong salamat.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Arnel U. Ty from Party-List LPGMA for his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Arnel Ty from Party-List LPGMA is recognized to interpellate the good Sponsor, the Chairperson of the Committee on Women and Gender Equality.

REP. TY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. May I ask some clarification from the beautiful Sponsor.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Gladly, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. Yes. This House Bill No. 4113, is entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE MATERNITY LEAVE PERIOD TO ONE HUNDRED (100) DAYS FOR FEMALE WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, AND GRANTING AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR AN ADDITIONAL THIRTY (30) DAYS WITHOUT PAY.

So, this proposed Act came from Republic Act No. 1161. Is it accurate?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Republic Act No. 8282.

REP. TY. Okay. So, that is the latest, 8282...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. ...as amended coming from Republic Acts No. 7322 and 1161. Okay, I just want to ask on the viability of SSS funds for this bill. It says here that we are giving 100 days coming from a 60 days maternity leave. May I know—just checking the viability of the SSS funds—how many workers are registered now in the Philippines?

REP. HERRERA-DY. 15.9 million, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. Can you please repeat it?

REP. HERRERA-DY. 15.9 million SSS—is that what you are asking, Mr. Speaker?

REP. TY. Yes, okay.

REP. HERRERA-DY. 15.9.

REP. TY. So, this is male and female?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Male and female, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. Okay. How many male and how many female?

REP. HERRERA-DY. More or less around 50 percent. So, more or less po, 50 50 percent male, 50 percent female.

REP. TY. Okay. So, on the side of the female, may I know how many percent is under the age of 20 to 35...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Around 15 percent.

REP. TY. ...of the total female workforce.

REP. HERRERA-DY. No, of the total workforce, not just the female workforce.

REP. TY. So, when it is 50 percent females out of the 15 million workforce, and 15 percent of the total 15 million, that is roughly around three million?

REP. HERRERA-DY. But I would like to clarify, because according to studies and the records, only 1.73 percent availed of the maternity leave benefits.

REP. TY. Yes, but what I am ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. So, for example, we have a total of 15.9 million workers and then 50 percent are females, out of those female members, only 1.73 percent availed of the maternity leave.

REP. TY. Yes, but what I am asking is, what percent are of the ages 20 to 35, because these are the ages that can still bear children?

REP. HERRERA-DY. I would like to correct the earlier statement. So inayos na nila, the total workforce is 26 million.

REP. TY. Okay.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Out of the 26 million, 15 million are female workers and 10 million are of child-bearing years, but only 1.73 percent avail of the maternity leave.

REP. TY. Okay. So, can you give me what will be the new computation for those women that will be availing of these incentives.

REP. HERRERA-DY. According to SSS, with the one that they submitted to us, it would just be an increase of 0.3 percent.

REP. TY. No, I mean, what I am asking is, how do you do the computation of ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Medyo complicated iyong computation nila but it is adding additional 40 days for the normal and adding 22 days for the caesarian.

REP. TY. Well, under your Bill, Section 5, letter (a), a female member who has paid at least three months or three monthly contributions in the 12-month period immediately preceding the semester of her childbirth or miscarriage, can avail maternity leave which shall be computed based on an average monthly salary credits.

So, what I am asking is, how do you compute the salary credits?

REP. HERRERA-DY. It is a very complex computation but the highest amount is P15,000, sorry, P16,000, tumaas na.

REP. TY. Okay. So, will the computation, to simplify, it is multiplied by six months, be divided by 180 days, and then times 100 days, if this Bill will be passed into law?

REP. HERRERA-DY. I will read this, medyo mahaba:

A semester refers to two consecutive quarters ending in the quarter of contingency. A **quarter** refers to three consecutive months ending March, June, September or December. To illustrate, assume that the projected date of delivery is March 2010, the semester of childbirth would be from October 9 to March 2010. This is called the semester of contingency. Count 12 months backward starting from the month immediately before the semester of contingency, which is September 2009, hence the 12-month period immediately that preceding the semester of childbirth or miscarriage is from October 2008 to September 2009. To avail of the benefits, the employee must have paid at least three monthly contributions during this period.

REP. TY. Yes, let us simplify it. Let us say she has P13,000 or she is a P13,000-minimum wage earner, with a P13,000 monthly salary. What will be her benefit?

REP. HERRERA-DY. I will base it doon sa—I will use a different example that we have para ...

REP. TY. Yes, the example that I am asking is if she has P13,000 minimum wage, which is—that is, approximately the minimum wage right now is P13,500. What are her benefits or what can she get from this Bill?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Okay. So, if I will base it on the P481 minimum wage, so we—the computation here ...

REP. TY. It's P500—I think it is P514 already, ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Anyway, ...

REP. TY. ... the minimum wage, yes.

REP. HERRERA-DY. ... so kung P514 times 30 days, P15,420. That is the proposed additional maternity leave benefit.

REP. TY. That is per month.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Additional for the 30 days.

REP. TY. Yes, that is per month. So, that means that if you are availing now of 60 to 100 days, that is approximately three months, so P15,000 times three or more, that will reach around P50,000 plus.

REP. HERRERA-DY. But we have to put in mind that the 60 days already exist. We are just adding the additional 40 days.

REP. TY. Yes, yes. Well, but I am just asking so that P15,000 ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. That is why I am answering you based on the additional.

REP. TY. ... that P15,000 is an additional.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes.

REP. TY. Okay. So, now, I just want to ask about—when I read Republic Act No. 8282, may I know from the Sponsor, what are the provisions that has been added to the existing RA 8282?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Iyong isa po na pinakamalaking difference is the additional 40 days for normal and additional 22 days for caesarian, and then the extended with no pay na additional 30 days.

REP. TY. Will it be accurate to say that under your page three, under number five and letter (b), it says, “An additional maternity leave of thirty (30) days, without pay, can be availed of, at the option of the female worker: *Provided*, that the employer shall be given due notice, in writing, or at least forty-five (45) days before the end of her ordinary maternity leave.”

And then letter (c), “Employees availing of the maternity leave period and benefits must receive not less than two-thirds (2/3) of their regular monthly wages. Employers from the private sector shall be responsible to pay the salary differential between the actual cash benefits received from the SSS by the covered female workers and their average weekly or regular wages, for the entire duration of the x x x.”

Well, this portion is the one that you added on the existing RA 8282?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, this is also an additional, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. Okay. Now, can you explain to me this letter (c)? How do you do this computation? It says:

Employees availing of the maternity leave period and benefits must receive not less than two-thirds (2/3) of their regular monthly wages. Employers from the private sector shall be responsible to pay the salary differential between the actual cash benefit received from the Social Security System x x x.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Bale your example is P13,000. Two-thirds of P13,000, hindi dapat bababa doon ang matatanggap na cash benefit ng empleyado. Nag-compute si SSS, for example, at pagdating kay SSS, mas mababa kunwari doon sa two-thirds ng P13,000, then the private sector is being requested to cover the difference. This Bill is ensuring that at least two-thirds of the wage of an employee, of a female worker who has availed of the leave, that is the amount that she should receive as cash benefit.

REP. TY. Okay. Now, the question is, kanina when you did the computation of that minimum wage earner, hindi naman siya nag-exceed doon sa threshold natin. How come she can only receive two-thirds? Besides, when we were deliberating on this, you are justifying that the private sector or the employer will not shoulder any cost.

REP. HERRERA-DY. I am sorry. Kindly repeat that, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. When we were deliberating on this in the Committee, you justified that the employer will not

shoulder any cost. That is why you said the ECOP does not object to it because the employer will not shoulder anything from this Bill.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes, Mr. Speaker, this is the final version of the Bill wherein it maintains or we maintain in the Committee, that if ever there is a salary difference or if there is a difference in the cash benefit computed, then the private sector will cover the difference.

REP. TY. That is why I am asking and interpellating because you have a commitment that there will be no extra expenses to be shouldered by the private sector or the employer. Now, how come now there is—that is why I am wondering if really ECOP is not objecting to this Bill. I talked to many of its members, and they were informed that they will not be given additional expenses from this Bill.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, according to the Committee, there was never any commitment that there will be no additional expense on the part of the private sector.

REP. TY. Your statement then was that the ECOP has no objection. I would like to read the statement of the ECOP on page 8, number 3. If this is not considered to be an objection, then I do not know what this statement was all about:

While increasing the paid and unpaid maternity leave of female workers is beneficial to them, it could result in an intended consequences in terms of their employability and over-all productivity in the context of the realities of the labor market and the extensive non-wage benefits to which they are entitled.

Number four, as provided for by this law, there are also other types of leave benefits that both male and female workers are entitled to and they have given; and on the column for females, the current incentive leave is almost 142 days to 160 days.

Now, if you will be adding an additional 40 days, then it will reach to almost 200 days, and they are questioning the number of working days in a year. So, on the labor productivity level in the Philippines, magkakaroon na lang po tayo ng almost five months na hindi sila magtatrabaho rito. Ngayon, based on their data, from 2006 to 2010, the Philippines is almost in the bottom as compared to other Asian countries.

The question now is, you are saying that the ECOP has no objection to this Bill. I do not think that statement alone is saying that they are objecting to this Bill, but it will have a big effect on the industry.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, if I may, I will read the letter of the ECOP that states:

We interpose no objection to the increase of the paid-maternity leave benefits to 100 days plus an optional unpaid leave of 30 days after childbirth. Provided that it is consistent with international labor standards, applicable laws and practice.

REP. TY. Then how come they gave these recommendations and comments?

REP. HERRERA-DY. They just recommended and gave their comments, but at the end of the day, they accepted it and interposed no objection, because as a matter of fact, I personally spoke to them and they said that the practice now of many companies is giving 98 days already, and it is being implemented at present. That is why, for them, an additional two days is nothing. We are one of the lowest in Asia. Talagang ginagawa na nila iyong 98 days for a long time already, kaya nga sabi nila sa akin, “Ma’am, iyong two days, hindi na namin iindahin iyon.”

REP. TY. Now, may I ask, itong amendment ninyo sa page 3, I do not think that what you are saying now is the right interpretation. Ang two-thirds na ito, there is a basis. Why? There is a provision here:

Employees availing of the maternity leave period and benefits must receive not less than two-thirds (2/3) of their regular monthly wages.

Ngayon, let us look at the SSS contribution table, do you think the SSS contribution table will be changed? With the current situation right now, will the SSS table on contributions be changed?

REP. HERRERA-DY. What do you mean?

REP. TY. There are SSS contributions here indicating the salaries and their premiums. Doon sa pinakadulo, P15,750 per month and over will have a monthly credit of P16,000. Their premium is P1,750.00, okay.

Now, how many female employees are receiving P20,000, P25,000, P35,000 and P40,000? This law says that you have to pay them based on their average monthly credits. Ang interpretation ko rito, let us say they have a P25,000 salary, then you have to compute it with their salary credits, so it will exceed the P16,000 cap.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Maximum po iyong P16,000. That is the cap.

REP. TY. That is why what I am asking, those who are availing of more than the minimum wage.

REP. HERRERA-DY. One point seventy-three. Ito lang ang nag-a-avail.

REP. TY. No, what I am asking is on the value of their salary.

REP. HERRERA-DY. For minimum wage earners, actually corporations would not actually pay any salary differential kasi malaki pa siya doon sa computation, iyong matatanggap nila.

REP. TY. No, if you do the computation, ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. But you are asking ...

REP. TY. ... kaya nga ang isyu namin, ang isyu ko rito ay itong amendment ninyo on letter (b) and letter (c.) This is not part of RA No. 8282. The question is, how do you interpret this? Why is there two-thirds?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to put on record, as I was mentioning earlier, ang nag-a-avail lang talaga is 1.73, and if you are asking about above minimum wage ...

REP. TY. What I am ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. ... mas mababa pa sila kasi majority of those who avail of it or those who are minimum wage earners, female minimum wage earners.

REP. TY. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that the figure of one point something percent will stay. Year by year, definitely, there will be an increase. That is why I am asking the viability of the SSS fund because you are increasing their benefits, but there are provisions here that will make their benefits bigger. I am not objecting to it, but what I am asking is the viability of the SSS fund. The question is, are you saying that you are increasing their premium in the coming years?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, katulad po ng sinabi ko kanina, they might have to increase it by 0.3 percent which is very minimal, or if they do not do that, it would set back the actuarial to two years, but it is viable. The SSS' position is that it is viable. It would set them back by two years, but it is viable and doable, and it is something that can be implemented.

REP. TY. That is not what you are saying. As you can see, through experience, many times they are not capable of paying other members. Now, the question is,

you are putting additional cost or additional incentive that will become an expense of the SSS, and will become an expense of the employer. How can you explain the two-thirds now? If we check all the RAs, RA No. 1161 which was amended by RA No. 7322 in 1995 or 1992, then amended by RA No. 8282 in 2006, wala namang naka-indicate doon na dinagdagan ng letter (b) and letter (c.)

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, if I may, matagal na po iyong mga Republic Act na iyon. Kung napapansin po natin, kaya po ang ating bansa ay napupunta sa nagmamahal o nagrerespeto sa gender equality, because we want to give it as a gift to women. Dahil po ngayon, more and more women are working and we would like to be able to give value that they are the ones who are giving life to our fellowmen.

REP. TY. No, Mr. Speaker, ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Kaya para sa akin, the cost that you are saying, even the difference is so small para hindi natin o ipagdamot natin sa mga babaeng nagbibigay buhay sa ating mga kababayan. *(Applause)*

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). May I remind the audience not to respond.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, kaya po natin ipinapasá ang batas na ito ay dahil gusto nating iregalo sa mga nanay na nagpapakahirap bigyan ng buhay tayong lahat dito sa ating bansa, at naniniwala ako kahit may konting diperensiya ito, the effect ng pag-aalaga sa mga kababaihan na nanganganak, ang contribution nila sa economy ay malaki.

Maternal function is a social responsibility, and this is recognized by all national government agencies. Iyong cost na makukuha nito will outweigh lahat ng benefits, and this is actually in all position papers that have been submitted to us. Kaya I would like to appeal to the Gentleman that kung anuman iyong additional cost sa private sector is going to be very minimal. Even the SSS is saying that 0.3 is quite minimal and which would just set them back for two years. But they do not object to this because they know that it is viable.

REP. TY. Mr. Speaker, I am not objecting to the benefit for the women. Ang sinasabi ko lang is the viability because when they put the two-thirds here, and they put exemption, there is a problem. Something will arise from this. Kapag tiningnan ninyo lang, it is very clear. They are saying that the SSS cannot pay it, that is why two-thirds lang ang sinasabi nila, then the employer will now be the one paying it. They put an exemption

so that they will not be hitting those small industries. But if you look at their exemptions, some of which go against each of the exemptions. For example, they are saying, those with below 10 people workers, and putting those industries that are not exceeding P3 million in assets—ang isang negosyo ngayon, for example, in our industry, this will hit the retail and the small business, for sure. For example, in our industry, the gas industry, if you will be putting a small enterprise having three showrooms alone that would cost more than P3 million. Now, the income of those industries cannot cope with the additional cost found in this Bill. May I remind you, this will be advanced by the employer. Remember, 100 days will cost around P55,000. Just imagine a small industry, how can it pay P55,000, and when will the SSS pay him back?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, kaya po naglagay kami dito ng exemptions para doon sa mga issues brought out during the Committee hearings. That is why we put these exemptions. Kaya po na-invite din natin ang ECOP para sila mismo i-enlighten kami kung mayroong mga industriyang hindi makakaya nito. Wala naman po silang na-put forward doon sa Committee, except for these exemptions that we put in the Bill. Kung mayroon po kayong gustong idagdag, then we can listen to it in the period of amendments para we could incorporate kung ano po iyong concern ninyo na hindi po namin naipabilang dito sa batas na ito. Pero gusto ko lang pong ulitin na dito sa ating bansa, kung ikumpara sa ibang bansa, tayo na po ang pinakanahuhuli sa lahat in terms of the number of days on maternity leave. Ito naman po siguro ay napapanahon na iregalo natin sa ating mga nanay sa ating bansa.

Kung titingnan po natin, ang Cambodia, 12 weeks; Indonesia, 12 weeks; Myanmar, 12 weeks; ang Philippines, tayo po, 60 days; Singapore, 16 weeks; Thailand, 12 weeks; and Vietnam, 16 to 24 weeks. Halos lahat sa kanilang mga bansa, employer nga po ang nagbabayad. At least dito sa atin, ang SSS po ang nagbabayad.

REP. TY. Basahin ko lang po ulit sa inyo ang labor productivity level among Asian countries. Number one is Japan, \$98,285; Singapore, \$68,468; Hong Kong, \$64,004; Brunei, \$44,775; Taipei and China, \$42,844; Korea, \$37,828; Malaysia, \$15,615; Thailand, \$3,813; and the Philippines, \$3,507. We are at the bottom when it comes to labor productivity. Ngayon, dagdagan mo pa ng another 40 days.

Can you just explain to me, will these figures lie? Nagsisinungaling ba itong data na ito that ang ECOP mismo ang nagbigay, that our labor productivity level is too low? Kung titingnan mo sa mga katabi nating bansa, how can we compete in the industry? I mean, pangit ang pananaw sa akin ng ating female workers,

pero pinoproteksyunan ko ang inyong trabaho, dahil kapag tiningnan ninyo ang ibang mga bansa, ang layo ng diperensya natin.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr...

REP. TY. Asian countries lang itong pinag-uusapan natin.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Mr. Speaker, hindi po ba natin naisip na kaya po mababa rin siguro ang productivity kasi hindi po sapat iyong pahinga na naibibigay natin sa mga nanay na bagong panganak? Kaya nga po natin tinataasan ito sa 100 days kasi ang isang babae na bagong panganak, kung mas nakapagpahinga, ay mas makababalik sa trabaho nang mas produktibo pa.

REP. TY. That is your opinion, Mr. Speaker.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Kasi kailangan po nila ito kaya...

REP. TY. That is your opinion, Mr. Speaker.

REP. HERRERA-DY. No. Hindi po ito opinyon. Mr. Speaker. Marami na pong studies ito, both here in the country and internationally. It has been proven in all researches na ito po ang nagiging resulta kaya ako po ay talagang umaapela na—sabi naman po ng ating Cong. Arnel Ty, hindi naman siya nag-o-object dito. Kung mayroon po tayong gustong ipanukala during the period of amendments, willing naman po kaming makinig dito.

REP. TY. Okay. Now, I will stop my interpellation if they will be amending to some of my requests. Number one, ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. Siguro po sa period of amendments.

REP. TY. No, I mean, you have to commit now because kung natapos ang interpellation, wala naman kaming garantiya na tatanggapin ninyo ang amendment namin.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Sige po, kung gusto ninyo pong sabihin...

REP. TY. So, number one, ...

REP. HERRERA-DY. ... kung ano po iyong mga proposal ninyo.

REP. TY. ... for the past three RAs and the latest is the 2006 RA No. 8282 under “(d), That the maternity

benefit *Provided* under this section shall be paid only for the first four (4) deliveries or miscarriages". Will you be willing and accept that provision?

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes.

REP. TY. Okay. Because ano ang naka-indicate sa Bill ninyo? Hindi, ano ang naka-indicate? Maybe you have to say it before because nakalagay dito:

Maternity leaves shall be granted to female workers in every instance of pregnancy, miscarriage or abortion regardless of its frequency.

REP. HERRERA-DY. Yes. Unlimited po sa Bill, but we are amenable to accept the first four deliveries.

REP. TY. Okay. Next will be—can we remove letter (c):

Employees availing of the maternity leave periods and benefit must receive not less than two-thirds (2/3) of their regular monthly wages. Employers from the private sector shall be responsible to pay the salary differential between the actual cash benefits received from the Social Security System ...

No, no. I am asking if they will accept it.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Chair, I move to suspend the session.

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

It was 5:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 5:58 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 4113

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 4113. I so move.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, allow me to acknowledge the presence of some guests in the gallery: first, the guests of the honorable Deputy Speaker Raneo "Ranie" E. Abu. These are the Barangay Captains from the municipality of San Luis, under the Second District of Batangas, headed by ABC President Aileen Ocampo. These are: Julieta Mirano, Eduardo Gatbonton, Mariel Gonzalvo, Florante Corales, Juan Atienza, Glicerio Mendoza, Alex Bacani, Junar Cabrera, Wilma Magnaye, Jonald Onda, Marlyn De Villa, Preserverando Castillo, Emeterio Dimafelix, Robelito Vergara, Alfred Garcia Jr., Joaquin Balderama, Lito Marco, Esmeralda Mauleon, Guillerma Capuno, Roy Bonsol, Jesus Cabello, Lovet Lacanlalay and Luciano Villanueva.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Sa mga Kapitan ko po ng Barangay sa bayan ng San Luis, Batangas, malugod po naming kayong tinatanggap dito sa Kamara de Representante. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to acknowledge the presence of the guests of Reps. Randolph S. Ting, Baby Aline Vargas-Alfonso and Ramon C. Nolasco. These are Vice Mayor Johnny Bacud of the municipality of Baggao, Cagayan; SB Virginia Herrero; Jomar Miguel; Joshua Villanueva; Lilibeth Ulep; Rowel Gazmen; ABC Honor Javier; and SK Federation President Raymart Baguisan.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Sa mga panauhin po ng mga kasamahan naming Kinatawang Ting, Alfonso at Nolasco, maligaya pong pagdating sa inyo. Welcome to the House of Representatives. (*Applause*)

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

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

It was 6:00 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:01 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF CTTEE. RPT. NO. 747
ON H. RES. NO. 456

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we consider the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 747 on House Resolution No. 456.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). 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 Resolution.

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. Committee Report No. 747 on House Resolution No. 456, entitled: A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN URGENT INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE ILLEGAL DRUG TRADING ACTIVITIES IN THE PROVINCE OF ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE;

Privilege Speech No. 84: ILLEGAL DRUG TRADE IN HIS DISTRICT; and

Privilege Speech No. 88: REACTION TO PRESS RELEASES IN RELATION TO HIS PRIVILEGE SPEECH RE: DRUG-RELATED ACTIVITIES IN HIS DISTRICT IN ZAMBOANGA DEL NORTE.

ADOPTION OF FINDINGS AND RECOM.
IN CTTEE. RPT. NO. 747 ON H. RES. NO. 456

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt the findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 747 on House Resolution No. 456.

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

The findings and recommendations contained in Committee Report No. 747 on House Resolution No. 456 is adopted.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 6770
Continuation

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we

resume the consideration of House Bill No. 6770, as contained in Committee Report No. 508, and direct the Secretary General to once again read the title of the said measure.

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

The Secretary General is hereby directed to read the title of House Bill No. 6770, under Committee Report No. 508, for consideration on Second Reading.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 6770, entitled: AN ACT INCREASING THE SERVICE INCENTIVE LEAVE OF EMPLOYEES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE ARTICLE 95 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442, AS AMENDED, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES.

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

PERIOD OF AMENDMENTS

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the said Bill is that it is in the period of amendments.

May we know, Mr. Speaker, from the honorable Sponsor if there are any Committee amendments.

REP. TING. Mr. Speaker, we do not have any Committee amendments.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we vote on House Bill No. 6770 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 6770, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 6770
ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 6770 is approved on Second Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 10, dated August 14, 2018.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Journal No. 10, dated August 14, 2018, is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO THE
CONF. CTTEE. ON H.B. NO. 6065

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 6065, renaming the Naval State University in the Province of Biliran as the Biliran Province State University or BILSU, namely: Reps. Ann K. Hofer, Rogelio J. Espina, M.D., Victoria Isabel G. Noel and Juliet R. Cortuna.

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

CHANGE OF REFERRAL OF CERTAIN MEASURES

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of the following measures:

House Bill No. 3764, providing for the rehabilitation and modernization of the Philippine General Hospital or PGH, creating the PGH Rehabilitation and Modernization Fund, from the Committee on Health to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Health.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I also move for the change of referral of House Bill No. 4096, creating the National Eye Center, from the Committee on Health to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Health.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of House Bill No. 7670, creating the Philippine Commission on Autism Spectrum Disorders and the Office of Autism Services, from the Committee on Health to the Committees on Government Reorganization and Health.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I move for the change of referral of House Bill No. 4067, amending Republic Act No. 7042, as amended by Republic Act No. 8179, otherwise known as the "Foreign Investments Act of 1991," from the Committee on Trade and Industry to the Committees on Economic Affairs and Trade and Industry.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the session.

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

It was 6:08 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we include as additional coauthors of bills and resolutions that are pending in the committees, the Members appearing in the lists to be submitted by the Committee on Rules, after due verification of their requests for inclusion as coauthors of such bills and resolutions.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we include as additional coauthors of House Bills No. 7070, 7820 and 7882, those contained in the lists to be submitted by the Committee on Rules.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

DESIGNATION OF MEMBERS TO CONF. CTTEES.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members to the Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 6715, separating the Southern Philippines Agricultural, Business, Marine and Aquatic School of Technology (SPAMAST), Digos City campus in the city of Digos, Davao del Sur, namely: Reps. Ann K. Hofer, Mercedes “Didi” C. Cagas, Lorna P. Bautista-Bandigan and Julieta R. Cortuna.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. DE VENECIA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we designate the following as members to the Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes on House Bill No. 6741, converting the Zamboanga City State Polytechnic College into a State University, namely: Reps. Ann K. Hofer, Celso L. Lobregat and Julieta Cortuna.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF REP. LANETE TO THE COMMISSION ON APPOINTMENTS

REP. ANDAYA. For the Commission on Appointments, I move that we elect Hon. Scott Davies S. Lanete M.D., vice Hon. Joel Mayo Almario.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF REP. PICHAY AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, on the part of the Majority, we would like to elect Hon. Prospero L. Pichay Jr. as Deputy Speaker, vice Hon. Romero “Miro” S. Quimbo.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF REP. YAP (A.) AS DEPUTY SPEAKER

REP. ANDAYA. Again, on the part of the Majority, we move to elect Hon. Arthur C. Yap as Deputy Speaker, vice Hon. Gwendolyn F. Garcia.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES

REP. ANDAYA. May I move for the election of the following Members to various Committees:

The Majority Leader read the names of the House Members elected to the various Committees, per Journal No. 11, dated August 15, 2018.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS

Rep. Gwendolyn F. Garcia, vice Rep. Arthur C. Yap, as Chairperson

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Rep. Romero “Mirro” S. Quimbo, vice Rep. Rodolfo T. Albano III, as member

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

Rep. Jennifer Austria Barzaga, vice Rep. Jorge “Bolet” Banal, as Vice-Chairperson

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

Rep. Jorge T. Almonte, vice Rep. Rodolfo T. Albano III

COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTS

Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo, vice Rep. Aileen C. Radaza

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Rep. Jose “Pingping” I. Tejada, vice Rep. Doy C. Leachon, Vice Chairperson

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Rep. Joseph Sto. Niño B. Bernos, vice Rep. Henedina R. Abad;

Rep. Alexandria P. Gonzales, vice Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga; and

Rep. Florida “Rida” P. Robes, vice Rep. Mauyag “Jun” B. Papandayan Jr.

COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Rep. Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon, vice Rep. Ruwel Peter S. Gonzaga

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. ANDAYA. And, Mr. Speaker, in accordance with our rules, I move that we authorize all Committees to conduct meetings or public hearings, if deemed necessary, during the House recess from August 16, 2018 to August 27, 2018.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. ANDAYA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until three o’clock in the afternoon of August 28, 2018.

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

The session is adjourned until three o’clock in the afternoon, August 28, 2018, Tuesday.

It was 6:14 p.m.