



Congressional Record

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

Vol. 1

Tuesday, September 18, 2018

No. 21

CALL TO ORDER

At 10:00 a.m., Deputy Speaker Raneó "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 silent prayer and meditation.

Everybody remained standing for the silent prayer.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move for the suspension of the session.

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

It was 10:02 a.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 1:23 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we defer the calling of the roll.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

APPROVAL OF THE JOURNAL

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve Journal No. 19, dated September 12, 2018, and Journal No. 20, dated September 17, 2018.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; Journals No. 19 and 20, are hereby approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the Secretary General is directed to 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. 8211, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE IN THE ISLAND GARDEN CITY OF SAMAL IN THE PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE, CREATING FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SAMAL ISLAND SPECIAL ECONOMIC ZONE AND FREEPORT AUTHORITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Floirendo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS
AND THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND
INDUSTRY

OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ‘WILDLIFE
RESOURCES CONSERVATION AND
PROTECTION ACT’ ”

By Representative Atienza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8212, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING INTO AN INDEPENDENT
NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN
AS THE CURRIMAO NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL THE CURRIMAO NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL – PIAS-GAANG CAMPUS IN
BARANGAY PIAS NORTE, MUNICIPALITY OF
CURRIMAO, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS NORTE,
AND SEPARATING IT FROM ITS MOTHER
SCHOOL, THE CURRIMAO NATIONAL HIGH
SCHOOL IN BARANGAY POBLACION 2,
MUNICIPALITY OF CURRIMAO, PROVINCE
OF ILOCOS NORTE, HEREINAFTER
RENAMED THE WILBUR C. GO NATIONAL
HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR”

House Bill No. 8218, entitled:

“AN ACT ENHANCING PROTECTION FOR
OVERSEAS FILIPINO WORKERS IN THE
CUSTODY OF GOVERNMENT OFFICERS/
EMPLOYEES, AMENDING FOR THIS
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 8042”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON OVERSEAS
WORKERS AFFAIRS

By Representatives Fariñas and Marcos
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8219, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL LOCAL
ROADS DEVELOPMENT BUREAU
(NLRDB), PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS
AND HIGHWAYS

House Bill No. 8213, entitled:

“AN ACT TO PROMULGATE A CONSUMER
PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD FOR
EACH DURABLE INFANT OR TODDLER
PRODUCT”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 8220, entitled:

“AN ACT REGULATING AND MODERNIZING
THE PRACTICE OF MEDICAL
TECHNOLOGY IN THE PHILIPPINES,
PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR
OTHER RELATED PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 8214, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING THE PHILIPPINE
FILM INDUSTRY THROUGH AN ANNUAL
FILM QUOTA AND OTHER SUPPORT
MEASURES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC
INFORMATION

House Bill No. 8221, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE SEAL OF
GOOD LOCAL GOVERNANCE FOR LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS, AND ALLOCATING
FOR THIS PURPOSE THE SEAL OF GOOD
LOCAL GOVERNANCE FUND”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
GOVERNMENT

House Bill No. 8215, entitled:

“AN ACT DECLARING MARCH 1 OF EVERY
YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF DAVAO TO BE
KNOWN AS THE ‘ARAW NG DABAW’,
REPEALING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT NO. 7551 AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7685”

By Representative Garcia-Albano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 8222, entitled:

“AN ACT PROFESSIONALIZING THE PRACTICE
OF AUDIOLOGY AND CREATING FOR
THIS PURPOSE A PROFESSIONAL
REGULATORY BOARD OF AUDIOLOGY,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR,
UPGRADING AUDIOLOGIC EDUCATION,
INTEGRATING AUDIOLOGISTS, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES”

House Bill No. 8216, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT 9147,

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

House Bill No. 8223, entitled:

“AN ACT IMPROVING THE DISCLOSURE AND
TRANSPARENCY OF THE EXTRACTIVE
INDUSTRIES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

House Bill No. 8224, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING PROGRAMS FOR
INCARCERATED PARENTS AND THEIR
CHILDREN”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF
CHILDREN

House Bill No. 8225, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FOR
DETERMINING STATUTORY RAPE TO
PROVIDE STRONGER PROTECTION
FOR CHILDREN, AND AMENDING FOR
THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 3815,
AS AMENDED, ALSO KNOWN AS THE
REVISED PENAL CODE”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 8226, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING AND
INSTITUTIONALIZING LONG-TERM CARE
FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR
CITIZENS

House Bill No. 8227, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 6975,
ALSO KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT ESTABLISHING
THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE,
UNDER A REORGANIZED DEPARTMENT OF
THE INTERIOR AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’, AS
AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8551”

By Representative Sarmiento (E.M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ORDER
AND SAFETY

House Bill No. 8228, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE OBSERVANCE
OF SEPTEMBER 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS

THE NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE
FOR THE VICTIMS OF MARTIAL LAW,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON REVISION OF
LAWS

House Bill No. 8229, entitled:

“AN ACT INCLUDING THE EASTERN
VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY – DULAG
CAMPUS AS A REGULAR CAMPUS OF
EASTERN VISAYAS STATE UNIVERSITY
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9311 OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS ‘AN ACT CONVERTING THE
LEYTE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
(LIT) IN THE PROVINCE OF LEYTE INTO
A STATE UNIVERSITY TO BE KNOWN
AS THE EASTERN VISAYAS STATE
UNIVERSITY AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR’ ”

By Representative Ong (H.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND
TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8233, entitled:

“AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE SECRETARY
OF HEALTH TO AWARD GRANTS FOR
TRAINING AND SUPPORT SERVICES FOR
ALZHEIMER’S PATIENTS AND THEIR
FAMILIES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

House Bill No. 8234, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR PROTECTION OF
ARTISTS’ WELFARE”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION
AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8235, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOWING THE TERMINATION
OF ANY POSTPAID SUBSCRIPTION
WHENEVER SERVICES HAVE BEEN
SUBSTANDARD OR DELINQUENT, TO
FOSTER CONSUMER PROTECTION,
PROVIDING PENALTIES AND
SANCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 8236, entitled:

“AN ACT MANDATING THE MANILA, CEBU

AND DAVAO AIRPORTS TO CONDUCT 24 HOURS A DAY TERMINAL OPERATIONS, TO FOSTER THE OPTIMAL STANDARDS FOR AIR CARRIER PASSENGER SERVICES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

House Bill No. 8238, entitled:

“AN ACT TO AMEND REPUBLIC ACT 9994 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representatives Nieto, Maceda, Martinez, Sandoval, Malapitan, Olivarez and Calixto-Rubiano
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

RESOLUTIONS

House Resolution No. 2168, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS TO EXTEND THE DEADLINE FOR VOTERS REGISTRATION FROM SEPTEMBER 29, 2018 TO JANUARY 13, 2019”

By Representatives Elago, Zarate, Brosas, Castro (F.L.) and Casilao
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Resolution No. 2169, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE TOTAL BAN ON THE USE OF THERMAL PAPER ON RECEIPTS AND COMMERCIAL PAPERS SUCH AS BILLS FOR UTILITIES”

By Representative Atienza
TO THE COMMITTEE ON TRADE AND INDUSTRY

House Resolution No. 2170, entitled:

“RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INVESTIGATION IN AID OF LEGISLATION ON THE DST IMPOSITION TO PHILIPPINE CHARITY SWEEPSTAKES OFFICE’S LOTTO AND THE MISUSE OF ITS CHARITY FUND”

By Representative Villafuerte
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2171, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OPPOSING THE DESIGNATION OF VALENZUELA CITY AS THE SITE OF THE INTERIM NORTHERN TERMINAL

UNDER THE NEW MMDA POLICY ON PROVINCIAL BUSES”

By Representatives Gatchalian and Martinez
TO THE COMMITTEE ON METRO MANILA DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 2172, entitled:

“RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE STUDENTS PROTESTING FOR THE DEMOCRATIC RIGHT TO ORGANIZE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES DILIMAN, AND THE CONDEMNING UNIVERSITY POLICIES THAT REPRESS THE STUDENTS’ RIGHT TO ORGANIZE”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Resolution No. 2173, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TO PROBE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE CENSORSHIP THREAT AGAINST HIMATI, THE OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF UP MINDANAO”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2174, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO PROBE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE POLICE KILLING OF 18-YEAR OLD JOSHUA LAXAMANA, AND FOR THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO CALL TO STRENGTHEN THE SEARCH FOR DISAPPEARED TEENAGER JULIUS SEBASTIAN”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2175, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS TO INVESTIGATE, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, THE RECENT KILLING OF 4-YEAR OLD SKYLER ABATAYO IN THE CROSSFIRE UNDER THE WAR ON DRUGS”

By Representative Elago
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2176, entitled:

“RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS (COMELEC) TO SCHEDULE

THE FILING OF THE CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY (COC) AND CERTIFICATES OF NOMINATION AND ACCEPTANCE (CONA) ON THE 1ST OR 2ND WEEK OF JANUARY, 2019 FOR THE MAY 2019 MID-TERM ELECTIONS”

By Representatives Salimbangon, Castro (F.H.), Acop, Antonino, Barzaga, Vargas-Alfonso, Bravo (M.V.), Bataoil, Cueva, Cuaresma, Roa-Puno, Pancho, Silverio, Revilla, Uy (J.), Ting, Alvarez (F.), Mercado, Ong (E.), Tambunting, Plaza, Belaro, Batocabe, Co, Bravo (A.), De Vera, Cortuna, Garbin, Marcoleta, Manalo, Salo, Sambar, Velasco-Catera, Antonio, Ortega (P.) and Pineda
TO THE COMMITTEE ON SUFFRAGE AND ELECTORAL REFORMS

House Resolution No. 2177, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON FOOD SECURITY TO CONDUCT A JOINT INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, ON THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY (NFA) COUNCIL’S POLICY OF BUYING RICE UNDER THE GOVERNMENT’S RICE BUFFER STOCKING PROGRAM AT P17 PER KILO AND THE PROPOSAL TO INCREASE THE BUYING PRICE OF PALAY TO P22 PER KILO”

By Representative Nograles (K.A.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Resolution No. 2179, entitled:

“RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT (DSWD) TO REVISE THE PAYMENT SCHEMES OF SOCIAL PENSION PROGRAM FOR INDIGENT SENIOR CITIZENS PARTICULARLY DELIVERING THE PENSION ON A MONTHLY BASIS AND TO THE BARANGAY LEVEL ESPECIALLY IN GEOGRAPHICALLY ISOLATED AND DISADVANTAGED AREAS”

By Representative Aquino-Magsaysay
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Resolution No. 2181, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION EXTENDING CONGRATULATIONS TO RAINBOW CONCHA, JASSEF YZAI AH TAMBIS, AND THEIR COACH MS. PRELYN SANDIMAS FOR THEIR COMMENDABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE 2018 ASEAN CYBERKIDS CAMP”

By Representative Nieto
TO THE COMMITTEE ON YOUTH AND SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

House Resolution No. 2182, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE COMMITTEE ON RULES TO REVERT BACK HOUSE BILL NO. 8179 OR AN ACT GRANTING SOLAR PARA SA BAYAN CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN DISTRIBUTABLE POWER TECHNOLOGIES AND MINI GRID SYSTEMS THROUGHOUT THE PHILIPPINES TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY TO THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE FRANCHISES FOR FURTHER DELIBERATIONS”

By Representatives Belmonte (R.), Lacson, Montoro, Romero, Pineda, Ty, Canama, Atienza, Salo, Calalang, Uybarreta, Belaro, Salimbangon, Dalipe and Aquino-Magsaysay
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

House Joint Resolution No. 28, entitled:

“A JOINT RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR A SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET OF TEN BILLION PESOS (P10 B) TO BE IMMEDIATELY RELEASED TO THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY AND DIRECTING THE NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY TO EXCLUSIVELY USE THE AMOUNT TO URGENTLY PROCURE FOR THE PERIOD SEPTEMBER 2018 TO JANUARY 2019 AT LEAST 500,000 METRIC TONS OF PALAY FROM LOCAL RICE FARMERS AT THE FARM GATE PRICE OF TWENTY PESOS (P20) PER KILOGRAM IN ORDER TO EASE THE RICE CRISIS THAT IS DEVASTATING THE POOR OF THIS COUNTRY”

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

MESSAGES FROM THE SENATE

Message dated September 12, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on September 11, 2018, designated Senators Risa Hontiveros, Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay, Grace Poe, Sonny Angara and Paolo Benigno “Bam” Aquino IV as conferees to the Bicameral Conference Committee on the disagreeing provisions of Senate Bill No. 1305, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE MATERNITY LEAVE PERIOD TO ONE HUNDRED TWENTY (120) DAYS FOR FEMALE

WORKERS IN THE GOVERNMENT SERVICE AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR AN ADDITIONAL THIRTY (30) DAYS WITHOUT PAY, PROVIDING A PARENTAL LEAVE PERIOD FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS, AND GRANTING AN ADDITIONAL THIRTY (30) DAYS FOR SOLO MOTHERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

and House Bill No. 4113, 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”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated September 12, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that on even date, the Senate conferees to the Bicameral Conference on Senate Bill No. 1620 and House Bill No. 7436 was recalled.

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Message dated September 12, 2018, informing the House of Representatives that the Senate on even date adopted House Bill No. 7436 as an amendment to Senate Bill No. 1620, entitled:

“AN ACT ABOLISHING THE ROAD BOARD AND PROVIDING FOR THE DISTRIBUTION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE MOTOR VEHICLE USER’S CHARGE COLLECTIONS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8794, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT IMPOSING A MOTOR VEHICLE USER’S CHARGE ON OWNERS OF ALL TYPES OF MOTOR VEHICLES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

COMMUNICATIONS

Letter dated August 6, 2018 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 11055 which was signed into law on even date by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE PHILIPPINE IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM”

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letter dated August 9, 2018 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President,

Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies of Republic Act No. 11056 which was signed into law on even date by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte, entitled: “AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CAMPUS OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES (PUP) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SABLAYAN, PROVINCE OF OCCIDENTAL MINDORO TO BE KNOWN AS THE PUP-SABLAYAN CAMPUS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

TO THE ARCHIVES

Letters dated August 17, 2018 of Salvador C. Medialdea, Executive Secretary, Office of the President, Malacañang, transmitting two (2) original copies each of the following Republic Acts, all of which were signed into law on even date by President Rodrigo Roa Duterte:

1. R.A. No. 11057, entitled:

“AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE SECURED TRANSACTIONS LEGAL FRAMEWORK IN THE PHILIPPINES, WHICH SHALL PROVIDE FOR THE CREATION, PERFECTION, DETERMINATION OF PRIORITY, ESTABLISHMENT OF A CENTRALIZED NOTICE REGISTRY, AND ENFORCEMENT OF SECURITY INTERESTS IN PERSONAL PROPERTY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”;

2. R.A. No. 11058, entitled:

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

3. R.A. No. 11059, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A RETIREMENT BENEFIT SYSTEM IN THE OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, AUGMENTING ITS EMPLOYEE BENEFITS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

4. R.A. No. 11060, entitled:

“AN ACT SEPARATING THE KALBAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ANNEX IN BARANGAY SUGAL, MUNICIPALITY OF JOSE ABAD SANTOS, PROVINCE OF DAVAO OCCIDENTAL FROM THE KALBAY NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, CONVERTING IT INTO AN INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TO BE KNOWN AS EMELIANO S. FONTANARES SR. NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”;

5. R.A. No. 11061, entitled:

“AN ACT RENAMING THE GUREL-BOKOD-

KABAYAN-ABATAN ROAD IN THE PROVINCE OF BENGUET TO CONG. ANDRES ACOP COSALAN ROAD”;

6. R.A. No. 11062, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) EXTENSION OFFICE LOCATED IN MUNTINLUPACITY INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”; and

7. R.A. No. 11063, entitled:

“AN ACT CONVERTING THE CALOOCAN CITY EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE LAND TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) LOCATED IN MALABON CITY, METRO MANILA INTO A REGULAR LTO DISTRICT OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”.
TO THE ARCHIVES

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 858), re H.R. No. 2178, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION OF THE LATE FAMED ARTIST MAURO ‘MALANG’ SANTOS TO FILIPINO CULTURE AND ARTS AND EXTENDING THE SYMPATHIES OF THE FILIPINO PEOPLE TO HIS BEREAVED FAMILY AND LOVED ONES”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1099

Sponsors: Representatives Durano and Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Legislative Franchises (Committee Report No. 859), re H.B. No. 8237, entitled:

“AN ACT RENEWING FOR ANOTHER TWENTY-FIVE (25) YEARS THE FRANCHISE GRANTED TO SOLIDNORTH BROADCASTING SYSTEM, INC. UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8089, ENTITLED ‘AN ACT GRANTING THE SOLIDNORTH BROADCASTING SYSTEM A FRANCHISE TO CONSTRUCT, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN COMMERCIAL RADIO BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 7766

Sponsors: Representatives Alvarez (F.) and Savellano
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Housing and Urban Development (Committee Report No. 860), re H.R. No. 2180, entitled:

“A RESOLUTION URGING THE NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY TO GRANT AMNESTY TO ITS SOCIALIZED HOUSING BENEFICIARIES WITH DELINQUENT LOAN ACCOUNTS, CONDONING THEREBY ALL PENALTIES AND SURCHARGES ON UNPAID LOAN AMORTIZATIONS AND TO INSTITUTE A LOAN RESTRUCTURING PROGRAM PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9507”

recommending its adoption in substitution of House Resolution No. 1511

Sponsors: Representatives Benitez, Belmonte (J.C.) and Palma

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Welfare of Children and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 861), re H.B. No. 8239, entitled:

“AN ACT PROMOTING POSITIVE AND NON-VIOLENT DISCIPLINE, PROTECTING CHILDREN FROM PHYSICAL, HUMILIATING OR DEGRADING ACTS AS A FORM OF PUNISHMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 516 and 6955

Sponsors: Representatives Yu, Nograles (K.A.), Herrera-Dy and Silverio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Local Government (Committee Report No. 862), re H.B. No. 8240, entitled:

“AN ACT REVISING THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF BAGUIO”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1555

Sponsors: Representatives Acharon and Go (M.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Women and Gender Equality (Committee Report No. 863), re H.B. No. 8244, entitled:

“AN ACT EXPANDING THE DEFINITION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT, STRENGTHENING THE MECHANISMS TO MONITOR COMPLIANCE WITH POLICIES AGAINST SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN THE WORKPLACE AND IN EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING INSTITUTIONS, AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF, REPEALING

FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7877, ALSO REFERRED TO AS THE ‘ANTI-SEXUAL HARASSMENT ACT OF 1995’ ”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bills Numbered 194, 508, 2591, 2932, 3691, 4822 and 5977

Sponsors: Representatives Herrera-Dy, Villarica, Bertiz, Andaya, De Jesus and Antonio

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 864), re H.B. No. 8247, entitled:

“AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF PAMPLONA IN THE PROVINCE OF CAMARINES SUR, TO BE KNOWN AS THE BICOL WOMEN’S AND CHILDREN’S HOSPITAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 266

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Villafuerte, and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Health and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 865), re H.B. No. 8248, entitled:

“AN ACT INCREASING THE BED CAPACITY OF THE MASBATE PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL IN MASBATE CITY, PROVINCE OF MASBATE, FROM ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE (125) TO TWO HUNDRED (200) BEDS, UPGRADING ITS SERVICES AND FACILITIES, AUTHORIZING THE INCREASE OF ITS MEDICAL PERSONNEL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2905

Sponsors: Representatives Tan (A.), Kho and Nograles (K.A.)

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture (Committee Report No. 866), re H.B. No. 8249, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING THE BRITISH SCHOOL MANILA AS AN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION OF INTERNATIONAL CHARACTER GRANTING THE SCHOOL CERTAIN PREROGATIVES CONDUCIVE TO ITS DEVELOPMENT”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 6306, as amended, in consolidation

with House Bills Numbered 6032 and 6063 reported out under Committee Report No. 503, which was recommitted to the Committee on 30 January 2018

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Lacson, Salo and Escudero

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability and the Committee on Energy (Committee Report No. 867), re recommitted Committee Report No. 632 on H.R. No. 1741, entitled:

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

informing the House of the Committees’ findings and recommendations

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

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Public Works and Highways and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 868), re H.B. No. 8250, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING ILIGAN CITY DISTRICT ENGINEERING OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 2431

Sponsors: Representatives Fernando, Nograles (K.A.) and Siao

TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES

Report by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture and the Committee on Appropriations (Committee Report No. 869), re H.B. No. 8254, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING THE BAYANG HISTORICAL PARK AND CONVENTION CENTER IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAYANG, PROVINCE OF LANA DEL SUR, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 4219

Sponsors: Representatives Durano, Nograles (K.A.)
and Papandayan
TO THE COMMITTEE ON RULES
ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

COMMUNICATION

Letter dated August 20, 2018 of Benjamin E. Diokno, Secretary, Department of Budget and Management, transmitting the consolidated Statement of Appropriations, Allotments, Obligations, Disbursements and Balances (SAAODB) of the national government agencies for the quarter ending June 30, 2018.
TO THE COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8165
Continuation

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move that we take up the Unfinished Business, under which, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 8165, under Committee Report No. 842. May we request the Secretary General to read the title of the Bill.

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 is hereby directed to read the title of House Bill No. 8165, under Committee Report No. 842.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8165, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mr. Speaker, I move to recognize the Sponsor of the said Bill, the Hon. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo of the Lone District of Camiguin.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Chairperson of the Committee on Disaster Resilience, Cong. XJ Romualdo, is recognized for the continuation of the period of sponsorship and debate.

REP. ROA-PUNO. Yes. Just to reiterate, Mr. Speaker, we are in the period of sponsorship and debate. I now move to recognize the honorable Rep. Arnel U. Ty of the Party-List LPGMA for his interpellation.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). If I am not mistaken, Majority Leader, this is the continuation of ...

REP. ROA-PUNO. Sponsorship and debate.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). ... the interpellation of Cong. Arnel Ty of the Gentleman, the Sponsor of the Bill.

REP. ROA-PUNO. I submit, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Hon. Arnel Ty of the LPGMA Party-List is recognized to continue his interpellation to the good Sponsor.

REP. TY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

May I know first, Mr. Speaker, how many minutes are left for my interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Gentleman has 30 minutes.

REP. TY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Sponsor, last time, I asked what is considered to be a disaster that this agency that we are now discussing will be responding to. Let us say, like I asked last time about typhoons, earthquakes, volcano eruptions—are these examples of disasters that this agency will be prepared to respond to and assist all of our citizens who will be affected by these so-called disasters?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, under our definition of “disaster” in the Bill, a disaster is “a serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society involving widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses and impacts, which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources.”

So, in essence, Mr. Speaker, this would involve hazards that were mentioned by the distinguished Gentleman—hazards that are of natural causes such as typhoons, earthquakes and the like. And they would also, based on our definition, cover hazards that are human-induced, such as environmental degradation, industrial accidents, pollution, complex emergencies, and the like. So, they would cover all hazards, both natural and human-induced.

REP. TY. So, Mr. Speaker, does this mean that a

vehicle collision that involves casualties is considered to be part of the so-called disaster that this agency will be responding to?

REP. ROMUALDO. We do not think that such a situation would call for the involvement of the proposed Department, Mr. Speaker, because to come under the jurisdiction of the Department, the disaster must exceed the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. So, in case of vehicular accidents, those would properly be matters involving law enforcement, and road safety and the like. So, those would fall under agencies performing functions related to that. The coverage or the jurisdiction of the proposed Department would be, I would say, events or hazards that have substantial effects on communities.

REP. TY. How about, Mr. Speaker, a fire that has been engulfing a community or, let us say, let us start with one structure that starts the first alarm or probably up to the third alarm. Will this be considered also as a disaster that this agency will be responding to?

REP. ROMUALDO. In that case, Mr. Speaker, if a certain fire affects a substantial portion of a community, if it affects the ability of the community, of the local government unit, for example, to appropriately respond to the fire, in that case, the Department may come in or may be requested to come in to provide assistance and help in addressing the hazard and the disaster in that case, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. Well, my concern, Mr. Speaker, is, that what if it is only the start of a fire, let us say, a grass fire from a certain area here in Quezon City? Will that be considered a responsibility of this agency?

REP. ROMUALDO. Well, our framework, Mr. Speaker, is that we do not take away the ability of local governments to be the first to respond to hazards and calamity situations such as those mentioned by the Gentleman. So, in that case, once you have a grass fire, for example, it is the responsibility of the local government unit in the area to respond to that fire. But, again, when the event is such that it begins to exceed the ability of the community, of the LGU to appropriately respond, then the proposed Department may come in, assist and respond to that event, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. Okay. Mr. Speaker, I will just focus on Section 69, Transfer and Attachment. This is under Chapter 11, Final Provisions. Like what I have read last time, last week, this states that the applicable powers, functions, funds, and appropriations of the Office of Civil Defense and other agencies, including

the Bureau of Fire Protection, are hereby transferred to the Department. Now, my question is, may the Sponsor enumerate the responsibilities and tasks of the current Bureau of Fire Protection set up right now?

REP. ROMUALDO. Well, Mr. Speaker, under the present operational procedures manual of the Bureau of Fire Protection, they are involved in, well, first of all, fire safety enforcement which includes the review of building plans; the conduct of fire safety inspections; the issuance of fire safety inspection certificates; the periodic inspection of buildings; the issuance and service of notices to correct violations; the abatement orders; and those that relate to fire safety. They also have, of course, firefighting operations, including responding to fires in different situations, in different settings.

The BFP also has emergency medical services. They also have special operations on chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear operations; collapsed structure rescue operations; confined space rescue operations; civil disturbance management; electrocution rescue operations; and elevator rescue operations. They also have operations for water rescue and vehicular accident rescue. Another important function of the BFP is fires and arson investigation; determination of origin of fire and its causes, and the responsibilities and the liabilities of those involved, and then, finally, disaster management. These are the six functions of the BFP, Mr. Speaker: fire safety enforcement, firefighting operations, emergency medical services, special operations, fire and arson investigation, and finally, disaster management. So, those are the functions of the BFP, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. Kasama rin po ba rito, Mr. Speaker, G. Isponsor, the businesses that the Bureau of Fire Protection needs to inspect, while ito ay kanilang ini-inspect, whether these establishments are new or just renewing their permits? So, sila rin ho ang magbibigay ng conveyance permit for them to apply for Mayor's permit. Tama po ba?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes, Mr. Speaker. In fact, in the Manual of Operations of the BFP, it is the first fire safety enforcement which includes fire safety inspection and the issuance of the fire safety inspection certificate for purposes of the processing of the business permit. That is among the first functions of the Bureau of Fire Protection.

REP. TY. Well, my problem now, Mr. Speaker, is that by creating this agency, the main reason kung bakit ho natin itinatag itong ahensiyang ito—dahil ang pananaw ho ng Sponsor ay—is when the Bureau of Fire Protection is attached to the DILG ay napakarami

ho ng trabaho ng Department of the Interior and Local Government. And when I asked what the tasks of the Bureau of Fire Protection are, there are a lot of tasks assigned to the Bureau.

Now, by creating another agency to concentrate and to focus on disaster management and resiliency, do you think they can do better? Marami pa rin naman ang mga trabaho na nakaatang sa—isang ahensiya pa lang ho ang pinag-uusapan natin. There are, at least, less than 10 agencies that will be attached or transferred to this Department.

So, the question is, I will just be focusing on the BFP, Bureau of Fire Protection. Do you think that this new agency can manage better and can continue to do what the Bureau of Fire Protection is doing right now? Because, as of now, Mr. Speaker, the reason they are attached to the DILG is that the DILG is supervising our local government units which issue permits to our businessmen or any structures that need to be built. They are the ones tasked to monitor the renewal of all of these establishments, buildings and structures. Of course, it needs to have a conveyance permit duly inspected by the Bureau of Fire Protection.

Now, if we segregate it to another agency, that means two agencies will be needed for a single establishment to look for the needed permits. Do you think it is wise to attach or to transfer the Bureau of Fire Protection to the Department of Disaster Resilience, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, we understand the concern of the Gentleman. In fact, this is the concern that has been raised to us by other Members and other stakeholders that will be affected by the proposed Bill, the proposed legislation for the establishment of the Department of Disaster Resilience. It is because the bulk of the day-to-day work of the Bureau of Fire Protection is really on fire safety enforcement. As the Gentleman mentioned in its conduct of inspections and the issuance of permits, this is a concern that is shared by other Members and even by some of the authors of the Bill.

So, we understand the concern and we would welcome a proposal on the part of the Gentleman, or an amendment on this matter. In fact, it is something that we will discuss among the authors and the sponsors once we get to the period of amendments, because it is a concern raised by many other stakeholders and Members, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. Mr. Speaker, just another point as to why I will be insisting that the Bureau of Fire Protection should be retained with the DILG is that we have a law that indicates that 100 percent of all municipalities should have a fire truck.

Right now, based on the records of the Bureau of Fire Protection, we only have less than 60 percent of

all our municipalities covered. Now, if we remove, if we transfer the Bureau of Fire Protection to the Department of Disaster Resilience, what will happen to the question that I raised just a minute ago for the grass fires, for the, let us say, first alarm which is not covered to be considered as disaster? Then, who will be responding to that? Will it be the LGU which has no capability to respond to any fire? Iyon iyong problema, Mr. Speaker. That is the reason I will be insisting that in the period of amendments. We need to retain the Bureau of Fire Protection with the Department of the Interior and Local Government because it is not only major disasters that the Bureau of Fire Protection is responding to but iyong maliliit na mga problema ng pagreresponde sa mga maliliit na sunog na wala hong kapasidad ang isang munisipyo to respond to those areas. Magiging malaking problema po natin iyan. It is harder to respond to and manage a fire that has been blown into a big disaster or proportion and that it is better to stop it while it is in the stage of first alarm. Kaya nga po, binabanggit ko lang po that, hopefully, the good Sponsor will have to agree that we have to retain the BFP with the DILG.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the Gentleman does raise very valid points and as we stated earlier, we will confer with him when we get to the appropriate period on this matter. If amendments are required, then we will be very much open to work with him on those amendments, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. Another point, on agencies that I want to ask or clarify about is the Engineering Geological and Geohazard Assessment Section of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau. Is it wise for the new Department that will take this Bureau from the DENR? As you know, we have issues in mining. So, is it correct to say that if you give this to the Department of Disaster Resilience, what is the benefit of this Bureau of the DENR if it will be attached to the Department of Disaster Resilience?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the principles or the tenets of disaster resilience is the identification and analysis of disaster risk. So, in order to be able to properly address these risks, we have to identify them first.

The intent of the transfer of the Engineering Geological and Geohazard Assessment Section of the MGB to the DDR, which is the proposed Department, is for the Department to have its own unit or office that will be able to conduct the identification and analysis of disaster risk on matters of geohazard assessment and geology. So, that is really the intent behind the proposed transfer of this section or this unit of the MGB.

REP. TY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How about the DOH? What is the reason for the transfer of the Health Emergency Management Bureau of the Department of Health?

REP. ROMUALDO. The intent behind the proposed transfer of the Health Emergency Management Bureau of the DOH is to—well, we have disaster risk identification and analysis, and another principle involved is disaster response which is the ability of the Department to appropriately respond to disasters. So, the proposed transfer is for the proposed Department to have another bureau, office or unit to address that principle or that tenet of disaster resilience which is disaster response.

Now, it is also the same with regard to the Disaster Response Assistance and Management Bureau or DREAMB of the DSWD. This is for the areas of disaster response and relief, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. May I know, Mr. Speaker, what are the tasks, let us say in the outbreak of a disease, of the Health Emergency Management Bureau? Does the Health Emergency Management Bureau have any participation now that it is attached to the DOH?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, the health, the disaster response—we have the Health Emergency Management Bureau that covers the things mentioned by the Gentleman. And those situations or circumstances he mentioned would be properly under the jurisdiction of the Department because they would involve disasters under the definition. So, the Department in that case would be able to respond to those situations with the Health Emergency Management Bureau of the DOH under its roof.

REP. TY. Well, Mr. Speaker, as I remember, the Health Emergency Management Bureau is also involved in responding to the outbreak of diseases. Now, if we transfer this to the Department of Disaster Resilience, the question is: Is the outbreak considered the task of the Department of Disaster Resilience or does it still remain a major task of the DOH?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, specifically for outbreaks, for example, the DOH would still be the primary government agency to address such because they have the expertise on the matter. But when it comes to responding when the outbreak occurs and there is a need on the part of the government to actually respond to the outbreak to provide relief, for example, then the Department may come in and help on the situation and address the same to preclude the spread of the outbreak. So, it would come under the definition of disasters that the Department would be able to respond to, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. Will you agree if the Health Emergency Management Bureau will be retained with the DOH? I believe that when it comes to the outbreak of diseases, this new Department is not capable and my worry is they will mishandle it rather than the DOH that is now handling the task. As to the response to those disasters like typhoon and earthquake, it is given that anybody can manage a health emergency, but when it comes to diseases, either we remove from the tasks of the Department of Disaster Resilience the responsibility to respond to those emergencies like the outbreak and let it be with the DOH; or we do not remove the Health Emergency Management Bureau from the Department of Health.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, we would be open to suggestions and inputs from the Gentleman on how we can better address the situation that he makes reference to. We would be very open to working with him to better delineate the responsibilities and even the transfer of agencies so that we will be able to better address the situation, on outbreaks in that case. One of the things that we want from the Department of Disaster Resilience is to have very clear lines of responsibilities, a very clear line as to which agency has jurisdiction over which. So, in that case, we would very much welcome his inputs on the matter so that we will be able to achieve that goal in the crafting of the proposed Department of Disaster Resilience bill.

REP. TY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Now, I just want to go to the Office of Civil Defense. On Section 69 (b), it states:

The disaster risk reduction and management functions, assets and personnel of the Office of Civil Defense (OCD) currently under the DND, are hereby transferred to the Department, and the civil defense functions shall remain with the DND.

But the asset, when I say asset, let us say heavy equipment, will it be transferred to the Department of Disaster Resilience?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes, Mr. Speaker. All the assets and the functions, everything under the OCD that relates to disaster risk reduction will be transferred to the proposed Department of Disaster Resilience and what will be left with the OCD are the civil defense functions relating, for example, to the Citizens' Armed Forces and our reservists. So, these functions will be left to the OCD while everything related to disaster risk reduction, including equipment and assets, will be transferred to the Department of Disaster Resilience because the Department will be the sole agency responsible for responding to disasters.

REP. TY. Well, my issue, Mr. Speaker, is what will happen to the many tasks of the Office of Civil Defense like building of bridges and community services using their heavy equipment if this will be transferred to the Department of Disaster Resilience? It will not be covered because it is not considered as a disaster, but a function of services that will be rendered to those communities that need to be supported by infrastructure only the Office of Civil Defense can provide.

REP. ROMUALDO. In that case, Mr. Speaker, everything with regard to not only response and relief but also with regard to recovery and building forward better and reconstruction, all those things, all those elements will be under the Department of Disaster Resilience.

So for recovery, for reconstruction, those will be under the jurisdiction already of the Department of Disaster Resilience so there would not be any stoppage, and there would not be any discontinuance of work, because once the Bill becomes a law, the Department will be responsible for that already. So, we do not foresee any stoppage or any discontinuance of recovery and reconstruction efforts because that would be one of the primary mandates of the Department of Disaster Resilience, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. Mr. Speaker, then I go back to the reason why we want to create a new Department because they say that we need to focus on disaster preparedness and disaster response, but if all of those tasks will just be transferred—from so many agencies which will be absorbed by one agency—I do not see the point of making a new agency that will be getting different tasks and putting them into one, then mas mahihirapan ho yata itong agency na ito to respond, because the disaster resilience's objective is to make this Department focus only on disaster preparedness and disaster response, pero marami na hong attached tasks itong mga kinuha niyang mga bureaus from other agencies. Now, my problem is, paano ho niya ngayon kakayaning gawin iyong kaniyang mandato? Ginagawa na ho ito ng iba. It is only distributed from different agencies or departments, but now we will be putting them in one house, different tasks that need to be coordinated with the other departments. Bakit pa natin gagawin kung mas mahihirapan lamang ho palang tugunan nitong bagong ahensya iyong kaniyang mga responsibilidad, Mr. Speaker?

REP. ROMUALDO. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is not quite accurate to say that the Department would only focus on preparedness and response. The reason why we call it the Department of Disaster Resilience is that it really focuses on jurisdiction and, you know, the focus

of the Department is on the whole principle of disaster resilience which includes, as we have mentioned, the identification, analysis of risks, determination of the risks, preparedness and then, when disaster strikes, for instance you would have response and relief, and then recovery, and then building forward better, and all of these things encompass resilience. So, it is a broader mandate and not just the ability to manage and respond to disasters. So that is why, the intent is to take all of these functions that are in different agencies and put them under one roof so that, you know, you have one agency that is responsible, that we can call on for the whole principle of disaster resilience and not just on preparedness or response and relief.

It is really the entire ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). May I remind the Gentlemen that the 30-minute time limit has already expired. Please wind up.

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes. So, it is really the entire principle of disaster resilience which includes all these smaller other functions that are dispersed among different agencies and we put them together under one roof, you know, for the promotion of disaster resilience, Mr. Speaker.

REP. TY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.
Now, my last point is that ...

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Sorry, Honorable Arnel Ty, your time has expired.

REP. TY. Yes, can I have just one last point?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Unless otherwise ...

REP. TY. Yes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). ... there would be a motion. (Silence) There is no motion; sorry.

REP. TY. May I move for a reconsideration, for me to have five more minutes—to give only one more point.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). Sorry, Gentleman, I cannot grant it.

REP. TY. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Thank you.

Mr. Speaker, we thank the distinguished Gentleman and as we have committed earlier, we will be working with him with regard to his inputs when the appropriate period comes.

Thank you.

REP. HOFER. Mr. Speaker, the next Member who wishes to interpellate the Sponsor is the Gentleman from the First District of Albay, the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Abu). The Hon. Edcel C. Lagman from the First District of Albay is recognized to interpellate the good Sponsor.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Will the Gentleman yield?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I would be very much honored to receive questions from the Gentleman from Albay.

REP. LAGMAN. I am informed, Mr. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, that the Bill—iyong original Bill, which is the basis of our interpellation, will subsequently be replaced by a more favored Bill. In fact, as of September 4, 2018, we have received a copy of another Bill and we were informed that a revised version is being crafted. Is this correct, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, I am defending the Bill now as one of the Sponsors of the measure prior to my election as the Chair of the Committee on Good Government and Public Accountability. I chaired the Committee on Government Reorganization which processed the measure and crafted the Bill with the Committee Report before us. However, after the Bill was approved by the Committee and with the approval of the Committee Report, we received inputs from other Members of the House and the Executive branch on certain features that they would want to appear in the Bill that will be approved by the House of Representatives. So as then Chairman of the Committee on Government Reorganization, I listened to their inputs and then we drafted a new Bill that we will propose to be substituted at the appropriate time here in the floor. However, I am no longer the Chair of the Committee on Government Reorganization and the Chair is unfortunately not present today, and I am not certain as to what move the Committee will do now with regard to the Bill that is before us, Mr. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, all the time we have been debating and interpellating on the Bill, which

will be replaced, I understand this is amendment by substitution. I think we should be able to have this Bill referred back to the Committee on Government Reorganization so that the Committee can consider a substitute measure or reconcile this Bill, the original Bill with the Bill supposed to be substituted to. Do you not think that this should be the proper way of sponsoring and legislating measures instead of us interpellating on a Bill, which may just be junked in favor of another measure? May we know the sense of the distinguished Sponsor?

At this juncture, Deputy Speaker Abu relinquished the Chair to Deputy Speaker Rose Marie "Baby" J. Arenas.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mme. Speaker, the amendment by substitution rule is a tool—a parliamentary tool allowed under our rules, and I think the intent behind this is for the Members—you know, based on the interpellations, based on the questions propounded and the answers made by the Sponsor, and based on the suggestions that would come out of interpellations, the intent behind—the amendment by substitution should take all of that, and craft a new Bill or put it in as amendment to a new Bill, so that what we will approve on Second Reading and eventually on Third Reading, will be based on what was actually discussed on the floor. So I think that is the intent of the rule, Mme. Speaker, and so, I think it is appropriate for us to do that without reverting or without sending the Bill back to the Committee, whatever discussions like the interpellations of the Gentleman from LPGMA, for example, he has inputs and we will be able to accommodate and discuss them, and even put them in the substitute Bill which we may discuss later on. I think that is the intent, that is why the rules allow it, and I think that we should be able to proceed with this matter under that procedure, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. That good intent has been disregarded, Mme. Speaker, because pending interpellation—as a matter of fact, the Hon. Arnel U. Ty has just concluded his interpellation, and I am commencing my interpellation; meanwhile, without waiting for the interpellations to be finished, there is already an alleged substitute Bill as of September 4, 2018. This is placing the cart before the horse because we have not finished our interpellation. And when the substitute Bill is presented as an amendment by substitution, we will not be allowed anymore to interpellate based on the new measure.

So, I think, Mme. Speaker, the proper way is to refer

this back to the Committee, so that the Committee can then consider the substitute measure or reconcile it with the present original Bill.

REP. ROMUALDO. Mme. Speaker, I feel that while it is true that a proposed substitute to the substitute Bill has been distributed to the Members, it is still, for all intents and purposes, just a draft. And as we said, whatever inputs and discussions that came out in interpellations may still be added to this Bill, either as a new substitute to the substitute Bill or in the period of amendments. I do feel that we can still proceed with the discussion on the Bill even if we do have a draft which had been distributed to the Members already, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, I have been prepared to interpellate, but I do not think I would like to interpellate on a Bill which is supposed to be junked and replaced. For that reason, I intend to make a necessary motion, but there are no warm bodies present to vote on the measure. So, may we hear from the distinguished Majority Leader, what is the proper motion?

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Majority Leader, may we hear from you.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move for a few minutes suspension of the session.

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

It was 2:13 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 2:39 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8165

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the consideration of House Bill No. 8165 as contained in Committee Report No. 842.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Is there

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8100 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8100, contained in Committee Report No. 820, as reported out by the Committees on Justice, and on Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). 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. 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.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Justice, Rep. Doy C. Leachon from the First District of Oriental Mindoro, for his sponsorship speech.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The Honorabale Leachon is recognized.

REP. LEACHON. Good afternoon, Mme. Speaker, Majority Leader, and our colleagues in Congress. At this point, Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note of the measure as its sponsorship speech.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or to speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8100 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8100, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8100 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8100 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8102 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8102, contained in Committee Report No. 822, as reported out by the Committees on Justice, and on Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). 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. 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 SIKUJOR, 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.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we again recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Justice, Rep. Doy C. Leachon from the First District of Oriental Mindoro, to sponsor the measure.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The Hon. Doy Leachon is recognized.

REP. LEACHON. Again, good afternoon, Mme. Speaker, Majority Leader, and our colleagues here. At this point, I move that we consider the Explanatory Note of the measure as its sponsorship speech.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or to speak against the measure, I move that we close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8102 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8102, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8102 ON SECOND READING

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

House Bill No. 8102 is approved on Second Reading.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8144 ON SECOND READING

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we consider House Bill No. 8144, contained in Committee Report No. 833, as reported out by the Committees on Justice, and on Appropriations.

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

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). 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. 8144, entitled: AN ACT CREATING TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL COURT AND TWO (2) ADDITIONAL BRANCHES OF THE MUNICIPAL TRIAL COURT IN THE ELEVENTH JUDICIAL REGION TO BE STATIONED IN THE CITY OF MATI, PROVINCE OF DAVAO ORIENTAL, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 14(L) AND SECTION 29 OF BATAS PAMBANSA BILANG 129, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE JUDICIARY REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1980", AS AMENDED.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we again recognize the Chairperson of the Committee on Justice, Rep. Doy C. Leachon from the First District of Oriental Mindoro, to sponsor the measure.

* See MEASURES CONSIDERED (printed separately)

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The Honorable Leachon is recognized.

REP. LEACHON. Mme. Speaker, good afternoon once again. At this point, I move again that the Explanatory Note of the measure be considered as its sponsorship speech.

Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, there being no Member who wishes to interpellate or to speak against the measure, I move to close the period of sponsorship and debate.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we open the period of amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, there being no Committee or individual amendments, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8144 on Second Reading.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). As many as are in favor of House Bill No. 8144, please say *aye*.

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

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

FEW MEMBERS. *Nay*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8144 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The *ayes* have it; House Bill No. 8144 is approved on Second Reading. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, may we acknowledge the presence of the guests of the Hon. Jeffrey D. Khonghun in the gallery. They are the Barangay Council Members and other Officials of Barangay Looc, Castillejos, Zambales. Let us welcome them, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The guests of the Honorable Khonghun, please rise. (*Applause*) Welcome to the House of Representatives. Thank you for coming.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

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

It was 2:50 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:03 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we proceed to the Additional Reference of Business.

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

The Secretary General will please read the Additional Reference of Business.

ADDITIONAL REFERENCE OF BUSINESS

The Secretary General read the following House

Bills on First Reading, and the Deputy Speaker made the corresponding references:

House Bill No. 8241, entitled:

“AN ACT PROHIBITING ALL TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMPANY (SERVICE PROVIDER) TO CHARGE AND COLLECT RECONNECTION FEES, TO FOSTER CONSUMER-SUBSCRIBER PROTECTION, PROVIDING PENALTIES AND SANCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Romero
TO THE COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY

House Bill No. 8242, entitled:

“AN ACT REQUIRING LAND, AIR, AND SEA TRANSPORT PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE PRIORITY SEATING FOR THE ELDERLY, FURTHER AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7432, AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9257 AND 9994, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE EXPANDED SENIOR CITIZENS ACT OF 2010”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON SENIOR CITIZENS

House Bill No. 8243, entitled:

“AN ACT GRANTING BEREAVEMENT LEAVE OF TWELVE (12) DAYS WITH FULL PAY TO ALL EMPLOYEES IN THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SECTORS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sy-Alvarado
TO THE COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT AND THE COMMITTEE ON CIVIL SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

House Bill No. 8245, entitled:

“AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL IN BARANGAY GABAS, CITY OF BAYBAY, PROVINCE OF LEYTE TO BE KNOWN AS GABAS NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”

By Representative Cari
TO THE COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION AND CULTURE

House Bill No. 8246, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NUMBER 1341, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES”

By Representative Castelo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

House Bill No. 8251, entitled:

“AN ACT RECOGNIZING FILIPINO CITIZENS BORN ABROAD OF FILIPINO MOTHERS OR FATHERS”

By Representative Ferrer (J.)
TO THE COMMITTEE ON POPULATION AND FAMILY RELATIONS

House Bill No. 8252, entitled:

“AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 22, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, 30, 32, 34, 37, 38, 39, 42, 51, 52, 54, 56, 57, 73, 108, 121, 122, 123, 127, 174, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 191, 192, 193, 194, 195, 196, 197, 198, AND 199 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8424, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

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

House Bill No. 8253, entitled:

“AN ACT CREATING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE URBAN POOR AMENDING EXECUTIVE ORDER 82 OF 1986, AS AMENDED, WHICH CREATED THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION FOR THE URBAN POOR, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES”

By Representative Sandoval
TO THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION AND THE COMMITTEE ON POVERTY ALLEVIATION

House Bill No. 8255, entitled:

“AN ACT ALLOCATING SEVENTY-ONE HECTARES OF THE MANGGAHAN FLOODWAY SOCIALIZED HOUSING PROJECT SITE IN TAYTAY, RIZAL, FOR DISPOSITION TO QUALIFIED BENEFICIARIES”

By Representative Macapagal-Arroyo
TO THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

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

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8165

Continuation

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 8165, under the Calendar of Unfinished Business, as contained in Committee Report No. 842, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8165, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

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

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we recognize Rep. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo from the Lone District of Camiguin to sponsor the measure.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The Honorable Romualdo is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

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

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we also recognize Cong. Edcel C. Lagman from the First District of Albay to continue his interpellation of the measure.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The Hon. Edcel Lagman is recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Thank you, Mme. Speaker. Will the distinguished Sponsor yield?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes, Mme. Speaker, Your Honor, to answer again the questions from the Honorable Lagman.

REP. LAGMAN. I understand that we will be considering and interpellating based on the original version of House Bill No. 8165. Is this information correct, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. So, we are not talking here of any reported substitute Bill or any favored bill in lieu of the original version of House Bill No. 8165. Is that correct?

REP. ROMUALDO. That is correct, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Under those conditions and understanding, I will now proceed, Mme. Speaker, with my interpellation. Presently, distinguished Sponsor, what agency is tasked to address disaster prevention, mitigation, reduction and resilience?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker—Mme. Speaker, we currently have the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council which is composed of heads and representatives of various agencies and departments, and this Council is responsible for coordinating efforts on matters of disaster preparedness and response.

REP. LAGMAN. It is my impression, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, that over and above the NDRRMC is the Office of Civil Defense under the Department of National Defense. Is that correct?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes, Mme. Speaker. We also have the Office of Civil Defense which serves as the Secretariat of the NDRRMC.

REP. LAGMAN. The OCD is supposed to be the lead agency in disaster preparedness and resiliency. Is that correct, distinguished Sponsor?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Now, in advocating the creation of this Department of Disaster Resilience, are we saying that the OCD and the NDRRMC, are not performing their job well?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mme. Speaker, the NDRRMC and the Office of Civil Defense have specific functions with regard to the overall need for disaster resilience. Under Republic Act No. 10121, for example, the NDRRMC is involved or has jurisdiction over matters involving disaster risk reduction and management. However, with regard—when we talk of disaster resilience, it encompasses a whole gamut of other functions and principles on disaster resilience. You have

disaster risk identification and analysis, and then we go to management, risk management, and then response, and then recovery and reconstruction, and this—the principle of building forward better. So, in a sense, the functions of the NDRRMC and the OCD are limited only to disaster risk reduction and management, and what we would like to create is an agency that will take care of not just that aspect, but of the whole, the entire aspect of disaster resilience which involves other very important things pertaining to our ability to be resilient to disasters.

REP. LAGMAN. But, Mme. Speaker, the distinguished Sponsor does not answer my question. My question is, when we project to create this Department of Disaster Resilience, are we saying that the OCD and the NDRRMC are not performing their jobs well?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mme. Speaker, I do not think that we could categorically say that the present agencies involved are not performing their functions properly. I suppose what we can say is that we can provide for better ways to be resilient to disasters. We can improve on what they are doing now, and we feel that the creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience is a way whereby we can promote disaster resilience and build a disaster-resilient nation, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. In other words, the creation of this new Department is not demeaning the OCD and the NDRRMC because these agencies are performing their jobs well. Is that correct?

REP. ROMUALDO. I am sorry, Mme. Speaker. May the Gentleman repeat his question.

REP. LAGMAN. In projecting the creation of the Department of Disaster Resilience, we are not demeaning the OCD as well as the NDRRMC because, in fact, they are performing their functions well within their respective jurisdictions. Is that correct?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes, Your Honor, Mme. Speaker. The Bill does not intend to demean the NDRRMC or the OCD. It is just our way of improving the ability of the government to be able to build disaster-resilient communities and to better respond to disasters.

REP. LAGMAN. Can the distinguished Sponsor say that the OCD and the NDRRMC are performing their functions well within their respective jurisdiction?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mme. Speaker, yes, again, this is not to say that they are not, that the agencies: the OCD, the NDRRMC, are not performing their

functions well, but we would like to improve and step up on our ability to respond, prepare for, respond to, and recover after disasters. The current system seems to be coordinative, is council-based, ad hoc, reactive, and we would like to improve on government's ability to respond. So, it is in no way—the Bill, in no way, demeans the efforts of the NDRRMC and the OCD. What we would just like to do is to improve on and make better the government's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters.

REP. LAGMAN. Can the distinguished Sponsor be more positive in his response that the OCD and the NDRRMC are performing their jobs well within their respective jurisdictions?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes, Mme. Speaker. I can affirmatively say that these agencies, the NDRRMC and the OCD, are performing their functions appropriately, properly.

REP. LAGMAN. Then, why are we changing the OCD as well as the NDRRMC as the lead agencies in disaster preparation, mitigation and resilience?

REP. ROMUALDO. Well, with regard to the OCD, Mme. Speaker, specifically, as to what we would like, as what will happen to them under the Bill, the OCD now performs disaster risk reduction and management functions as well as civil defense functions. So, as an agency, it has two missions, it is a multipurpose agency. While disaster risk reduction and management are important, civil defense is also very important. So, what we would like to do, specifically, for the OCD, is to take the disaster risk reduction and management functions, and turn them over to the new Department while the OCD would then focus on civil defense functions.

With regard to the NDRRMC, the main, I would say, concern on the NDRRMC is that it is coordinative. It is a body that is more coordinative and reactive in responding to disasters. One of the features that we would like to have and under the features built into our Bill is to be more proactive in preparing for disasters. These are functions and preparing for disasters are functions that the NDRRMC, being merely a Council composed of different agencies, offices and departments, cannot do—functions on identifying disaster risk, for example; functions on analyzing disaster risk or being able to provide for disaster risk transfer; and functions on providing insurance, for example, on critical infrastructure and equipment.

These functions cannot be undertaken directly by the NDRRMC, precisely, because it is a Council, it is the coordinating Council composed of different agencies.

So, what we would like to do is to create an agency that will be able to directly undertake these functions and, in the process, foster disaster resilience in the country.

REP. LAGMAN. Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor, what is wrong with the NDRRMC being a coordinating body or Council when, in fact, under the Bill, there are bodies which will be created and which are also coordinating and collaborating, like the multi-sectoral and inter-agency collaborative agency under Section 32 of the Bill? Are we trying to move away from a coordinative and collaborative Council?

REP. ROMUALDO. No, Mme. Speaker. In fact, one of the approaches that we would like to promote in the Department of Disaster Resilience Bill is the whole of government, whole nation, and whole of society approach. This is imperative in preparing for, responding to and recovering after disasters. It is very important that there is close collaboration between and among agencies, and the private sector, all stakeholders, in fact. But what we would like to happen is for an agency to be directly in charge of undertaking all of these disaster resilience functions and to not have an agency or not have a council where different functions are dispersed among different agencies and offices, and then they just meet to coordinate their efforts. So, what we would like to have is to have one agency to spearhead and directly undertake efforts to foster disaster resilience, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, in other words, we are not trying to say that coordinative function or collaborative function is not necessary.

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. It is necessary.

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. As a matter of fact, there are agencies created under the Bill which are coordinative as well as collaborative. Is that correct?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes. Yes, Mme. Speaker, collaboration and coordination are very important tenets, I would say, in disaster resilience. Precisely, we would like to promote a whole of government, a whole of nation, a whole of society approach. So, it has to be everyone working together to promote disaster resilience. But there also has to be an agency, a Department, that will take the lead in coordinating all of these efforts and, more importantly, in undertaking efforts in coordination and in collaboration with other agencies.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay.

Now, if the OCD is performing its job within its jurisdiction well, why do we not just increase the functions and powers of the OCD instead of creating a new bureaucracy, a new Department?

REP. ROMUALDO. Well, Mme. Speaker, the OCD is a line bureau under the Department of National Defense. Coordinating for disaster resilience, for preparedness for example, coordinating for response, undertaking preparedness, response, and recovery would require—we feel a Department headed by an officer who is a member of the Cabinet, who has the stature and the authority to be able to properly undertake these functions and these tasks in cooperation with other departments also—we feel that the OCD is too small to be able to do that on its own. There has to be a Department that is in the same stature and has the same authority as other departments to be able to properly perform disaster resilience functions.

REP. LAGMAN. It is my impression from the answers of the distinguished Sponsor that the OCD and the NDRRMC are not empowered to address disaster resilience. Is that correct?

REP. ROMUALDO. The ability of the NDRRMC, under the current framework, would seem to be limited, Mme. Speaker. I would give an example. One example I could give is in the implementation of recovery efforts. For example, we have a barangay or a municipality with damaged infrastructure because of the occurrence of a disaster, and they would require funds to reconstruct their damaged infrastructure. The process would go this way under the current framework: the LGU would have to make a request to the Office of Civil Defense. The Office of Civil Defense, at the regional level, would assess the need. And then it goes up to the NDRRMC. And the NDRRMC then coordinates—yes, will recommend to the OP. The OP then would direct appropriate agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways, for example, to validate and allocate funds. Then it goes back again to the OCD for further validation. And then the OCD, again, sends it to the Chair of the NDRRMC for his approval—well, not for the approval pa, but to recommend its approval. And then it goes up again to the Department of Budget and Management for the release of the Special Allotment Release Order.

So, in that case, the framework now in that example of recovery efforts, the reconstruction and recovery efforts, it is very tedious and very limited, again, because many agencies will have to be involved.

In this case, in our proposal, we only have one Department that will take charge of that specific aspect of disaster resilience, recovery and reconstruction. So,

the limitations that prevented us from establishing and fostering disaster resilience by being able to quickly recover and quickly build back is limited. With our proposal, with the proposed Department of Disaster Resilience Bill, we can do away with those limitations and provide for faster, better and more responsive recovery and reconstruction efforts.

REP. LAGMAN. Given the same example of an LGU which would need assistance because of a disaster, what is now the process under the Department of Disaster Resilience?

REP. ROMUALDO. Under our proposal, Mme. Speaker, we would have local disaster resilience officers in each municipality, city and province. So, those officers would be responsible for assessing the needs of the affected locality. And then, from their assessments, from what they need, they could forward the same to the Department. The Department itself would already be able to make the assessment, fund and implement the needed repairs or reconstruction of the locality. So, the process becomes simpler, it becomes faster, it becomes more responsive under our proposed setup, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, it is still the same process. It will come from the LGUs, and it will go to the Department for assessment, and then there will be—if there is an infrastructure reconstruction or rehabilitation, then who would conduct the reconstruction or the infrastructure repair? Is it the Department of Disaster Resilience or the Department of Public Works and Highways?

REP. ROMUALDO. In our proposal, Mme. Speaker, the Department itself would be responsible for reconstruction and recovery. So, it would be the Department itself that would undertake the implementation of the required infrastructure projects.

REP. LAGMAN. In other words, we are creating a new infrastructure agency. In addition to the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Transportation, we have now the Department of Disaster Resilience which will be an infrastructure agency. Is that a correct observation?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes, Mme. Speaker. But the infrastructure functions, the building functions of the proposed department would only be limited to projects for recovery and reconstruction. So, in that case, the Department of Public Works and Highways, the Department of Transportation can focus on their primary mandates of building roads, highways, bridges and transportation infrastructure.

REP. LAGMAN. So, we are now creating a new infrastructure agency in the Department of Disaster Resilience. Is that a correct observation?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes, yes.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes.

REP. ROMUALDO. That is correct, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. In the ASEAN countries, say Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia and outside of the ASEAN like Japan, what agency is in-charge of disaster prevention, mitigation and resilience?

REP. ROMUALDO. In other countries in the region, Mme. Speaker, they have ministries or department-level agencies responsible for disaster resilience, such as our proposal. There are also other countries that have disaster resilience or response preparedness—disaster offices directly under the office of the Chief Executive, the Prime Minister, the President. So, it is a practice among our neighbors in the region to have a separate department focused precisely on disaster resilience.

REP. LAGMAN. Let me go to Singapore, Mme. Speaker, distinguished Sponsor. In Singapore, is there a separate department on disaster resilience?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mme. Speaker, in Singapore, they have a Civil Defense Force that is responsible for disaster resilience. So, it is a special office, a special agency with that specific mandate, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. It is not a separate department in Singapore?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mme. Speaker, in the case of Singapore, the Civil Defense Force is tasked with responding to and providing emergency services in the event of disasters and emergencies. So, it is a dedicated office or agency precisely for that specific mandate.

REP. LAGMAN. My question is, is the Singapore Civil Defense Force a separate department like the Department of Disaster Resilience which we are creating?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mme. Speaker, we were told that the Civil Defense Force of Singapore is not a separate department. It is under the Home Ministry of the Singaporean government.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, that is correct. It is not a separate department, not akin to the Department of Disaster Resilience. The Singapore Civil Defense Force is under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

REP. ROMUALDO. Ministry, yes.

REP. LAGMAN. So, that is now a cardinal distinction between Singapore's and this proposed Department.

Now, in Thailand, what is the state of affairs with respect to disaster mitigation, prevention, and resilience?

REP. ROMUALDO. May we be given a few minutes to check on the matter, Mme. Speaker?

REP. LAGMAN. May we know whether the sponsoring Committee has prepared a matrix of the various offices or departments of disaster management and resilience in the ASEAN region?

REP. ROMUALDO. May we be allowed to check on the matter, Mme. Speaker, and to suspend for a few minutes and so that we may be able to check on the ...

REP. LAGMAN. We could suspend up to next time so that the sponsoring Committee can prepare the necessary matrix because I have here a list of countries where there is no Department of Disaster Resilience.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). Majority Leader.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move that we suspend the session for a few minutes.

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

It was 3:36 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 3:41 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. ROMUALDO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

In response to the inquiry of the Gentleman, we have been provided a list of national disaster management agencies of different countries in ASEAN. For Brunei, for example, they have the National Disaster Management Center.

REP. LAGMAN. Let me ask the questions.

REP. ROMUALDO. Okay.

REP. LAGMAN. And let the distinguished Sponsor answer my questions. In Thailand, is there a separate and independent department on disaster prevention and resilience?

REP. ROMUALDO. In Thailand, Mme. Speaker, there is a Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation headed by Director-General.

REP. LAGMAN. And it is under the Ministry of Interior, is that correct? May we get the response of the distinguished Sponsor.

REP. ROMUALDO. We are still verifying whether the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation of Thailand is under a separate ministry or department, but we are certain, Mme. Speaker, that there is a Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation.

REP. LAGMAN. That has already been established.

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes.

REP. LAGMAN. My subsequent question is: Is it a separate and independent department?

Mme. Speaker, may I move for a suspension of the consideration of this measure.

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

REP. LAGMAN. Apparently, the sponsoring Committee is not prepared.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. ROA-PUNO. Motion to suspend.

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

It was 3:43 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

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

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

REP. ROA-PUNO. Mme. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo to

continue answering questions and interpellations from our Members.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Arenas). The Honorable Romualdo is recognized.

REP. ROMUALDO. Thank you, Mme. Speaker.

Mme. Speaker, we would like to correct or be more precise with the statement that we stated earlier in response to the question of the Honorable Lagman. Apparently, in other countries in the region, there are separate departments, offices, agencies that deal with disaster management. But there are separate offices, agencies and departments that are under other ministries as well. So, while there are separate departments as was mentioned earlier, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation in Thailand, this department is also under the Ministry of Interior of Thailand. So, separate departments under certain ministries, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Well, I am going from country to country so that we can determine whether or not what we are creating is a justified bureaucracy which is also a good practice in other countries.

In Thailand, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation is under the Ministry of Interior.

REP. ROMUALDO. Interior.

REP. LAGMAN. Is that correct, Your Honor?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes, that is correct, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. So, it is not an independent and separate department. In Malaysia, which agency is in charge of disaster management?

REP. ROMUALDO. In Malaysia, Mme. Speaker, there is the National Disaster Management Agency.

REP. LAGMAN. Is this National Disaster Management Agency a separate and independent department in Malaysia?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mme. Speaker, under the current setup, with the new government of Malaysia, matters of disaster management are handled by the new Deputy Prime Minister. At least at the ministerial level disaster management portfolio is handled by a separate minister, the Deputy Prime Minister, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. My question really is: Is the National Disaster Management Agency of Malaysia a separate and independent department?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mme. Speaker, the National Disaster Management Agency of Malaysia, we are told, is under the Prime Minister's Office of Malaysia.

REP. LAGMAN. So, it is not a separate and independent department. How about in Indonesia? What is the body which is in charge of disaster prevention, mitigation and resilience?

REP. ROMUALDO. In Indonesia, there is the National Disaster Management Authority.

REP. LAGMAN. This National Disaster Management Authority is not a separate or independent department. It is only an authority.

REP. ROMUALDO. That is correct, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. Now, let us go outside of the ASEAN. Let us go to Japan. In Japan, what body is in charge of disaster management?

REP. ROMUALDO. In Japan, Mme. Speaker, under the Japanese Disaster Management System, there is a Minister of State for Disaster Management and it is this Minister that is responsible for disaster resiliency in Japan.

REP. LAGMAN. That Minister has the Disaster Management Bureau. Is that correct?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. And the Disaster Management Bureau is not a separate and independent department.

REP. ROMUALDO. So, it is not.

REP. LAGMAN. It is a bureau.

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes. The Disaster Management Bureau of Japan is under the Cabinet of the government of Japan.

REP. LAGMAN. That is not answering the question. My question is: Is the Disaster Management Bureau of Japan a separate and independent department?

REP. ROMUALDO. No, it is not, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. It is not. Let us go to Germany. What agency is in charge of disaster preparedness, mitigation and resilience in Germany?

REP. ROMUALDO. In Germany, Mme. Speaker, there is the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance.

REP. LAGMAN. Yes, that is correct. Is the Federal Office of Civil Protection and Disaster Assistance a separate and independent department?

REP. ROMUALDO. That agency, Mme. Speaker, is under the Federal Ministry of the Interior.

REP. LAGMAN. Is under?

REP. ROMUALDO. The Federal Ministry of the Interior.

REP. LAGMAN. Yeah, so it is not a separate and independent department.

REP. ROMUALDO. Now, let us go back to Japan. In Japan, when a large-scale disaster occurs, what is the government's response? Which office is called upon to respond to the disaster?

REP. ROMUALDO. In the Japanese Disaster Management System, Mme. Speaker, as I stated earlier, there is a Minister of State for Disaster Management and there is a Management Disaster Bureau which plans the basic policy on disaster management and plans and makes overall coordination in response to large-scale disasters.

REP. LAGMAN. Okay. But my question is: In a large-scale disaster, what particular office, agency or team would respond to the large-scale disaster? It is not any more the bureau. Certainly, it is not. So, if it is not the bureau, what office or team is in charge?

REP. ROMUALDO. Yes. If I may read from the materials that we have on Japan, Mme. Speaker, at the national level, there is the Prime Minister and the Central Disaster Management Council which is responsible for the formulation and promoting implementation of the Basic Disaster Management Plan. And under that are designated government organizations and designated public corporations. At the prefecture level, there is the Governor and the Prefectural Disaster Management Council and designated ...

REP. LAGMAN. May I just interrupt the distinguished Sponsor. I am asking what office or team is in charge in responding to large-scale disasters in Japan. Have you come across the emergency response team?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mme. Speaker, what we have seen from our materials on Japan is that disaster and management response is at three levels. There is the

national level, the prefectural level, and the municipal level. So, that emergency response team mentioned by the Honorable Lagman may be one of the aspects used to respond to disasters in each of these levels, Mme. Speaker.

REP. LAGMAN. No. In large-scale disasters, there is this emergency response team which is ad hoc. It is headed by the Prime Minister. It is not a continuing Body. It is not an institutionalized Body. It is ad hoc—to answer the large-scale disaster. So, there is no department institutionalized even in large-scale disasters. It is an ad hoc emergency response team headed no less by the Prime Minister.

Mme. Speaker, considering the importance of this measure and the fact that I have more questions to ask, and there are no warm bodies to listen to the response of the distinguished Sponsor, may we suspend until the end of the Budget plenary deliberation and the consideration of this Bill. Otherwise, I will be constrained to ask to move for the necessary motion, unless the Majority Leader would make the proper motion.

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

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. HOFER. Mme. Speaker, I move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

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

It was 4:00 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 4:22 p.m., the session was resumed.

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

REP. ANDAYA. Mme. Speaker, on September 11, 2018, House Bill No. 8169 as contained in Committee Report No. 854, entitled: AN ACT APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES FROM JANUARY ONE TO DECEMBER THIRTY-ONE, TWO THOUSAND AND NINETEEN, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES, was referred to the Rules Committee.

Mme. Speaker, upon the authority granted to the Majority Leader by the Committee on Rules to act on House Bill No. 8169 and pursuant to Rule XVIII, Section 137 of the Rules of the House, I move that the House be constituted into a Committee of the Whole in order for the House to consider House Bill No. 8169.

I so move, Mme. Speaker.

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

Pursuant to Rule XVIII, Section 138 of the Rules of the House, the Majority Leader, Rep. Rolando G. Andaya Jr., is hereby designated as the Chairperson of the Committee of the Whole.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

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

It was 4:24 p.m.

At 4:25 p.m., the Body constituted itself into a Committee of the Whole House (see Congressional Record, RCW No. 1, September 18, 2018, for proceedings of the Committee of the Whole).

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:07 p.m., the session was resumed with Deputy Speaker Fredenil "Fred" H. Castro presiding.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

CONSIDERATION OF H.B. NO. 8165

Continuation

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we resume the consideration of House Bill No. 8165, and that the Secretary General be directed to read only the title of the measure.

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

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

REP. MARCOLETA. And please direct the Secretary General to read the title of the measure, Mr. Speaker.

THE SECRETARY GENERAL. House Bill No. 8165, entitled: AN ACT CREATING THE DEPARTMENT OF DISASTER RESILIENCE, DEFINING ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

PERIOD OF SPONSORSHIP AND DEBATE

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, the parliamentary status of the Bill is that it is still in the period of sponsorship and debate. I move that we recognize the Hon. Xavier Jesus D. Romualdo from the Lone District of Camiguin to sponsor the measure for the continuance of interpellation, Mr. Speaker.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). Congressman Romualdo is hereby recognized to continue the period of sponsorship and debate as a Sponsor of the Bill under consideration.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we recognize the Hon. Edcel C. Lagman to continue his interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The distinguished Congressman from Albay, Rep. Edcel C. Lagman, is hereby recognized.

REP. LAGMAN. Mr. Speaker, considering that the Bill under consideration will be amended by substitution, I reserve my right to interpellate based on the amendment by substitution. Momentarily, I am suspending my interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The manifestation of Congressman Lagman is hereby noted. The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, there being no other Member who wishes to interpellate on or speak against the measure, we move to close the period of sponsorship and debate.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended. The Chair requests the Majority Leader to approach the Chair.

It was 6:10 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:11 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, we spoke with the Honorable Lagman and he assured the Body that if there is no substitute Bill to be introduced, he will be foregoing with any interpellation.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). May I know from the Sponsor whether there will be a substitution?

REP. ROMUALDO. Mr. Speaker, there will be none.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). There being none, the Chair will now act on the motion of the Majority Leader to terminate the period of sponsorship and debate. Acting on the motion, is there any objection? (*Silence*) The Chair hears none; the motion is approved.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

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

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, considering that there are no Committee or individual amendment, I move that we close the period of amendments.

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

The Majority Leader is recognized.

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we approve House Bill No. 8165 on Second Reading, as covered by Committee Report No. 842.

I so move, Mr. Speaker.

VIVA VOCE VOTING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). There is a motion for the approval of House Bill No. 8165 on Second Reading.

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

SEVERAL MEMBERS. *Aye*.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). As many as are against, please say *no*.

FEW MEMBERS. *No*.

APPROVAL OF H.B. NO. 8165 ON SECOND READING

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The *ayes* have it. House Bill No. 8165 is approved on Second Reading. (*Applause*)

Before we proceed, the Chair would like to acknowledge the presence of our distinguished colleague, former Rep. Marcelino “Nonoy” Libanan.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

SUSPENSION OF SESSION

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, we move to suspend the session for a few minutes.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is suspended.

It was 6:14 p.m.

RESUMPTION OF SESSION

At 6:15 p.m., the session was resumed.

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER (Rep. Castro, F.H.). The session is resumed.

The Majority Leader is recognized.

ADJOURNMENT OF SESSION

REP. MARCOLETA. Mr. Speaker, I move that we adjourn the session until Wednesday, September 19, 2018, at ten o'clock in the morning.

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

The session is adjourned until Wednesday, September 19, 2018, at ten o'clock in the morning.

It was 6:15 p.m.